

Manchester dispenser fined for failing to conduct audiometry properly

16th June 2008

Graham Day, of Manchester, has been fined £500 and ordered to pay costs after he was found to have not followed recommended procedures when testing two clients' hearing. The first breach took place in May 2000, the second in October 2006.

The Council's Disciplinary Committee heard that Mr Day had deviated from British Society of Audiology (BSA) procedure by failing to use masking which meant he could not fully appreciate the clients' hearing loss. In mitigation, Mr Day stated that his long-standing relationship with the client meant he would not have gained any further information about his needs had he followed the recommended procedure.

Chris Hughes, Chairman of the Committee and the Council, said:

"He gave a very broad clinical history of his relationship with this patient, and also in mitigation we have the very persuasive letter from one of his clinical colleagues, an ENT surgeon.

"In the light of this mitigation we have looked at the question of sanction. We are satisfied on this occasion that this is not a breach of very great severity, however it is a breach the nature of which would not be fully remedied by the imposition of sanction. Accordingly, in respect of each charge we impose a sanction of £250. So a total sanction of £500".

-ENDS-

1. The HAC is an independent, statutory regulator set up by the Hearing Aid Council Act (1968, as amended) to register dispensers and their employers working in the private hearing aid sector. It sets the standards of education, training, conduct and performance dispensers must meet to join the register and investigates any alleged breaches of those standards. There are around 1500 hearing aid dispensers on the HAC register.
2. The Disciplinary Committee met to consider this case on 24.4.08. Defendants have 28 days to appeal and the Council publishes any transcript or press release only after the appeal window has closed.

3. Full details of this and other Disciplinary Cases are published here on the HAC website:
<http://thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk/category/disciplinary/>
4. For more information about our complaints process is published on the HAC website.
5. For more information on this case or the Council, please contact Stuart Holland on
stuart.holland@thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk or 0203 102 4030.