

Notice of Decision

Registrant	William Cook
Registration number	2022081
Part of Register	Part 2 – Adult Residential Care Worker
Sanction	Removal by Agreement
Date of Effect	19th March 2021

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 criminal convictions, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019 ('the Rules').
2. to remove you from the Register, following your application to be Removed by Agreement, as defined in Rule 14 of the Rules.

You (the Registrant) have agreed to the following Statement of Facts:

1. The Registrant was convicted of the following criminal offence at Craigavon Crown Court on 14th October 2020:

 Count 1: Defendant on the 5th day of May 2020, committed an act of a lewd, obscene and disgusting nature and outraging public decency by masturbating in public contrary to Common Law.
2. By reason of the conviction set out above, the Registrant's fitness to practise is deemed to be impaired.
3. The public has the right to have confidence in social care services. The most vulnerable people in society need to be protected from those who commit criminal offences, in particular those who commit crimes of this obscene nature. The Registrant's offence led to a custodial sentence, and he is no longer deemed suitable to remain as a registered social care worker. Confidence in the social care profession would be undermined by allowing the Registrant to remain registered.

4. The Registrant has breached the following provisions of the NI Social Care Council's Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers:

Standard of Conduct 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.

Application for Removal by Agreement

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*', the Council was minded to grant you Removal by Agreement. The Council served papers on you, inviting you to apply for Removal by Agreement. Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you made an application to be removed from the Register on 11th March 2021. In making the application, you admitted the allegations, agreed the statement of facts (as set out above), and admitted that the facts amounted to your fitness to practise being impaired.

The effect of this decision is that your entry in the Register has been removed.

You are prohibited by law from working as a social care worker in any of the following regulated positions:

1. A member of care staff at a:
 - a) Children's home
 - b) Residential care home
 - c) Nursing home
 - d) Day care setting
 - e) Residential family centre.
2. A person who is supplied by a domiciliary care agency to provide personal care to individuals in their own homes for persons who by reason of illness, infirmity or disability are unable to provide it for themselves without assistance.
3. A manager of a:
 - a) Residential care home
 - b) Day care setting
 - c) Residential family care centre
 - d) Domiciliary care agency.

It is **compulsory** for the above social care workers to be registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council in order to work. This is pursuant to the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Social Care Workers Prohibition) and Fitness of Workers (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

In accordance with Schedule 3, Paragraph 9 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019, you may not apply to be restored to the Register within five years from the date of removal.

Date of Effect

This notice comes into effect on 19th March 2021.

Mairin O'Kearney

Interim Director of Regulation and Standards

19th March 2021
Date