

SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD

PROCEEDINGS IN TERMS OF S.31 OF THE LEGAL AID (SCOTLAND) ACT 1986

in relation to

NICOLA LOUGHRAN, SOLICITOR, GLASGOW

Respondent

DECISION

Edinburgh

16 February 2024

Having heard evidence and considered the written submissions by the case presenter and counsel for the Respondent, Nicola Loughran, Solicitor, Glasgow, the Section 31 Committee of the Scottish Legal Aid Board finds it established that there is good reason to exclude the Respondent from being selected to advise, act for or represent a person seeking or in receipt of legal aid or advice and assistance or from giving advice and assistance to or from acting for a person to whom legal aid is made available, and orders that the Respondent be so excluded without limit of time with effect from 23 February 2024 all in terms of section 31(3) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986. This finding is by virtue of the conduct of the Respondent whilst delivering civil legal assistance through the provision by her of advice and assistance and assistance by way of representation whereby the Respondent recorded, or directed her staff to record, work undertaken by unqualified staff as if undertaken herself and in turn charged the work at qualified rates rather than the lower unqualified rate appropriate to the work, inducing the Scottish Legal Aid Board to pay to her in fee claims she submitted to it sums to which she was not entitled, said sums, in the period November 2015 to August 2016, being in an amount not fully determined in the Section 31 proceedings, but known to be in excess of £30,000, and that the Respondent did so dishonestly.



Ray Macfarlane

Chair of the Scottish Legal Aid Board and Convener of the Section 31 Committee