

# **SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL**

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

Case No. 11906-2018

**BETWEEN:**

SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY

Applicant

and

HUGH PETER LANSDELL

Respondent

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Before:

Mr J. C. Chesterton (in the chair)

Ms A. E. Banks

Mrs S. Gordon

Date of Hearing: 5 June 2019

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**Appearances**

There were no appearances as the matter was dealt with on the papers.

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**JUDGMENT ON AN AGREED OUTCOME**

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## **Allegations**

1. The allegations against the Respondent, Hugh Peter Lansdell, made by the Applicant, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (“the SRA”), are that:
  - 1.1. Between 21 August 2015 and 10 July 2017, he misappropriated the total sum of £1,490,013.16 from the client account of Hansells, a recognised body in which he was a partner. He thereby breached any or all of:
    - 1.1.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.1.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.1.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.1.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.1.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011
  - 1.2. Between 29 June 2017 and 28 July 2017, he misappropriated the total sum of £35,855 from two bank accounts in the name of individuals in relation to whom he held a lasting power of attorney. He thereby breached:
    - 1.2.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.2.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.2.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.2.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and
    - 1.2.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules
  - 1.3. On 26 February 2016, he caused assets to a total value of £88,001.53 comprised within the A Trust, a private trust whose trustees were his clients, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:
    - 1.3.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.3.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.3.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 1.3.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011
    - 1.3.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011

- 1.4. Between 7 and 15 November 2016, he caused assets to a total value of £102,500 held upon the trusts of Charity B, a registered charity to which he was the clerk, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:
- 1.4.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.4.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.4.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.4.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and
  - 1.4.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011
- 1.5. Between 21 June 2016 and 30 June 2017, he caused assets to a total value of £247,289.75 held upon the trusts of Charity C, a registered charity to which he was the clerk, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:
- 1.5.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.5.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.5.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;
  - 1.5.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and
  - 1.5.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011.

In addition, all of the allegations set out above, namely allegations 1.1 to 1.5 inclusive, are advanced on the basis that the Respondent's conduct was dishonest. Dishonesty is alleged as an aggravating feature of the Respondent's misconduct but is not an essential ingredient in proving the allegations.

## **Documents**

2. The Tribunal had before it the following documents:-
- Rule 5 Statement signed on 13 December 2018.
  - Statement of Agreed Facts and Proposed Outcome (undated).
  - Respondents Answer by way of email dated 14 March 2019 in which full admissions were made to the allegations, Principal and Rule breaches.
  - Emails dated 4 June 2019 between the Applicant, Respondent and the Tribunal seeking consideration of the Agreed Facts and Proposed Outcome.

## **Factual Background**

3. The Respondent was born in 1949. He was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in July 1975. He last held a practising certificate in December 2017. From 4 June 1990

until 5 September 2017, the Respondent was a Partner in the firm Hansells (“the Firm”) which was also known as Hansells Stevenson between 6 April 1994 and 5 April 1999. He became a Senior Partner of the Firm in 2014. The Firm had a total of 15 Partners at the material time and carried out legal practice from seven offices in the Norfolk area namely; (a) a head office located in Norwich and (b) branch offices located in Sheringham, Cromer, Wymondham, Aylsham, North Walsham and Reepham. From 1 April 2014 the Firm was authorised by the Applicant as a licensed body.

### **Application for the matter to be resolved by way of Agreed Outcome**

4. The parties invited the Tribunal to deal with the Allegations against the Respondent in accordance with the Statement of Agreed Facts and Outcome annexed to this Judgment. The parties submitted that the outcome proposed was consistent with the Tribunal’s Guidance Note on Sanctions.

### **Findings of Fact and Law**

5. The Applicant was required to prove the allegations beyond reasonable doubt. The Tribunal had due regard to the Respondent’s rights to a fair trial and to respect for their private and family life under Articles 6 and 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
6. The Tribunal reviewed all the material before it and was satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the Respondent’s admissions were properly made.
7. The Tribunal considered its Guidance Note on Sanction (December 2018). In doing so the Tribunal assessed the culpability and harm identified together with the aggravating and mitigating factors that existed. The Respondent had admitted five allegations of dishonesty. The allegations were predicated on the misappropriation of monies from (a) the Firm’s client account in the sum of £1,490,013.16 and (b) bank accounts of individuals in relation to whom he held lasting power of attorney in the sum of £35,855.00. The Respondent further sold assets held by three trusts absent client instructions to do so in the sums of (a) £88,001.53 (b) 102,500.00 and (c) 247,289.75.
8. His misconduct was assessed as very serious, occurred over a protracted period of time between August 2015 and July 2017, was repeated and deliberate. The Respondent was a solicitor of significant standing having practised for 42 years and was a senior partner in a medium sized Firm at the material time.
9. The Tribunal considered that given the serious nature of the allegations admitted, the only appropriate and proportionate sanction was to strike the Respondent from the Roll. Accordingly, the Tribunal granted the application for matters to be resolved by way of the Agreed Outcome.

### **Costs**

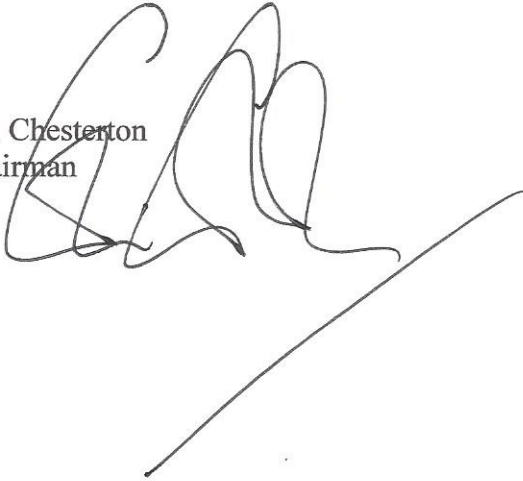
10. The parties agreed that the Respondent should make a contribution to costs in the sum of £27,338.34. The Tribunal considered the costs application to be appropriate and proportionate, and ordered that the Respondent pay a contribution to the costs in the agreed amount.

**Statement of Full Order**

11. The Tribunal Ordered that the Respondent, HUGH PETER LANSDELL, solicitor, be STRUCK OFF the Roll of Solicitors and it further Ordered that he do pay the costs of and incidental to this application and enquiry fixed in the sum of £27,338.34.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019  
On behalf of the Tribunal

J.C. Chesterton  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.C. Chesterton', written over a long, thin horizontal line.

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974**

**SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY    Applicant**

**HUGH PETER LANSDELL            Respondent**

**STATEMENT OF AGREED FACTS AND PROPOSED OUTCOME**

1. By its application dated 14 December 2018, and the statement made pursuant to Rule 5(2) of the Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 2007 which accompanied that application, the Solicitors Regulation Authority ("the SRA") brought proceedings before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal making five allegations of misconduct against Mr. Hugh Peter Lansdell.

**The allegations**

2. The allegations against Mr. Lansdell, made by the SRA within that statement were that: -
  - 2.1. Between 21 August 2015 and 10 July 2017, he misappropriated the total sum of £1,490,013.16 from the client account of Hansells, a recognised body in which he was a partner. He thereby breached any or all of:
    - 2.1.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;
    - 2.1.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.1.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.1.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and

2.1.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011

2.2. Between 29 June 2017 and 28 July 2017, he misappropriated the total sum of £35,855 from two bank accounts in the name of individuals in relation to whom he held a lasting power of attorney. He thereby breached:

2.2.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.2.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.2.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.2.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and

2.2.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules

2.3. On 26 February 2016, he caused assets to a total value of £88,001.53 comprised within the A Trust, a private trust whose trustees were his clients, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:

2.3.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.3.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.3.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.3.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and

2.3.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011

2.4. Between 7 and 15 November 2016, he caused assets to a total value of £102,500 held upon the trusts of Charity B, a registered charity to which he was the clerk, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:

2.4.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.4.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.4.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.4.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and

2.4.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011

2.5. Between 21 June 2016 and 30 June 2017, he caused assets to a total value of £247,289.75 held upon the trusts of Charity C, a registered charity to which he was the clerk, to be sold otherwise than on the instructions of the trustees and thereafter misappropriated the proceeds of their sale. He thereby breached any or all of:



2.5.1. Principle 2 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.5.2. Principle 4 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.5.3. Principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011;

2.5.4. Principle 10 of the SRA Principles 2011; and

2.5.5. Rule 20.1 SRA Accounts Rules 2011.

3. In addition, dishonesty was alleged as an aggravating factor with respect to each of these allegations.

4. Mr. Lansdell admits each of these allegations. He also admits that his conduct in acting as alleged was dishonest.

### **Agreed Facts**

5. The following facts and matters, which are relied upon by the SRA in support of the allegations set out within paragraphs 2 and 3 of this statement, are agreed between the SRA and Mr. Lansdell.

5.1. Mr. Lansdell, who was born in 1949, is a solicitor having been admitted to the Roll of Solicitors on 15 July 1975. His name continues to remain upon that Roll, however he does not hold a current practising certificate and has not done so since 6 December 2017.

5.2. From 4 June 1990 up until 5 September 2017, Mr. Lansdell was a Partner in the firm of Hansells (known as Hansells Stevenson between 6 April 1994 and 5 April 1999).

He became the Senior Partner of that firm in 2014. The firm was, at all relevant times, a partnership of 15 partners which carried on in legal practice from seven offices in the Norfolk area: A head office in Norwich and branch offices located in Sheringham, Cromer, Wymondham, Aylsham, North Walsham and Reepham respectively. From 1 April 2014 onwards, it has been authorised by the SRA as a licensed body.

5.3. Whilst practising at Hansells, Mr. Lansdell came to act as an intermediary between Charles Stanley Limited, an investment management company authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, and the following trusts whose portfolio of assets it managed:

5.3.1. The A Trust, a private trust whose beneficiaries comprised members of the immediate family of the settlor. Mr. Lansdell came to act as an intermediary between that Trust and Charles Stanley Limited because he was a relative of Mrs. H.H, the daughter of the settlor and one of beneficiaries of the trust and assisted her and her family with legal matters.

5.3.2. Charity B, a registered charity whose objects are to assist needy and infirm ladies over the age of 60 and organisations, including Charities, which also provide assistance for such needy and infirm ladies in the Norwich and Sheringham areas. Mr. Lansdell came to act as an intermediary between that Charity and Charles Stanley Limited because he was the Clerk to the Trustees.

5.3.3. Charity C, a registered charity whose objects are to make grants to organisations to relieve people in need. As in the case of Charity B, Mr. Lansdell came to act as an intermediary between the Charity and Charles Stanley Limited because he was the Clerk to the Trustees.

- 5.4. In or about Easter 2015, Mr. Lansdell received a letter, purportedly from the promoters of a lottery, which advised that him that he had won £825,000. Upon contacting the purported promoters, he was advised that there had, in fact, been an error in the initial letter and he had, in fact, won £1,825,000. All this was untrue - the lottery win was a fiction and the individuals with who Mr. Lansdell was in contact were, in fact, seeking to defraud him by obtaining substantial payments in respect of supposed fees which he needed to pay in order to secure the release of his winnings.
- 5.5. Between 21 August 2015 (the earliest) and 10 July 2017 (the latest) 59 payments amounting to a total of £1,490,013.16 and ranging in value between £1,500 (the least) and £168,500 (the most) were made from the client account of Hansells at the request of Mr. Lansdell. The payments were debited to the ledgers of 29 separate client matter files, including the ledger relating to the client matter of G.H deceased (from which five payments to a total value of £193,000 were debited between 9 March 2016 and 10 July 2017) and the ledger relating to the client matter of KL Deceased (from which 10 payments to a total value of £339,391.16 were debited between 21 August 2015 and 15 February 2017).
- 5.6. In one of those case, a payment of £30,932.20 was made on 20 January 2016 to a client who had brought a claim for Criminal Injuries Compensation which had not been progressed by Mr. Lansdell. The maximum compensation which could be awarded for an injury of the type suffered by that client was, in fact, £3,000.
- 5.7. In a second case, a payment of £44,625 was made on 7 October 2015 by way of repayment of private loan which Mr. Lansdell had taken from a friend to pay a fee which he was purportedly required to pay in order receive his supposed lottery win.
- 5.8. In all other cases, the payment was used by Mr. Lansdell to pay such supposed fees. In no case were the payments made to his client or on their behalf; nor were they made to a person who was in some way connected to the relevant client matter.

5.9. In addition to procuring these payments out of client account, on 23 February 2016 Mr. Lansdell instructed Charles Stanley Ltd to sell investments to a value of £90,000 comprised within the A Trust, which was subsequently paid into the Client Account of Hansells and credited to a client ledger in the name of that trust. The sum of £88,001.53 was then paid out on the same day to an account with Handelsbanken SC, on the instructions of Mr. Lansdell, by way of settlement of probate loan from the estate of I.J Deceased.

5.10. Subsequently, on 15 June 2016 Mr. Lansdell instructed Charles Stanley to sell assets to a value of £235,000 held within the investment portfolio maintained by Charity C. Cheques in those sums were issued by Charles Stanley in accordance with those instructions, paid in to the client account of Hansells and credited by Mr. Lansdell to the client ledger in relation to the matter of KL Deceased on 21 June 2016.

5.11. As at 20 June 2016 a shortage of £137,632 existed on the client ledger in relation to KL Deceased as a result of a series of seven payments, all in respect of fees supposedly required to procure the release of his lottery winnings, which had been requested by Mr. Lansdell between 21 August 2015 and 11 March 2016. In consequence, the balance on that ledger then stood at only £1,997.91.

5.12. Following the credit of £235,000 to the ledger in relation to KL Deceased on 21 June 2016 (in consequence of which the ledger balance increase to £236,997.91) Mr. Lansdell caused the following payments to be made and debited against that ledger (none of which would have been possible but for that credit:

5.12.1. A legitimate payment to two beneficiaries of the Estate on 23 June 2016;

5.12.2. A payment of £158,500 to Ningbo Two Birds Ltd on 22 July 2016;

5.12.3. A payment of £21,259.16 to Jose Eudoro Torres Santana on 5 December 2016;  
and

5.12.4. A payment of £8,500 to PAXT Ltd on 15 February 2017.

5.13. Ningbo Two Birds Ltd, Jose Eudoro Torres Santana and PAXT Ltd are all persons to whom Mr. Lansdell made payments, supposedly in respect of fees required to procure the release of his lottery winnings, at the direction of the individuals who were defrauding him.

5.14. In the meantime, on 7 November 2016 Mr. Lansdell instructed Charles Stanley to issue a cheque for £30,000 out of a cash balance held within the investment portfolio maintained by Charity B and on the 8 November 2016 instructed it to sell further assets to a value of £72,500 from that same portfolio. Cheques in those sums were issued by Charles Stanley in accordance with those instructions, paid in to the client account of Hansells and credited by Mr. Lansdell to the client ledger in relation to the matter of GH Deceased on 14 November 2016.

5.15. As at the 14 November 2016, a shortage of £100,000 existed on the client ledger in relation to GH Deceased in consequence of a payment which had been made to N&F Trading Ltd on 9 March 2016. N&F Trading Ltd was also one of the companies to whom Mr. Lansdell made payments, supposedly in respect of fees required to procure the release of his lottery winnings, at the direction of the individuals who were defrauding him.

5.16. Subsequently, on 1 March 2017, Mr. Lansdell instructed Charles Stanley to sell assets to a value of £16,000 held within the investment portfolio maintained by Charity

C. Charity C sold assets in accordance with those instructions and paid the proceeds into the client account of Hansells by CHAPS on 3 March 2017.

5.17. The sales of assets belonging to Trust A, Charity B and Charity C, and the subsequent payments which were made by Mr. Lansdell out of the proceeds of sale, described above were all made were not made upon the instructions of the trustees of those trusts. Indeed, those trustees did not know that those sales and payments had taken place until after the event.

5.18. Lastly, a further seven payments were made by Mr. Lansdell from the personal bank accounts of Mrs. MN and Mr. OP, two clients in relation to whom he held a lasting power of attorney. The payments in question were all made in the period between 29 June 2017 (the earliest) and 26 July 2017 (the latest) and ranged in amount between £1,250 (the least) and £15,000 (the most).

5.18.1. On two of those occasions, Mr. Lansdell transferred sums totalling £17,552 from the account in the name of Mrs. MN to the account in the name of Mr. OP. These payments were made in consequence of a genuine error upon the part of Mr. Lansdell.

5.18.2. On three of those occasions cash sums totalling £13,250 were withdrawn from the accounts in the name of Mrs. M.N or the account in the name of Mr. OP. On two of those occasions the cash withdrawn was used to make payments in respect of the supposed lottery win; the relevant payments totalling £12,000. The purpose for which the third payment was used is not known.

5.18.3. On two of those occasions' payments to a total value of £5,053 were made from the account in the name of Mr. OP to "Paul Sunford" and "Gabriella". Paul Sunford and Gabriella were again both persons to whom Mr. Lansdell made

payments, supposedly in respect of fees required to procure the release of his lottery winnings, at the direction of the individuals who were defrauding him.

5.19. Hansells first became suspicious about the way in which Mr. Lansdell was dealing with client money on 25 April 2017, when a solicitor in their Aylsham office reported concerns about an investment which Mr. Lansdell had made on a file upon which that solicitor had done some work. The matter was investigated by the firm between 15 May and 2 August 2017. Throughout that period, he gave an untrue explanation for the various payments which are the subject of the allegations against him: That they were investments in a risk-free investment scheme to which he had been introduced by his sister-in-law. He was suspended from partnership on 2 August 2017 and first admitted that he became involved in a lottery scam on 4 August 2017.

5.20. On 29 November 2017 Mr. Lansdell was made bankrupt.

5.21. On 8 March 2018 a Regulatory Supervisor employed by the SRA wrote to Mr. Lansdell to seek an explanation for the matters which are the subject of the present allegations (including the allegation of dishonesty).

5.22. On 13 April 2018, Mr. Lansdell replied to the Regulatory Supervisor by email. He explained that he had found it difficult to her letter and said that he had been very ill for several years. He also said that he had arranged for a medical report to confirm the position which would be sent to the SRA as soon as possible. He concluded by saying that *“With regard to the allegations in your letter of the 8th March I do of course accept these.”*

5.23. On 23 May 2018, the Supervisor received a report on Mr. Lansdell from Annie Beresford C. Psychol CSci AFBPsS in which she commented on his state of mind the times relevant to the allegations as follows:

*“Mr. Lansdell’s description of his mental condition during the most recent period of intense stress would seem to indicate that he became very absorbed and overly focussed on the success of the company. He appears to have developed an overvalued belief in both the power of prayer and the guidance of God, which then informed his interpretation of unfolding events and his decision making. He describes praying frequently throughout the day, feeling the need to pray even when he left his desk for a period of time. Prayer seems to have developed a compulsive and reinforcing quality such that he was unable to function without the relief from anxiety that it afforded him. Unfortunately, it would seem that the overvalued belief in the guidance of God resulted in an inability to think rationally about the unfolding situation and led him to make some very serious errors of judgment.”*

5.24. On 27 May 2018, the Supervisor received an email from Michael Cole, a solicitor and friend of Mr. Lansdell. Mr. Cole explained that he was acting for Mr. Lansdell in a concurrent police investigation into his actions. He explained that he had *“...advised Hugh that his career as a solicitor was over and that he should concede that he should be removed from the Roll as soon as possible...”* and that he had contacted the Supervisor to *“...indicate that we will do everything possible to assist in bringing this sorry business to a conclusion...”*

5.25. On 9 July 2018 a duly authorised officer of the SRA considered the papers in this matter (including the report from Ms. Beresford and the email from Mr Cole) and decided to refer the conduct of Mr. Lansdell to this Tribunal.



### **Non-Agreed Mitigation**

6. The following mitigation, which is not agreed by the SRA, is put forward by Mr. Lansdell:
  - 6.1. In the course of his is the first occasion on which he has appeared before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. He has never been the subject of a disciplinary finding by the SRA.
  - 6.2. He has demonstrated insight into the seriousness of his misconduct by making an early admission of misconduct to the SRA and the Tribunal and accepting that he should be subject to the usual penalty in cases involving dishonesty.
  - 6.3. His misconduct was committed in consequence of a deception perpetrated upon him by others who were engaged in serious criminality.
  - 6.4. He had a genuine belief that he had won a substantial prize in a lottery. His intention was always to replace the sums which he had misappropriated once that prize was finally received.
  - 6.5. At the time relevant to the allegations he was suffering from a serious mental illness.
7. However, Mr. Lansdell does not contend that the mitigation set out above amounts to exceptional circumstances which would justify the Tribunal in making any order other than that she be struck off the Roll.

### **Penalty proposed**

8. It is therefore proposed that Mr. Lansdell should be struck off the Roll of Solicitors.
9. With respect to costs, it is further agreed that Mr. Lansdell should pay the SRA's costs of this matter agreed in the sum of £27,338.34.

**Explanation as to why such an order would be in accordance with the Tribunal's sanctions guidance**

10. Mr. Lansdell has admitted dishonest actions. The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal's "Guidance Note on Sanction" (5th edition), at paragraph 47, states that: "*The most serious misconduct involves dishonesty, whether or not leading to criminal proceedings and criminal penalties. A finding that an allegation of dishonesty has been proved will almost invariably lead to striking off, save in exceptional circumstances (see Solicitors Regulation Authority v Sharma [2010] EWHC 2022 (Admin)).*"

11. In **Sharma [2010] EWHC 2022 (Admin)** at [13] Coulson J summarised the consequences of a finding of dishonesty by the Tribunal against a solicitor as follows:

*"(a) Save in exceptional circumstances, a finding of dishonesty will lead to the solicitor being struck off the Roll ... That is the normal and necessary penalty in cases of dishonesty...*

*(b) There will be a small residual category where striking off will be a disproportionate sentence in all the circumstances ...*

*(c) In deciding whether or not a particular case falls into that category, relevant factors will include the nature, scope and extent of the dishonesty itself, whether it was momentary ... or over a lengthy period of time ... whether it was a benefit to the solicitor ... and whether it had an adverse effect on others..."*

12. In the period between 21 August 2015 and 26 July 2017 Mr. Lansdell dishonestly misappropriated the total sum of £1,963,659.44 from his clients. He was made bankrupt on 29 November 2017 and the consequent loss has therefore been born by his former partners in Hansells and their Professional Indemnity Insurers. These were serious acts

of dishonesty, committed over an extended period, and the case plainly does not fall within the small residual category where striking off would be a disproportionate sentence. Accordingly, the fair and proportionate penalty in this case is for Mr. Lansdell to be struck off the Roll of Solicitors.

A J BULLOCK

.....  
Andrew John Bullock, Senior Legal Adviser upon behalf of the SRA

HP LANSDELL

.....  
Hugh Peter Lansdell