

IN THE MATTER OF GRAHAM DEIGHTON FORD, solicitor's clerk

- AND -

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

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Mr. R B Bamford (in the Chair)  
Mr. J N Barnecutt  
Mr. G Saunders

Date Of Hearing: 18th October 1995

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## FINDINGS

of the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal  
constituted under the Solicitors Act 1974

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An application was duly made on behalf of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau by Geoffrey Williams solicitor of 36 West Bute Street, Cardiff on the 12th June 1995 on behalf of the Law Society that an Order be made by the Tribunal directing that as from a date to be specified in such Order no solicitor should except in accordance with permission in writing granted by the Law Society for such period and subject to such conditions as the Society might think fit to specify in the permission employ or remunerate in connection with the practice as a solicitor Graham Deighton Ford of , Illogan Downs, Redruth, TR15 a person who was or had been a clerk to a solicitor or that such other Order might be made as the Tribunal should think right.

The allegation was that the respondent having been a clerk to a solicitor but not being a solicitor had been convicted of criminal offences which disclosed such dishonesty that in the opinion of the Law Society it would be undesirable for him to be employed by a solicitor in connection with his practice.

**The submissions of the respondent**

7. The respondent had been surprised to receive notice of the proceedings after such a passing of time. He recognised the need for the solicitors' profession to protect its perceived interests as a whole but hoped that he might give an undertaking to achieve the same effect in order to save time and cost.

The Tribunal FOUND the allegation to have been substantiated, indeed it was not contested. In view of the respondent's dishonesty whilst employed as a solicitor's clerk it was right that the order sought be made. The Tribunal could not accept an undertaking from the respondent. It would not, in any event, be enforceable. The Tribunal was troubled that the matter had taken such a long time to reach a hearing before them and for that reason when the applicant sought fixed costs in the sum of £705 inclusive the Tribunal Ordered that the respondent make a contribution towards the costs fixed in the sum of £400.

DATED this 13th day of November 1995

on behalf of the Tribunal



R B Bamford  
Chairman

*Findings filed with the  
Law Society on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
day of November 1995*