# DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHS OF ONTARIO

PANEL:		Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND, Chair Dr. Shelly Burns, ND Dr. Madeleine Elton, ND Dianne Delany, Public Member Samuel Laldin, Public Member
BETWEEN:		
	)	REBECCA DURCAN for the
COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHS OF ONTARIO	)	College of Naturopaths of Ontario
	)	
- and -	)	FLUIG AZAD ALL C 16
	)	ELVIS AZAD ALI, Self
	)	Represented
ELVIS AZAD ALI	)	
EL VISTELLE TIEL	)	LUISA RITACCA, Independent
	)	Legal Counsel
	)	_
	)	Heard: July 16, 2020
	)	

#### **DECISION AND REASONS**

This matter was heard before a Panel of the Discipline Committee on July 16, 2020. This matter was heard by way of video-conference.

# **The Allegations**

The allegations against Elvis Azad Ali (the "Member") as stated in the Notice of Hearing dated February 19, 2019 are as follows:

#### The Member

1. Dr. Elvis Azad Ali, ND (Inactive) (the "Member") became a registrant of the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy-Naturopathy (BDDT-N) in 1987. The Member became a General Class member of the College of

- Naturopaths of Ontario (the "College") on July 1, 2015. The Member transferred to the Inactive Class on November 4, 2019.
- 2. At all relevant times, the Member has a financial, employment, business and/or contractual relationship with Alpha Science Laboratories ("ASL") and was/is their Clinic and Educational Advisor.

## **Breach of Discipline Committee Order**

- 3. As a result of an order from the Discipline Committee of the College, the Member's certificate of registration was suspended from approximately April 30 to October 30, 2019.
- 4. As a result of the suspension, the Member was not permitted to practise naturopathy, see or treat patients, act as naturopathic advisor and/or use the titles "Dr.", "Naturopath", or "Naturopathic Doctor" and/or the designation "ND" in Ontario.

#### LinkedIn Page

5. It is alleged that as of July 15, 2019 the Member's LinkedIn page identified the Member as a "Naturopathic Doctor" and used the Dr. title.

### August 16, 2019 Webinar

- 6. It is alleged that on August 16, 2019 the Member presented in an ASL webinar (the "First Webinar") and was identified as "Dr. Elvis Ali, ND, BSc. RNCP, FIACA, Dipl. Ac."
- 7. It is also alleged that during the First Webinar, the Member advertised his email address that included the term "doctor".
- 8. It is also alleged that as of the date of the First Webinar, the Member was practising the profession as during the First Webinar, the Member spoke of his "patients", that he "was in" private practice, responded to clinical questions, and/or provided recommended doses of ASL products for certain symptoms.

#### FaceBook Post

9. It is alleged that an August 28, 2019 ASL FaceBook post stated "just last week [the Member] helped a practitioner by putting together a protocol for her client that is suffering from Crohn's disease.... Do you have a client you'd like to review a protocol with? Reach out to us and we'll get you in touch with Dr. Elvis for support."

#### September 20, 2019 Webinar

- 10. It is alleged that on September 20, 2019 the Member presented in an ASL webinar (the "Second Webinar") and was identified as "Dr. Elvis Ali, ND, BSc. RNCP, FIACA, Dipl. Ac."
- 11. It is also alleged that during the Second Webinar, the Member advertised his email address that included the term "doctor"
- 12. It is also alleged that as of the date of the Second Webinar, the Member was practising the profession as during the Second Webinar, the Member spoke about what he recommends to a patient in his practice, spoke of himself as a "health care practitioner", and/or recommended ASL products for symptoms.

- 13. It is alleged that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (the "Code") as set out in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the *Naturopathy Act, 2007*:
  - a. Paragraph 27 Permitting the advertising of the member or his or her practice in a manner that is false or misleading or that includes statements that are not factual and verifiable;
  - b. Paragraph 36 Contravening, by act or omission, a provision of the *Act*, the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 or the regulations under either of those Acts including but not limited to:
    - i. Section 8 of the *Naturopathy Act*, 2007; and/or
    - ii. Section 33 of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991;
  - c. Paragraph 39 Practising the profession while the member's certificate of registration has been suspended;
  - d. Paragraph 40 Directly or indirectly benefiting from the practice of the profession while the member's certificate of registration is suspended unless full disclosure is made by the member to the College of the nature of the benefit to be obtained and prior approval is obtained from the Executive Committee;
  - e. Paragraph 41- Failing to comply with an order of a panel of the College;
  - f. Paragraph 46- Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the

- circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional); and/or
- g. Paragraph 47 Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

#### Undertaking

14. On or about January 31, 2013 the Member signed an undertaking with the BDDT-N to refrain from promoting products, including natural health products, including in the media and on websites.

# **Promoting Products**

- 15. It is alleged that as of March 2016, the Member promoted ASL products on the ASL FaceBook page.
- 16. It is alleged that the Member promoted ASL products during the First and/or Second Webinars.
- 17. It is alleged that on or about August 29, 2019 an undercover investigator contacted the Member and asked him to recommend products to aid digestion. It is alleged that the Member recommended ASL products to the investigator.

- 18. It is alleged that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the Code as set out in one or more of the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the *Naturopathy Act*, 2007:
  - a. **Paragraph 1-** Contravening, by act or omission, a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession, including but not limited to:
    - i. Conflict of Interest Standard;
  - b. **Paragraph 17** Acting in a conflict of interest when acting in a professional capacity;
  - c. **Paragraph 43** Failing to carry out or abide by an undertaking given to the College or breaching an agreement with the College;
  - d. **Paragraph 46-** Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the

- circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional); and/or
- e. **Paragraph 47** Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

### Member's Plea

The Member admitted the allegations as contained in the Notice of Hearing. The Panel conducted a plea inquiry and was satisfied that the Member's plea was voluntary, informed and unequivocal.

#### **Agreed Statement of Facts (Exhibit #2)**

#### **BACKGROUND**

#### The Member

- 1. Dr. Elvis Azad Ali, ND (Inactive) (the "Member") became a registrant of the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy-Naturopathy (BDDT-N) in 1987. The Member became a General Class member of the College of Naturopaths of Ontario (the "College") on July 1, 2015. The Member transferred to the Inactive Class on November 4, 2019. A copy of the Member's Profile from the College's Public Register is attached at Tab "A".
- 2. At all relevant times, the Member had a financial, employment, business and/or contractual relationship with Alpha Science Laboratories ("ASL") and was/is their Clinic and Educational Advisor.
- 3. The Member readily responded during the investigation and made efforts to enter into this agreement early in the process. This avoided further costs on the part of the College.

#### **Breach of Discipline Committee Order**

- 4. As a result of an order from the Discipline Committee of the College, the Member's certificate of registration was suspended from April 30 to October 30, 2019. Attached at Tab "B" is a copy of the decision and reasons.
- 5. As a result of the suspension, the Member was not permitted to practise naturopathy, see or treat patients, act as naturopathic advisor and/or use the titles "Dr.", "Naturopath", or "Naturopathic Doctor" and/or the designation "ND" in Ontario.

- 6. The Member was advised by the College, in a letter dated May 6, 2019, that during the suspension he was not permitted to practise naturopathy, see or treat patients, act as naturopathic advisor and/or use the titles "Dr.", "Naturopath", or "Naturopathic Doctor" and/or the designation "ND" in Ontario. A copy of this letter is attached at Tab "C".
- 7. If the Member were to testify, he would advise the Panel that he did receive the above noted letter but did not read the complete letter. He would testify that he did not fully appreciate the restrictions as described above in paragraph 6.

#### LinkedIn Page

8. It is agreed that on July 15, 2019 the College identified the Member's LinkedIn page as identifying the Member as a Naturopathic Doctor"and using the Dr. title. Attached at Tab "D" is a copy of the Member's LinkedIn page.

# August 16, 2019 Webinar

- 9. It is agreed that on August 16, 2019 the Member presented in an ASL webinar called "Supporting Gastrointestinal Health" (the "First Webinar") and was identified as "Dr. Elvis Ali, ND, BSc. RNCP, FIACA, Dipl. Ac."
- 10. If the Member were to testify, he would advise the Panel that the First Webinar was provided to naturopaths only and was not open to the public.
- 11. It is also agreed that during the First Webinar, the Member advertised his email address that included the term "doctor".
- During the First Webinar, the Member stated he "was" in private practice for several decades. He provided his recommended dose of Litis dependent on certain symptoms. The Member spoke of what he tells his "patients." He responded to certain clinical questions, provided recommendations and referred to his "patients." He was asked what he would recommend for pregnant women. He recommended the ASL Vitamin B. He was asked to provide a recommendation for post-shingle pain. He recommended "our lung cleanse". In response to another question, he said he "tells his patients" to buy an aloe vera plant. A copy of the First Webinar materials is attached at Tab "E".
- 13. It is agreed that in light of the information the Member relayed during the First Webinar, his use of protected titles, and his failure to indicate that he was suspended, the Member was practising the profession during the First Webinar.

#### FaceBook Post

14. It is agreed that an August 28, 2019 ASL FaceBook post stated "just last week [the Member] helped a practitioner by putting together a protocol for her client that is suffering from Crohn's disease.... Do you have a client you'd like to review a protocol with? Reach out to us and we'll get you in touch with Dr. Elvis for support." A copy of the Facebook post is attached at Tab "F".

### September 20, 2019 Webinar

- 15. It is agreed that on September 20, 2019 the Member presented in an ASL webinar called "Health Benefits of Phytosterols" (the "Second Webinar") and was identified as "Dr. Elvis Ali, ND, BSc. RNCP, FIACA, Dipl. Ac."
- 16. If the Member were to testify, he would advise the Panel that the Second Webinar was provided to naturopaths only and was not open to the public.
- 17. It is also agreed that during the Second Webinar, the Member advertised his email address that included the term "doctor".
- 18. During the Second Webinar, the Member stated he "has been" in private practice for several decades. During the Question and Answer session, the Member stated "as a health care practitioner, for naturopathic doctors, we do conform with something outside the scope from what we call the monographs..." He then suggested that if you are a health care practitioner and can monitor the patient, you can double the recommended dosage. The Member also said that Echinacea works as a "miracle" for viral infections. He then states that if a patient takes antibiotics for bacterial infections, they should take "our" products. The Member talked about what he recommends for patients in his practice and especially what he recommends for athletes. A copy of materials from the Second Webinar is attached at Tab "G".
- 19. It is agreed that in light of the information the Member relayed during the Second Webinar, his use of protected titles, and his failure to indicate that he was suspended, the Member was practising the profession during the Second Webinar.

## **Undercover Investigator**

20. On August 30, 2019 an undercover investigator of the College (using an alias) reached out to the Member to inquire if he was accepting new patients. The Member responded and said "I am not taking on new patients" and provided the undercover investigator with the number of another naturopath.

- 21. It is agreed that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (the "Code") as set out the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the *Naturopathy Act, 2007*:
  - a. Paragraph 27 Permitting the advertising of the member or his or her practice in a manner that is false or misleading or that includes statements that are not factual and verifiable;
  - b. Paragraph 36 Contravening, by act or omission, a provision of the Act, the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991 or the regulations under either of those Acts including but not limited to:
    - i. Section 8 of the *Naturopathy Act*, 2007; and
    - ii. Section 33 of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991;
  - c. Paragraph 39 Practising the profession while the member's certificate of registration has been suspended;
  - d. Paragraph 40 Directly or indirectly benefiting from the practice of the profession while the member's certificate of registration is suspended unless full disclosure is made by the member to the College of the nature of the benefit to be obtained and prior approval is obtained from the Executive Committee;
  - e. Paragraph 41 Failing to comply with an order of a panel of the College;
  - f. Paragraph 46 Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional); and
  - g. Paragraph 47 Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

#### **Undertaking**

- 22. On or about January 31, 2013 the Member signed an undertaking with the BDDT-N to refrain from promoting products, including natural health products, including in the media and on websites. A copy of the Undertaking is attached at Tab "H".
- 23. The Undertaking referred to in paragraph 16 remains in force with the College as per section 13(3) of the Naturopathy Act, 2007, which states,

"A person who was registered to practise under the Drugless Practitioners Act by The Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy immediately before section 6 came into force shall be deemed to be a holder of a certificate of registration issued under this Act, subject to any term, condition, limitation, suspension or cancellation to which the person's certificate of registration was subject."

## **Promoting Products**

- 24. It is agreed that as of March 2016, the ASL FaceBook page indicated that the Member recommended ASL products. A copy of the Facebook posts are attached at Tab "I".
- 25. If the Member were to testify he would advise the Panel that he had no knowledge of the post as described in paragraph 24 and that this was created by ASL without his knowledge. However, the Member concedes that he is responsible for all professional advertisements whether or not the advertisement is created by him.
- 26. It is agreed that the Member promoted ASL products during the First and Second Webinars. A copy of the materials is attached at Tabs "E" and "G".
- 27. It is agreed that on or about August 29, 2019 the undercover investigator contacted the Member and asked him to recommend products to aid digestion. It is agreed that the Member recommended ASL products to the investigator. A copy of the correspondence is attached at Tab "J".

- 28. It is agreed that the above conduct constitutes professional misconduct pursuant to section 51(1)(c) of the Code as set out in the following paragraphs of section 1 of Ontario Regulation 17/14 made under the Naturopathy Act, 2007:
  - a. Paragraph 1 Contravening, by act or omission, a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice of the profession, including but not limited to:
    - i. Conflict of Interest Standard and Guideline; (A copy of the standard and Guideline are attached at Tab "K");
    - ii. Advertising Standard; (A copy of the standard is attached at Tab "L");
  - b. Paragraph 17 Acting in a conflict of interest when acting in a professional capacity;

- c. Paragraph 43 Failing to carry out or abide by an undertaking given to the College or breaching an agreement with the College;
- d. Paragraph 46 Engaging in conduct or performing an act relevant to the practice of the profession that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional); and
- e. Paragraph 47 Engaging in conduct that would reasonably be regarded by members as conduct unbecoming a member of the profession.

#### Acknowledgement

- 29. By this document, the Member states that:
  - a. He understands fully the nature of the allegations made against him;
  - b. He has no questions with respect to the allegations against him;
  - c. He admits to the truth of the facts contained in this Agreed Statement of Facts and Admission of Professional Misconduct and that the admitted facts constitute professional misconduct;
  - d. He understands that by signing this document he is consenting to the evidence as set out in the Agreed Statement of Facts and Admission of Professional Misconduct being presented to the Discipline Committee;
  - e. He understands that by admitting the allegations, he is waiving his right to require the College to prove the allegations against him at a contested hearing;
  - f. He understands that the decision of the Committee and a summary of its reasons, including reference to his name, will be published in the College's annual report and any other publication or website of the College;
  - g. He understands that any agreement between him and the College with respect to the penalty proposed does not bind the Discipline Committee; and
  - h. He understands and acknowledges that he is executing this document voluntarily, unequivocally, free of duress, free of bribe, and that he has been advised of his right to seek legal advice.

#### **Decision**

The Panel finds that the Member committed acts of professional misconduct as admitted by the Member and as alleged in the Notice of Hearing.

#### **Reasons for Decision**

In coming to this decision, the Panel considered the following: the Member's admission of professional misconduct, the Agreed Statement of Facts (including the documents appended as tabs to the Agreed Statement of Facts) and the parties' submissions.

Following deliberations, the Panel was satisfied that the conduct described in the Agreed Statement of Facts did constitute professional misconduct as alleged in the Notice of Hearing and as admitted by the Member for the following reasons:

- 1. The Member failed to comply with a previous order made by the Discipline Committee that suspended his license. While suspended, he continued to use protected titles and benefit from practicing the profession. It is the Member's responsibility to understand and comply with all aspects of a given order. Failure to do so is irresponsible and in this instance, deliberately misleading to the public. Further, it could bring into question the ability of the profession to effectively regulate its members in the eyes of the public.
- 2. The Member also breached a voluntary undertaking with the BDDT-N wherein he agreed not to promote natural health products.
- 3. In the act of promoting products manufactured by the company with which he was employed, the Member failed to comply with the Standards of Practice for Advertising and Conflict of Interest. The Standards are in place to ensure that members are practicing safely, ethically, and in the best interest of the public.
- 4. The above conduct would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

#### **Penalty Submissions**

Counsel for the College advised the Panel that a Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs had been agreed upon (Exhibit #4). The Joint Submission requests an order:

- 1. Requiring the Member to appear before the panel to be reprimanded immediately following the hearing of this matter.
- 2. Directing the Registrar to suspend the Member's certificate of registration for a period of four months, on a schedule to be set by the Registrar.
- 3. Directing the Registrar to impose the following specified terms, conditions and limitations on the Member's certificate of registration:

- a. Requiring that the Member successfully complete, and at his own expense, the ProBe course in ethics and boundaries, by December 31, 2020;
- b. Requiring that the Member successfully complete, to the satisfaction of the Registrar and at his own expense, the College's Jurisprudence course, by August 31, 2020;
- c. Requiring the Member to write an essay between 500 and 1000 words, that is deemed acceptable by the Registrar, and provide it to the Registrar, no later than January 29, 2021, to be published by the College at the discretion of and in a format determined by the Registrar, on the following issues:
- i. The lessons he learned in completing the ProBe course;
- ii. The lessons he learned in completing the Jurisprudence course; and
- iii. The importance of adhering to the College's standards and orders of committees of the College.
- 4. The Member shall pay a fine in the amount of \$350 to be paid to the Minister of Finance within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 5. The Member shall pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$6,400 payable on a schedule determined by the Registrar.
- 6. The Member acknowledges that this Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs is not binding upon the Discipline Committee.
- 7. The Member acknowledges and understands that he is executing this document voluntarily, unequivocally, free of duress, free of bribe, and that he has been advised of his right to seek legal advice.

#### **Penalty and Costs Decision**

The Panel accepts the Joint Submission as to Penalty and Costs, and accordingly orders:

- 1. That the Member to appear before the panel to be reprimanded immediately following the hearing of this matter.
- 2. That the Registrar be directed to suspend the Member's certificate of registration for a period of four months, on a schedule to be set by the Registrar.
- 3. That the Registrar be directed to impose the following specified terms, conditions and limitations on the Member's certificate of registration:
  - a. That the Member is required to successfully complete, and at his own expense,

the ProBe course in ethics and boundaries, by December 31, 2020;

- b. That the Member is required to successfully complete, to the satisfaction of the Registrar and at his own expense, the College's Jurisprudence course, by August 31, 2020;
- c. That the Member is required to write an essay between 500 and 1000 words, that is deemed acceptable by the Registrar, and provide it to the Registrar, no later than January 29, 2021, to be published by the College at the discretion of and in a format determined by the Registrar, on the following issues:
  - i. The lessons he learned in completing the ProBe course;
  - ii. The lessons he learned in completing the Jurisprudence course; and
  - iii. The importance of adhering to the College's standards and orders of committees of the College.
- 4. The Member shall pay a fine in the amount of \$350 to be paid to the Minister of Finance within 30 days of the date of this Order.
- 5. The Member shall pay the College's costs fixed in the amount of \$6,400 payable on a schedule determined by the Registrar.

#### **Reasons for Penalty Decision**

The Panel considered the Joint Submissions as to Penalty and Costs, as well as submissions from the College counsel. The Panel recognized that the penalty should maintain high professional standards, preserve public confidence in the ability of the College to regulate its members, and, above all, protect the public. This is achieved through a penalty that considers the principles of general deterrence, specific deterrence and, where appropriate, rehabilitation and remediation of the Member's practice.

The Panel also considered the principle that the Panel should accept a joint submission on penalty unless convinced that doing so would bring the process of this College into disrepute and would be contrary to the public interest.

In the circumstances of this case, the penalty proposed by the parties is reasonable and so ordered by the Panel.

In reviewing the Joint Submission on Penalty, the Panel considered the mitigating factors, including the Member's cooperation with the discipline process and prompt entry into and acceptance of the Agreed Statement of Facts. The Panel also considered the aggravating factors, which include breaching two previous orders/undertakings -- one that was imposed upon him and one that he entered into voluntarily. That Dr. Ali has appeared before a panel of the Discipline Committee twice within two years was also a significant aggravating factor. The Panel also considered the Brief of Authorities and is confident that the penalty is reasonable and appropriate given previous penalties for matters with similarities to this one.

The penalty order meets the requirement of being both a specific deterrent to the Member, and a general deterrent to the profession. The length of the suspension sends a message to both the Member and the membership at large that this kind of professional misconduct will result in a serious disruption to practice. Similarly, the fine, while not oppressively high, is an acknowledgment of the cost and privilege of self-regulation to the Province. The oral reprimand is an opportunity to make clear to the Member and the profession that members must be held to a high standard in keeping with the College's goal of public protection and accountability. Finally, the remedial terms will help to ensure that the Member learns from his misconduct and can return to practice better prepared to conduct himself ethically.

The penalty order meets the requirement to preserve public confidence in the profession to properly regulate its members to serve and protect the public interest. The penalty order is robust and sends a clear message that this matter has been taken seriously.

At the conclusion of the hearing, having confirmed that the Member waived any right to appeal, the Panel delivered its reprimand.

I, Jordan Sokoloski, sign this decision and reasons for the decision as Chairperson of this Discipline Panel and on behalf of the members of the Discipline Panel as listed below:

Jondon	August 19, 2020	
Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND, Chair	Date	

Panel members:

Dr. Jordan Sokoloski, ND, Chair

Dr. Shelly Burns, ND

Dr. Madeleine Elton, ND

Dianne Delany, Public Member Samuel Laldin, Public Member

#### REPRIMAND

As you know, Dr. Ali, as part of its penalty order this Discipline Panel has ordered you that you be given an oral reprimand. You agreed to this term of order as part of your joint submission on penalty filed during the course of the hearing.

The fact that you have received this reprimand will be part of the public portion of the Register and, as such, part of your record with the College.

Although you will be given an opportunity to make a statement at the end of the reprimand, this is *not* an opportunity for you to review the decision made by the Discipline Panel, *nor* a time for you to debate the merits of our decision.

The Panel has found that you have engaged in professional misconduct in the following ways:

- A) By failing to comply with an order of the Discipline Committee and practicing while under suspension;
- B) By holding yourself out as a naturopathic doctor, benefiting from the practice of the profession and using protected titles while under suspension;
  - C) By breaching a voluntary undertaking with the BDDT-N;
  - D) By breaching the Conflict of Interest and Advertising Standards of Practice;
  - E) By engaging in conduct unbecoming of a Member of the profession.

It is a matter of profound concern to this Panel that you have engaged in these forms of professional misconduct.

Moreover, the result of your misconduct is that you have let down the public, the profession, and yourself. We need to make it clear to you that your conduct is unacceptable. Of special concern to us is the fact that this is the second time that you have appeared before a Panel of the Discipline Committee and that you are here again because of a failure to abide by the conditions of the first decision.

Consequently, it is necessary for us to take steps to impress upon you the seriousness of the misconduct in which you have engaged.

We also want to make it clear to you that while the penalty that this Panel has imposed upon you is a fair penalty, we expect that this will be the last time you ever appear before a Discipline Panel.

As I have already stated, this is not an opportunity for you to review the decision or debate the correctness of the decision, which in any event, was agreed to by you. However, do you have any questions or do you wish to make any comments?

Thank you for attending today. We are adjourned.