

BEFORE THE SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNALCase No:
12806-2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974 (as amended)

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY LIMITEDApplicant

and

ROBERT MANNERING SEDGWICKRespondent

RESPONDENT'S ANSWER TO THE APPLICANT'S RULE 12(2) STATEMENT

I, Robert Mannering Sedgwick, the Respondent of [REDACTED] Wadhurst East Sussex TN5 [REDACTED] and I make this Statement in answer to the statement of Jonathan White dated 23rd July 2025 on behalf of the Applicant.

The Allegations

1. The allegations against the Respondent, Robert Mannering Sedgwick, made by the SRA are that while a consultant employed at Buss Murton Law LLP ("the Firm") and subsequently as an independent consultant:

- 1.1 In March 2016, while acting as a consultant employed by the Firm, he facilitated the preparation and execution of a back-dated document, being a facility agreement between Leisure and Tourism Developments PLC ("L&TD") and London Capital & Finance PLC ("LCF"), and in so doing he breached any or all of Principles 2 and 6 of the SRA Principles 2011 ("the Principles").

The facts and matters relied upon in support of this allegation are set out in paragraphs 10 to 16 below.

- 1.2 In August 2017, while acting as an independent consultant, he facilitated the preparation, execution and circulation of a back-dated document purporting to be an assignment of loan between London Oil & Gas Limited (“LOG”) and Atlantic Petroleum Support Limited (“APS”), and in so doing he breached any or all of Principles 2 and 6 of the Principles.

The facts and matters relied upon in support of this allegation are set out in paragraphs 19 to 23 below.

- 1.3 In the period January – March 2019, while acting as an independent consultant, he facilitated the preparation, execution and circulation of back-dated documents, being a call option agreement between LOG and TW Private LLP (“TWP”) and a facility agreement between LOG and LPE Enterprises Limited (“LPE”), and in so doing he breached any or all of Principles 2 and 6 of the Principles.

The facts and matters relied upon in support of this allegation are set out in paragraphs 26 to 32 below.

- 1.4 In the period 30 December 2015 to 31 March 2018, he owned, controlled and was sole director of Global Security Trustees Limited (“GST”), whose role was to act as security trustee protecting the interests of bondholders, notwithstanding an obvious conflict in doing so (or significant risk thereof) given his previous and ongoing instructions (as consultant employed by the firm and thereafter as an independent consultant) for borrowers and/or persons with an interest in these borrowers (namely Mr Simon Hume-Kendall (“SHK”) and/or Mr Elten Barker (“EB”)). In so doing, the Respondent breached any or all of O3.4 of the Code of Conduct 2011 and Principles 2 and 6 of the Principles.

The facts and matters relied upon in support of this allegation are set out in paragraphs 35 to 42 below.

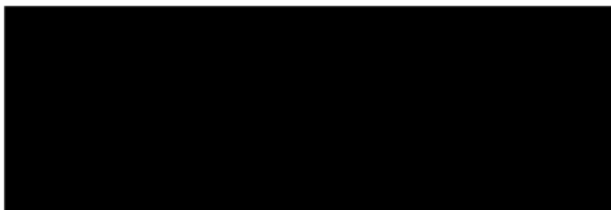
Answer to the Allegations

2. I deny the allegation set out in 1.1 above. My only involvement in the preparation and execution of the Facility Agreement was that I asked the directors of the Borrowing Company to sign the Facility Agreement and that then either I or one of the directors returned it undated to the director of London Capital & Finance PLC. I did not date it. I had had very little involvement with regard to the

preparation of the document. It is patently clear that the handwritten date on the copy document that I have seen is not my handwriting. I had no idea that the document would be backdated and did not do anything to facilitate that.

3. I admit that I back dated the assignment of a loan referred to in 1.2 above. This document ought to have been signed and dated in April 2017 when all the other documents in this transaction were signed but for some reason it was omitted. I arranged for it to be signed at a later date but dated it on the date when it should have been signed. I appreciate that I should have dated it with the date on which it was actually signed but nothing turned on the actual date as long as it was in place if and when the lender sought to enforce its security
4. With regard to the allegations in 1.3 above I admit that I back dated the documents referred to and the details of what I did are set out in my statement which is at **JW1, p406**. It should be noted that at this time I was not acting as a solicitor as I have not practiced as a solicitor since September 2017. Mr. White refers to the judgment of Judge Mullins but it must be appreciated that he gave his judgment after hearing only the Claimants namely the Administrators of London Capital & Finance PLC as the Respondents to the application were by the time of the hearing in Administration.
5. With regard to the allegations in 1.4 above I deny that at the time when my company Global Security Trustees Limited entered into the agreement to act as security Trustee for London Capital & Finance PLC I was not aware that any of my other clients were intending to borrow money from that company. I did not become aware until later in 2016 that they were to borrow from London Capital & Finance PLC. I appreciate that I should have considered my position then but it did not immediately occur to me. I cannot remember when it did occur to me but I then requested that London Capital & Finance PLC should replace my company as the Security Trustee. I had to ask several times for this to be done and eventually I was able to transfer the company to a Maltese company at the request of London Capital & Finance PLC. If in the meantime I there had been a default requiring the intervention of the Security Trustee I would have immediately handed over the control of the company to an independent party.
6. As a result of the judgment of Mr. Justice Miles in November last year I have been made bankrupt and I have no capital assets. My current income is limited to the state pension of £180.73 per week plus whatever I can earn as a consultant. I have not practiced as a solicitor since September 2017 and I have no intention of doing so now. I will shortly be 77.
7. I have spent the last five years in legal proceedings and do not propose to take an active part in these proceedings. I do not wish to show any disrespect to the Tribunal but mentally I cannot take on the stress that is involved. A year ago I was offered by the SRA a Regulatory Settlement Agreement whereby I agreed to remove myself from the Roll and not work in a solicitor's practice. I accepted this proposal although I sought to vary the terms if the breaches admitted. The offer was subsequently withdrawn. I have again asked the SRA since the commencement of these proceedings to negotiate an Agreed Outcome. I have no desire to prolong these proceedings

I believe the contents of this statement are true.



Robert Mannering Sedgwick

Dated this 30th day of September 2025

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**APPENDIX 1 TO STATEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 12 (2) SOLICITORS
(DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS) RULES 2019**

Relevant Rules and Regulations

SRA Principles 2011

You must:

Principle 2	Act with integrity
Principle 6	Behave in a way that maintains the trust the public places in you and in the provision of legal services

SRA Code of Conduct 2011

Outcome 3.4	you do not act if there is an own interest conflict or a significant risk of an own interest conflict;
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