

Statement by Amarjit Atkar, Bruce McAra, Simon Hardwick and Steve Williams regarding The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
15 January 2020

We are making this statement both for reputational purposes in view of the current high volume of unsolicited correspondence containing our names and to be clear that our silence so far should not be interpreted as in any way changing the views expressed in our November 11th 2019 letter to Chris Brooke asking him to pass on a factual chronology of then recent events to RICS Governing Council.

We confirm that the account contained in the recent Sunday Times articles concerning the 2018 RICS treasury management internal audit report and the subsequent termination of our appointments as non-executive members of RICS's Management Board is, in our view, true and fair. We see no reason for the current President to call them 'a spurious account'.

A highly critical, 'no assurance' report produced in the latter part of 2018 by BDO was not disclosed to Management Board for seven months after its publication, despite our repeated requests. We raised concerns arising out of this failure with both Paul Marcuse, the Chair of Management Board, and subsequently with the then President, Chris Brooke. Both are still in place. We asked the President to bring the matter to the attention of Governing Council, which initially, he agreed to do. However, when we provided him with a detailed chronology of events to enable him to ensure they were accurately reported, our appointments were summarily terminated.

We reject the assertion made to us by Mr Brooke in our termination letters, which was apparently subsequently repeated to Governing Council, that our behaviour was either 'aggressive' or inappropriate in any other way. We simply recorded the facts to help Governing Council identify what had gone wrong and to make an informed decision about the facts behind the non-disclosure of the BDO report. We sought only to constructively support a 'lessons learnt' process. Our November 2019 letter advised Chris Brooke that it was our final word on the matter. We considered that, once he had put the matter openly in front of the December 2019 meeting of Governing Council, we had discharged our responsibilities on behalf of the Institution.

It is a matter of grave concern to us that some former members of Governing Council have recently put on record that they consider they were not provided with proper disclosure about either the BDO report or the circumstances surrounding the termination of our appointments. As previously stated, this is something the then President had committed to do.

The four of us collectively have many years of service to RICS. We do not see ourselves as 'whistle blowers' or troublemakers. On the contrary, over the years we had contributed meaningfully to several major RICS projects. Our motivation at all times was to act with openness in properly discharging our responsibilities to protect the Institution and its reputation.

It is not our place to speculate on the actions and motivations of others, but we find it impossible to reconcile the Institution's published values with some of the behaviours that we have observed and to which we have been subjected. Now the matter has found its way into the public domain, the potential reputational impact is surely a matter of legitimate concern to all RICS members. Given the direct involvement of both the current President, Kathleen Fontana, and now permanent Chair of Governing Council, Chris Brooke, at the time of our 2019 Management Board discussions, when considering this matter Governing Council should be chaired by a non-conflicted third party.

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