

SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

Case No. 12441-2023

BETWEEN:

SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY LTD

Applicant

and

DEVANDRAN KARUNAKARAN

Respondent

Before:

Ms A Horne (in the chair)

Mr J Abramson

Ms J Rowe

Date of Decision: 28 June 2023

Appearances

There were no appearances as the matter was considered on the papers.

DECISION ON AN APPLICATION FOR NON-PARTY DISCLOSURE

1. The Tribunal considered an application from Lucia Osborne-Crowley, on behalf of Law360 for non-party disclosure of the “Rule 12 Statements” in this matter. The grounds for the disclosure request were that it would aid understanding of the proceedings.
2. The Tribunal canvassed the views of the parties in accordance with the procedure set out in the Policy on the Supply of Documents from Tribunal Records to a Non-party (June 2020).
3. The SRA did not object to the disclosure of the Rule 12 Statement, subject to redactions of personal information. The Respondent similarly did not object to the disclosure of the Rule 12 Statement providing it fell within the scope of the Tribunal’s policy and having regard to any redactions the Tribunal may require.
4. The Tribunal’s starting point was that written material before the Tribunal should be disclosed to third parties in the interests of open justice and to advance transparency, absent any countervailing consideration. Neither party raised any objection to disclosure of the Rule 12 Statement, and the Tribunal could see no reason not to disclose it. Both the SRA and the Respondent had referred to redactions, the SRA specifying that this should include any personal information, but neither of the parties had identified any specific section(s) of the document they felt should be redacted. Having reviewed the Rule 12 Statement the Tribunal did not identify any information which required redaction, not least because everything in it was mentioned in open court during the proceedings. The Tribunal therefore directed that the Rule 12 Statement should be disclosed in its entirety.

Dated this 30th day of June 2023
On behalf of the Tribunal



A Horne
Chair