

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Kerry Elizabeth Cullen
Registration number	2042612
Part of Register	Part 1 – Qualified Social Worker
Sanction	Warning to remain on your registration for a period of 3 years
Date of Effect	16th March 2022

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 a caution you received for a criminal offence, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019.
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 3 years.

Caution

Whilst employed as a registered social worker by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust at Antrim Area Hospital:

- On 21 June 2021, you were issued with a Caution for Acquiring Criminal Property to the value of £8,000. The offence date is recorded as 4 June 2018.

Reasons

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

- You have been cautioned for an offence which calls into question both your honesty and integrity;
- The public has the right to have confidence in social work services. Your caution has the potential to undermine trust and confidence in the social work profession;
- You have demonstrated a disregard for the Council's Standards of Conduct and Practice.

NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Workers

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

Standard of Conduct 2: As a social 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;
- 2.11 Not engaging in practices which are fraudulent in respect of use of public or private monies.

Standard of Conduct 5: As a social worker, you must uphold public trust and confidence in social work 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 work 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 3 years.

Reasons for the Sanction

When reaching its decision the Council considered the following factors:

- Your caution has the potential to undermine trust and confidence in the social work profession;
- Your honesty and integrity has been called into question;
- You have demonstrated a disregard for the Council's Standards of Conduct and Practice.

The following mitigation was taken into account in reaching this decision:

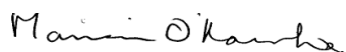
- There are no previous adverse findings made against you by the Council;
- You made admissions regarding the caution, and fully co-operated with the Council's enquiries;
- The concerns did not occur in the course of your social work duties.

Consent

Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you consented to the imposition of a warning on 8th March 2022. A record of the warning has been placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 3 years and does not affect your ability to practise.

Date of Effect

This warning comes into effect on 16th March 2022.



Interim Director of Regulation and Standards

16th March 2022

Date