



NRA Disciplinary Body
Decision of the Appeal Committee hearing on 21st February 2020
in relation to the appeal by Dr Robin Pizer
against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee hearing held on 9th October 2018

There were 5 grounds of appeal namely:

- 1 NRA failure to comply with the then existing rules re an appeal.
- 2 Complaint in regard to the findings that Dr Pizer wrongly disclosed confidential information and brought the Association into disrepute.
- 3 Complaint re procedures of the disciplinary hearing on 9 October 2018.
- 4 Complaint in regard to the penalty imposed.
- 5 Matters arising since request for an Appeal Hearing are included under the above headings.

The Appeal Committee members took the unanimous view that the complaint re procedures should be dealt with before considering any of the other grounds. The appellant and his legal representative were invited to deal with the procedural issues.

The appellant raised the issue of the Secretary General having sat in with the members of the Disciplinary committee during their deliberations as to whether the case was proven or not, and in reaching their decision on the penalty to be awarded. At the conclusion of the submissions the Appeal Committee retired to consider the issues raised.

From the submissions made, and having earlier listened to the official tape recording of the panel's deliberations at the original disciplinary hearing, the appeal committee concluded that:

- The Secretary General on behalf of the NRA as prosecuting officer had participated in the decision making deliberations of the original disciplinary panel and had made significant contributions to their discussion and the penalty to be awarded.
- The effect of those contributions had influenced and/or guided the original panel in coming to their decision.
- This was contrary to the long established principles of natural justice.

The Appeal Committee having reached those conclusions came to the unanimous decision that:

- The appeal should be allowed and that the original decision of the disciplinary panel should be quashed
- They made no judgement on the substantive issues
- In accordance with NRA policy contained in section 33.6 this decision is final and binding in all respects.

Date: 24th February 2020
Chairman: Robert Sayer