



GUARANTEE FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Guarantee Fund Sub-Committee of the Council of the Law Society of Scotland held at 26 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh on 2 July 2015 at 9.30am

GRIGOR HALES, EDINBURGH - 20732

Date Considered

2 July 2015

Sub-Committee Members Present

6 solicitors; 5 non-solicitors

Papers considered by Sub-Committee

None. This matter was the subject of a verbal report.

Background

The Sub Committee reminded itself that it had previously withdrawn the Practising Certificate of Mr Christopher Hales and that he had subsequently been struck off by the Scottish Solicitors Discipline Tribunal (SSDT). Mr Hales had been the sole partner at the firm which had also ceased. The Sub Committee were asked to consider whether comments made by the SSDT justified a referral of the matter by the Law Society of Scotland to the Crown Office.

Sub Committee's Deliberations

It was noted that the SSDT decision states that "Mr Hales must have been aware that there was a possibility that he was facilitating mortgage fraud" and that "it must have been glaringly obvious to the Respondent that something was amiss when cash backs of £27,000 or £28,000 from the seller to the purchaser were involved".

Sub Committee's Decision

The Sub Committee decided that given the statements made by the SSDT following a complaint arising from a Financial Compliance inspection, that the matter should be referred to the Crown Office for investigation.

Delegated Powers.

To refer the above matter to the Crown Office for investigation.