

SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACT 1974

Case No. 11072-2012

BETWEEN:

SOLICITORS REGULATION AUTHORITY

Applicant

and

ANJNA BHAMRA

Respondent

Before:

Ms J. Devonish (in the chair)

Mrs A. Kellett

Mr S. Marquez

Date of Hearing: 28 February 2019

Appearances

There were no appearances as the matter was dealt with on the papers

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION – APPLICATION FOR
NON-PARTY DISCLOSURE**

Background

1. The proceedings in this matter had concluded on 14 March 2013.
2. On 7 January 2019 the Tribunal had received an application from Georgia Opal Landy. In that application, Ms Landy stated that this was “An application to view the trial bundle to see the non associate payees of [a firm] Client account. To get a copy of the non associated payees of [the same firm] Client account.”
3. Ms Landy stated that she wished to “check the names” of an individual to whom she believed that the former Respondent had made payments.
4. It was not possible or appropriate to place the matter before the Division of the Tribunal that heard the original case due to the passage of time and the fact that one Member of that Division had since retired.

Former Applicant’s Position

5. Upon receipt of the application the Tribunal had, in accordance with the Policy on the Supply of Documents to a Non-Party from Tribunal Records (2017), had contacted the SRA to notify it of the application and seek its views. The Tribunal also asked if the SRA if it had contact details for the former Respondent so that her views could be sought.
6. On 14 January 2019 the SRA emailed Ms Landy asking her to provide further information in relation to her application in order that the SRA could consider her request. This included:
 - The nature of Ms Landy’s relationship to the former Respondent;
 - The nature of Ms Landy’s relationship to the firm referred to in her application;
 - Some background to the matters referred to in the application.
7. The SRA invited Ms Landy to provide her responses by 25 January 2019.
8. On 1 February 2019 the SRA wrote to the Tribunal and informed it that it had received neither an acknowledgement nor a substantive response from Ms Landy and that in those circumstances it could not agree to the disclosure request as it was not clear what was required. The Tribunal had similarly not heard from Ms Landy in relation to the SRA’s requests for further information.

Former Respondent’s Position

9. The SRA wrote to the Tribunal on 12 February 2019 to confirm that it had given the former Respondent until 11 February 2019 to provide her response to the request from the Tribunal for her email address. The SRA informed the Tribunal that it had received neither an acknowledgement nor permission from the former Respondent to provide the contact information.

The Tribunal's Decision

10. The application was made in very general and non-particularised terms. The reasons for the application were not clear and the questions that the SRA had sought to have answered were also questions that the Tribunal would have wanted to have had answered.
11. The Tribunal noted that the individual(s) likely to be affected by the application had not been parties in the proceedings. Beyond that there was no information about them. In light of the lack of clarity about the basis of the application there was no evidence of any potential value in disclosing the material in advancing the purpose of open justice.
12. The application for non-party disclosure was therefore refused.

Dated this 4th day of March 2019

On behalf of the Tribunal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Devonish', written in a cursive style.

J. Devonish
Chair