

Notice of Decision

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| Registrant | Heather Louise Mason |
| Registration number | 2015827 |
| Part of Register | Part 2 – Social Care Worker |
| Sanction | Warning to remain on your registration for a period of 5 years |
| Date of Effect | 24th January 2017 |

This is a notice of decision of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Council).

Decision

The Council has decided:

1. that there is evidence that your Fitness to Practise is impaired by reason of your convictions and caution, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise Rules 2016.
2. to issue a warning and direct that a record of the warning should be placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 5 years.

Convictions and Caution

- On 4th October 2016 at Antrim Magistrates Court, you were convicted of burglary (non dwelling) on 5th August 2016. You were sentenced to 100 hours community service and ordered to pay £150.00 to the other party.
- On 4th October 2016 at Antrim Magistrates Court, you were convicted of burglary (non dwelling) on 10th August 2016. You were sentenced to 100 hours community service.
- In July 2015 you received a Police Caution for shop-lifting.

Reasons

The reasons that this behaviour is considered to constitute impaired fitness to practise are:

- The public has the right to expect that social care workers, in whom they place their trust and confidence, uphold the law and do not engage in offending behaviour or otherwise behave in a way in work or outside work which would call into question their suitability to work in social care services.
- Your behaviour has fallen below the standard expected of a person registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers

The Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers that your behaviour has breached, are as follows:

Standard 2: As a social care worker, you must strive to establish and maintain the trust and confidence of service users and carers. This includes:

2.1 Being honest and trustworthy.

Standard 5: As a social care worker, you must uphold public trust and confidence in social care services. In particular you must not:

5.8 Behave in a way, in work or outside work, which would call into question your suitability to work in social care services.

Sanction

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*' the Council decided that the appropriate sanction was the imposition of a warning on your registration for a period of 5 years.

Reasons for the Sanction

When reaching its decision the Council considered the following factors:

- Your actions were dishonest and had the potential to bring the reputation of the profession into disrepute
- Your behaviour did not cause direct or indirect harm to service users
- You have shown remorse and apologised for your actions
- Apart from the convictions and caution, you have a previous good history and good character
- There has been no repetition of the offending behaviour since your convictions
- You have taken rehabilitative and corrective steps
- The Council has received relevant and appropriate references regarding your work and character
- You have co-operated with the Council's investigation.

Consent

Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you consented to the imposition of a warning on 20th January 2017. A record of the warning has been placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 5 years and does not affect your ability to practise.

Date of Effect

This warning comes into effect on 24th January 2017.



Patricia Higgins
Director of Regulations and Standards



Date