



UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process
Complaint Hearing

10, 11, 12 March
14, 15, 16, 17 July 2025

ONLINE

Name of Registrant:	Jack Reardon
Heard by:	Adjudication Panel
Panel Members:	Gill Madden (Chair) Gita Patel (CPJAC) Sandra Spenceley (HIPC)
Legal Assessor:	Jon Whitfield KC, Doughty Street Chambers
Panel Secretary:	Bethany Rees
UKCP Presenting Officer:	Sophie Walmsley, Guildhall Chambers
Registrant's Representative:	Ciaran Rankin, Deans Court Chambers (in March) Unrepresented (in July)
Allegations found proved:	1, 2, 3, 4(a - f), 5(a, b), 6(a, b) 7(a - h) 8, 9(a, b), 10, 11, 12, 13 (a, b, c), 14 15(a, b) with respect to Allegations 3 – 11 16 with respect to Allegations 4 (a - f), 5(a), 6(a, b) 7(a - g) 8, 9 (a, b), 10, 11 and 12, 17 (a, b, d, e, f, j and l) with respect to all allegations except Allegation 2 17 (c) with respect to Allegations 7(f) and Allegation 12 17(g) with respect to Allegations 2 – 11 17(h) with respect to Allegation 13(a, b, c) 17(i) with respect to Allegations 6(b) – 11

17(k) with respect to Allegations 2, 3, 8, 10,14

Allegations found not proved: 15 with respect to Allegation 2

16 with respect of Allegation 2, Allegation 5(b), and Allegation 7(h)

16 withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegation 12

17 (a - k) with respect to Allegation 2

17 (c) withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegations 1 – 7(e), 7(g) – 11, 13 and 14

17(g) the Panel dismissed with reference Allegations 12 – 14 as postdating the allegation

17(i) withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegations 2 – 6 (a)

17(k) withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegations 4 – 7, 9, 11, 12, 13

17 withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegations 15 and 16

Panel decision:

Misconduct found proved

Current impairment found.

Sanction:

The Registrant is to be removed from the UKCP Register

Detail of allegations

That being a UKCP registered psychotherapist since at least 2021, you Jack Reardon (the Registrant):

1. Between 5 May 2021 - 28 December 2022, you were in a therapeutic relationship with Client A.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
2. On 20 August 2021, you sent an email to Client A containing a link to a yoga class ~~run by your friend~~.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
3. On 25 March 2022 and 11 May 2022, you sent two emails to Client A containing memes.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
4. During a therapy session with Client A on 21 December 2022, you:
 - a. Told Client A that you were “in love with [her]”.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
 - b. Told Client A that you had searched her on Facebook when she had first made an enquiry and/or that she was your “type”.
Denied. Admitted in part. Found proved
 - c. Disclosed personal details about yourself to Client A, including your relationship issues.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
 - d. Told Client A you thought you would have good sex because of your complimentary desires of wanting to dominate and submit.
Denied. Found proved
 - e. Told Client A that you could either continue therapy or, following a three-month hiatus from therapy, transition into a romantic relationship.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
 - f. Hugged Client A.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
5. On 21 December 2022, you sent Client A emails in which you:
 - a. Invited her to a concert you were performing at.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
 - b. Recommended her two therapists, whom you had current or previous therapeutic relationships with.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
6. On 23 December 2022, you:
 - a. Invited Client A to a concert you were performing at.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
 - b. Told Client A she could pay “any amount” for therapy sessions going forward due to the “change of dynamic”.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

7. During a therapy session with Client A on 28 December 2022, you:

a. Spent around three hours with Client A.

Denied. Admitted in evidence. Found proved

b. Gave Client A a tour of your apartment.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

c. Told Client A that you had ended your relationship with your fiancée.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

d. Hugged Client A.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

e. Kissed Client A ~~'s~~ cheek.

Denied. Admitted in evidence. Found proved

f. Rubbed Client A's leg.

Denied. Found proved

g. Gave Client A one of your t-shirts.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

h. Accepted a crystal from Client A.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

8. Between 6 January 2023 - 12 February 2023, you sent text messages and voice notes to Client A (Appendix A).

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

9. On 8 September 2023, you:

a. Met with Client A in [REDACTED]

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

b. Suggested you rekindle your relationship.

Denied. Found proved

10. On 11 September 2023, you sent Client A an email saying, "It would be heavenly to see you again".

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

11. On 18 September 2023, you invited Client A to a concert you were performing at.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

12. Between 15 October 2023 - January 2024, you engaged in a personal and/or sexual relationship with Client A.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

13. Between 15 October 2023 - January 2024, you discussed information about other clients with Client A, including:

- a. A male client, who you referred to as “gay not gay” and was considering attending an orgy with his partner.
Denied. Found proved
 - b. A female client, who Client A had seen near your apartment, who was having relationship difficulties.
Denied. Found proved
 - c. A male client, who Client A had seen when leaving her therapy sessions, who had a difficult relationship with his father and friends.
Denied. Found proved
14. On 16 March 2024, you affixed a letter and rose to Client A’s front door in which you said, “I’m sorry I wasn’t a better therapist”.
Admitted and found proved by way of admission
15. Your actions at paragraphs 2 - 14 above were:
- a. Inappropriate; and/or
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 - 11
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
 - b. Unprofessional; and/or
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 11
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
16. Your actions at paragraph 4 - ~~12~~ 11 above were sexually motivated.
Denied.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 4a - f, 5a, 6a,b, 7a-g and Allegations 8 – 11
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2, Allegation 5(b) and Allegation 7h
(Withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegation 12)
17. The behaviours set out at paragraphs 2 - ~~16~~ 14 above are in breach UKCP’s Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (2019) (the Code). In particular, you:
- a. Failed to act in Client A’s best interests, thereby breaching paragraph 1 of the Code.
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
(Withdrawn by the UKCP regarding Allegations 15 & 16)
 - b. Failed to treat Client A with respect, thereby breaching paragraph 2 of the Code.
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
(Withdrawn by the UKCP regarding Allegations 15 & 16)
 - c. Had sexual contact or a sexual relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 4 of the Code. **(In relation to paragraph 7f and paragraph 12 only)**
Denied. Admitted with regard to Allegation 12 in evidence.
Found proved with regard to both Allegation 7(f) and Allegation 12

(Withdrawn by UKCP regarding all other Allegations)

- d. Abused and/or exploited your relationship with Client A for any purpose including your sexual or emotional gain, thereby breaching paragraph 5 of the Code.
Denied.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
(Withdrawn by the UKCP with respect to Allegations 15 & 16)
- e. Harmed Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 6 of the Code.
Denied. Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
- f. Engaged in a dual relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 8 of the Code.
Denied. Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 – 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
- g. Failed to take all reasonable care, taking into account the time that had lapsed since therapy ended, before entering into a personal relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 9 of the Code. **(in relation to paragraphs 2 – 11 only)**
Admitted and found proved by way of admission with respect to Allegations 2 - 11 Found not proved with respect to Allegations 12 – 14
(Withdrawn by the UKCP with respect to Allegations 15 & 16)
- h. Failed to respect, protect and preserve your clients' confidentiality, thereby breaching paragraph 18 of the Code (in relation to Allegation 13 only).
Denied. Found proved with respect to Allegation 13 a, b and c
- i. Failed to make considered and timely arrangements for the termination of a therapeutic relationship, thereby breaching paragraph 27 of the Code. **(in relation to paragraphs 6b to 11 only)**
Denied. Found proved with respect to allegations 6(b) to 11
(Withdrawn by the UKCP with respect to Allegations 2 – 6(a), 12, 13, 15 & 16)
- j. Failed to act in a way which upholds the profession's reputation and promotes public confidence in the profession and its members, including outside of your professional life as a UKCP practitioner, thereby breaching paragraph 32 of the Code.
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3 - 14
- k. Failed to ensure that any communication in which you take part, and in particular your participation in social media, is carried out in a manner consistent with this Code, thereby breaching paragraph 34 of the Code.
Denied. Admitted in evidence.
Found proved with respect to Allegations 3, 8 10, 14
Found not proved with respect to Allegation 2
Withdrawn by UKCP with respect to Allegations 4 – 7, 9, 11, 12 13, 15 and 16
- l. Failed to challenge questionable practice in yourself and report potential breaches of the Code to UKCP, thereby breaching paragraph 37 of the Code.
Denied. Admitted in evidence in part. Found proved in respect of Allegations 3 - 14

For the reasons set out above, your fitness to practice is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Denied

Documents

The Panel had placed before it the following documents and information

- A principal bundle on behalf of UKCP amounting to 136 pages, hereafter referred to as C1;
- Audio recordings of 2 voice-notes referred to as C2
- A principal bundle on behalf of the Registrant amounting to 75 pages, hereafter referred to as R1;
- A signed witness statement from the Registrant amounting to 16 pages, hereafter referred to as R2;
- 120p of text messages, hereafter referred to as R3
- 12 voice-notes and screen-prints hereafter referred to as R4

Hearing

1. The complaint was heard under the UKCP Complaints and Conduct Process 2022, and the Panel considered the alleged breaches of the UKCP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct 2019 (the Code).

Preliminary Matters

Special measures / support for Client A

2. Prior to the start of the hearing the Panel was aware that Client A had asked for her sister to be in attendance to support her during her evidence. Mr Rankin raised no objection to this.
3. The Chair advised Client A and her support that provided there was no communication between them and the support remained off screen the Panel was content for her to remain.

Hearing in private

4. Ms Walmsley submitted that the case should be heard in private, subject to Client A's support being present, owing to the personal sensitive nature of some of the evidence likely to be dealt with during the hearing. Mr Rankin supported the application.
5. The Panel accepted the advice of the legal assessor.
6. The Panel recognised the public interest in the open consideration of allegations of professional misconduct but noted that this may be outweighed by the personal/private interests of Client A and/or the Registrant should the evidence be of a particularly sensitive or personal nature. The Panel

determined that much of the evidence in this case was both sensitive and personal and that the interests of the witnesses (Client A and the Registrant) outweighed the public interest. The Panel therefore determined that the case should be heard in private. The Panel noted that this did not prevent the UKCP from in due course publishing such detail as it considered appropriate, should all or any of the allegations be proved against the Registrant.

Determination of Facts

7. The Panel considered all of the documentary evidence before it and heard oral submissions from Ms Walmsley on behalf of UKCP and Mr Rankin on behalf of the Registrant. The Panel heard evidence from Client A and the Registrant as set out below and considered the documentary and recorded evidence provided by them or on their behalf.
8. The Panel heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor.

Summary of Case

9. Between the 5th of May 2021 and the 28th of December 2022 Client A was in a therapeutic relationship with the Registrant. During this time Client A started to have feelings for the Registrant. She disclosed her feelings to him but they continued to work through this and issues in her life related to personal relationships. On 21 December 2022, the Registrant disclosed that he had similar feelings for Client A and, he disclosed details about his personal life. On 28 December 2022 at a final therapeutic meeting they terminated the therapeutic relationship as a result of their mutual attraction and commenced a three-month period when they agreed they should not be in contact if they were to embark on a personal relationship. Despite this the Registrant and Client A remained in sporadic contact by text and voice-notes.
10. On 8 September 2023 the Registrant and Client A met and spent time with each other on [REDACTED] and nearby. There was again sporadic contact after this and, between 15 October 2023 and January 2024 the two engaged in a personal and/or sexual relationship.
11. The Registrant for the most part admitted the above short outline. There were some details as to particular conversations and actions (such as who contacted whom) that were not admitted. In addition it was alleged that the Registrant disclosed information about other clients to Client A. These were alleged to be unprofessional and a breach of privacy for the other clients. It was the Registrant's case that he had only disclosed or discussed anonymous information with Client A in the form of a 'peer to peer' discussion since she was training to be a therapist herself. As such his case was that there was no breach of privacy and his actions were not unprofessional.

Summary of Evidence

Evidence for the UKCP

12. Client A was called to give evidence. She adopted her statement and exhibits as true to the best of her knowledge and belief. Ms Walmsley then asked a small number of supplementary questions. Regarding paragraph four of her statement and the reason why she engaged the Registrant as a therapist, Client A said that she was continuing on her education course and her therapeutic journey. She said that she had engaged female therapists previously and had left them. She discussed with the Registrant the fact that she was female, he was male, he was qualified, and that they would try to work through her past trauma. Client A confirmed that she had expressed her personal feelings regarding the Registrant only once during their therapeutic relationship. She said he first declared his feelings for her on the 21st of December 2022 although she referred in quizzical tones to a message sent by the Registrant which contained a drawing in which a male person asks a female if she wanted to be his girlfriend. Client A confirmed that she had a clear recollection of the Registrant stating that he had searched for her on Facebook. This she described was the moment when the whole 'house of cards' came tumbling down. The fact that he had looked for her on Facebook was a small component of this because he had also stated that he was in love with her, had written songs about her, but he had a fiancée. She was clear that he had disclosed personal details of his relationship with his fiancé during the therapeutic relationship.
13. When asked who wanted to have a romantic relationship after the therapeutic relationship, Client A said "reconciling that one . . . I'll say it was equal." She described the final appointment on the 28th of December 2022 as being 3 hours long and confirmed that the Registrant had embraced her, picked her up and spun her around. She said she would remember those two days (the 21st and 28th) forever. When asked if he had asked for permission to lift her up and spin her round, Client A said, "this was less than the first time, they had hugged the week before so maybe they did it again and bigger but no he did not ask for permission specifically." She said that if he asked her now she would say no. She said that she was clear in her recollection that they had cuddled and he had put his telephone number on her phone. Before that, communication had predominantly been by e-mail. She said she had a bad relationship with her phone and was struggling with phone usage.
14. When asked about communication after the 28th of December 2022 Client A said this was the day it was all revealed, "from then on it was a bit like different, it was like what is disintegrating before my eyes, he's changed, communication became more friendly and informal." She said she engaged a new therapist and she and the Registrant ceased communication. She spoke of her feelings being shackled. Client A confirmed that the Registrant had offered help to her in finding a new therapist. One person he mentioned was in Brighton and one was expensive. One of the people he suggested was his own therapist [REDACTED] she therefore found someone for herself instead.

15. Turning to the allegation of disclosing information concerning other clients Client A said she did not know why he was telling her about them. She did not believe that one could ethically have supervision with a partner or with someone who was her therapist.
16. Client A was referred to an e-mail from the UKCP helpline. She said that [REDACTED] her new therapist had sent a communication after she had disclosed to [REDACTED] what had happened with the Registrant. Client A said that she had called the UKCP and told them what had happened and asked whether it was complaint-worthy. She was advised that it was and was told about the complaint process but she said it sounded horrendous. She said the current hearing, providing evidence and being questioned was part of the trauma and felt the same as when she worked in insurance. (She later described a similar process when she was employed by an insurance company.) She said that no-one would voluntarily put themselves through this. The last time she had done so it did not go well and she had spent six hours being cross examined in a police station.
17. Regarding the impact of these events upon her, she said that she had disengaged from therapy and had not been back to university for at least a year and three months if not more. She could not remember the last time she was there. She described the university giving her extensions to complete her course but felt she was now so far off track she would not know how to get back to the course. She said she was now 'freaked out' by therapy and could not see herself going back to it.
18. Mr Rankin asked questions on behalf of the Registrant.
19. Client A agreed that she was in a therapeutic relationship with the Registrant between May 21 and December 22. She said that the relationship developed whilst she was both in therapy and in training and that she had developed a crush on the Registrant in June 22 and she told him that she wanted to kiss him. She said that she believed this was an in-person session during which she had said he reminded her of her ex-partner and some of those things may be played out. She said she was in training and was aware of transference. She said she had a 'good client complex' and wanted him to be aware of this issue and that the issue of transference had landed. She described her inner child as wanting to kiss him and she recognised it was part of the process and she was trying to steer her feelings away from this. When asked if she thought about seeing another therapist she said she felt that raising it is when you deal with it and can heal. She thought she could say this and then work through it, stop wanting to kiss him and she would therefore be able to stop wanting to kiss men in authority. She described it as giving him a therapeutic gift. She did not consider getting another therapist as she felt they could work this out. She described his reaction as nice along the lines of 'thank you for telling me' and she thought 'far out great'.
20. Client A said the first time the Registrant revealed any feelings for her was the 21st of December when he made the declaration and the therapeutic relationship ended. She said it was 'co-created', he was taking her lead and it was the blind leading the blind. Regarding the end of the therapeutic relationship

Client A said she was taking his lead as he was her therapist and he spoke of breaking up with his fiancée and getting together in about 3 months' time, so she thought he had figured it out that they would be together in three months. She agreed that he took the lead in ending the therapeutic relationship and she had said 'give me a good ending and we can see what happens'. Now she did not regard the ending as appropriate. Regarding the 28th of December she said that the Registrant had said they should have an ending session and then have a cup of tea and get to know each other. He said he had written 'ended' in a notebook and she wondered to herself as if that is how one finished a 1½ year journey. Client A described feeling sad for herself and uncertain as to whether it (the journey) had just ended and it didn't matter. She said that she thought she could criticise him for not being responsible but she agreed he was decisive. She accepted that he tried to find alternative therapists for her and added that the three month period was suggested by the Registrant.

21. When it was suggested that the Registrant had taken this matter to supervision and on advice had been told a three month period was appropriate Client A said that he had been advised to wait three to six months but she thought it was two years. She then conceded that she had been told three months and that is what he had said. Mr Rankin then took Client A to various texts and communications in the bundle during which Client A and the Registrant talked of radio silence. She described not talking to the Registrant as a 'three month hiatus thing' but said they had a cooperative playlist on Spotify. She described her therapist [REDACTED] as saying, 'run for the hills and report this man'. She said that [REDACTED] had told her it should be two years and he had responded agreeing it could be. She described starting with [REDACTED] soon after ending with the Registrant. Mr Rankin took Client A to her statement paragraph 11 and suggested that this could not be right because she did not know about the 'two year rule' until she had spoken to [REDACTED]. Client A then said it was her understanding from her course at university that they should not get into a relationship for two years and then don't do it anyway. It was put to her that her text in February was to the effect that new information regarding the two year rule had come to light, so she could not have raised the two year rule with him in December 2022. Client A maintained that she had said in the therapeutic session that it was two years and that the Registrant had said he thought so too. Client A said when she went to a new therapist she said there was no such thing as a three month rule it was two years. Mr Rankin pointed out that she did not say this in her statement and she agreed.
22. Regarding the length of the last session Client A said that it was three hours and that the Registrant had told her he had delayed sessions with other clients to extend their time together. Client A confirmed that the Registrant kissed her on the cheek and rubbed her leg. She also stated that the therapeutic relationship ended on the 28th of December 2022 and the Registrant put her in contact with other therapists. She said that the next contact was on the 6th of January 2023 and spoke of a voice note on Spotify. She said that it was quite confusing because of the three month rule during which they were not to speak to each other as a cooling off. She said she sent him a voice note on the 28th to say she did not know what she was doing but would be kind and professional and she thought there was a message of longing. She said although they could not speak she would make a public

playlist and “talk to him” through that playlist without speaking. She confirmed that she initiated contact through the playlist and it was meant as a romantic gesture she thought that artists would be notified of a playlist and she thought this was cool but it seems that artists are not notified. She could not recall saying that she had played his song 300 times on repeat. She agreed that there was sporadic messaging and they met on [REDACTED]. She said that they had two meetings and then the three month period was confirmed as incorrect so she then ghosted him, sent him one message and deleted the Spotify playlist.

23. Client A said that she had been considering reporting the Registrant over several months with teachers and lecturers saying to report him. This took some nine months during which she felt she could not make a complaint and wanted to deal with it by herself so she sent an e-mail asking if he wished to make amends. Client A confirmed she instigated the contact and arranged the date at [REDACTED]. Client A said that the Registrant told her he had got back together with his fiancée but it was not going well because he still had feelings for Client A and nothing had changed in the last nine months. Client A retorted that she was not interested in seeing someone who was with someone else and she said that his response was ‘he had work to do.’ Two days later he said, “it’s done”. She said that they met on the 8th and his e-mail confirmed that he had broken up with his fiancée and wanted to rekindle the relationship with her.
24. When asked about the period between October 2023 and January 2024 Client A described this as a friendship if not a full blown relationship. She said at the time she was undergoing therapy training. It was put to her that the exchanges were conversations between peers but she strongly disagreed with this and said they were in a personal relationship. It was suggested that the conversations were between two therapists talking about their daily activities of work and she said it felt “more gossipy” it did not feel like peer-to-peer conversations.
25. Client A said that following the Registrant’s e-mail confirming the breakup with his fiancée (“it’s done”) he said that he needed time to process and Client A said he should take as long as he needed. He suggested they meet in a month’s time which was 10 months after the therapeutic relationship had ended. It was suggested that the personal relationship started in October 2023 and ended in January 2024. Client A said that the ending of the relationship was not mutual it was her decision because the relationship felt unsafe since the Registrant said he was not over his ex-girlfriend. with the reference to a voicemail on the 30th of August it was put to Client A that people were suggesting she was the victim. Client A agreed that people were saying this but she said she had her own thoughts of victimhood and did not consider herself to be a victim. She said that she was hoping for a reconciliation with the Registrant but when he posted the letter on her door she realised there would be no reconciliation in dealing with him directly because it was all too vague coming from him. She agreed that the letter was the trigger for the complaint because it marked an ending. She said he recognised what he had done and apologised for causing her some trauma and she recognised or understood what needed to be done by someone in a higher place other than herself dealing with it. She agreed

that the relationship ended at her bidding she rejected the suggestion that she lashed out in making the complaint in response to his letter and said it was the responsible thing for her to do. When asked what had changed, she said it was her own growth process and deciding to be responsible for herself and the situation she was in. She agreed that she was still listening to her friends who said she was a victim but also she was listening to her lectures at university.

26. Regarding her e-mail in December 2024 in which Client A suggests the Registrant paid £15,000 she said that the purpose of the e-mail was closure. She wanted to put these things behind her in 2024 and to have 2025 without all this. She said she was aware of 'out of court settlements' as this had happened in a previous court case. She discussed the case with a number of people including her therapist and a lawyer who had told her that cases could be settled out of court. She described this as an alternative route to resolution that did not involve having a hearing. It was suggested '£15,000 and it would all be done and dusted' but she said such things are never done and dusted, you always carry them with you. Client A said that she showed this to a lawyer it was not blackmail, her understanding was that it was legal. She said that she had been paid £18,000 previously so she knew how much to get paid off in a court case. She said this was a 'crummy sum of money' and she would definitely want to blackmail him for a greater sum than £15,000. She then described the circumstances of the previous payment. She agreed that this had been sent 8 months after the events and she did not speak to anyone at the UKCP about it.
27. In re-examination Client A said that when they met up they talked about how they had felt during the interim [that is when they were not speaking directly]. She said that she had been in a short relationship which ended and he said that he had got back with his fiancée but things were not going well since he was still thinking of her. She described the meeting at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and said the Registrant held her hand and said he missed her. She echoed his sentiment but said she wasn't going to do anything again. They then talked with an interesting neighbour and she walked the Registrant to the station. He said they had things to think about. She said that they did talk about the therapy and how it ended and he apologised for acting like a wolf and acknowledged how the last meeting had panned out. She said she was overjoyed to see him. She thought the term 'wolf' was interesting, predatory, a wolf in sheep's clothing and she thought 'OK he had acknowledged it' which meant that it was OK and it had gone away. His e-mail stating "it's done" was him ending his relationship with his fiancée for the second time. When at [REDACTED] he had said they were back together but it was not going well and it was hard to have a relationship with his fiancée when he was still thinking about Client A.
28. When asked about texts in the bundle Client A said that the stars indicated a whimsy and that the text "MOTL on big client goss" was something she could not imagine saying. She was asked if this was peer supervision but said 'if he was going to gossip he could at least say it was peer supervision'.

29. Regarding why she made the complaint, Client A denied that she was pushed into making a complaint, rather she felt this was a pattern in her life and she was a victim of her own patterns. She said she felt like an observer watching the train go round again and wondered why.
30. Concerning the December e-mail (£15,000) she said this was about moving on. Ultimately, she had waited for a year without a trial and she was at a point where she needed it to be over since she had no idea how long she had been drifting. She said that her offer came from an amicable place since she did not want these proceedings on the Registrant for 2025 either. It was not nice for either of them. In describing the money Client A said there was a genuine cost including the fees she paid to the Registrant which were about £8000 and a small sum for the emotional distress. This was how she settled on the figure of £15,000. Client A said, 'blackmail did not resonate at all', she was trying to be amicable in the spirit of compromise she said that she had produced this with her [REDACTED] who was a lawyer. She said that she had compromised a previous complaint in this way but this was not the way she did it; she really wanted it over and didn't know what else to do so she sent one letter and neither repeated nor pushed the offer. When asked why she had waited so long until she complained or whether she had an ulterior motive she said that she wanted to avoid the feeling of being cross examined it was not nice and she didn't begrudge anyone who wanted to avoid it. Client A then asked about the term "without prejudice" which was on her e-mail and she was informed that it did not apply to these proceedings.
31. In answer to questions from the Panel Client A said she had received a previous payment following an incident when employed. She had spoken to the company HR and they were complicit since there was a dual relationship in the company. The HR person had said 'thank God it was the Client A since everyone else would make a massive fuss'. It was at this point that she realised she could not rely upon the company to do the right thing so she called the police. As the case went forward and she spoke to a lawyer the company put her on gardening leave. She said that she was impacted but the person who assaulted her remained employed at the company. She said she was unfairly dismissed. She was then paid £18,000 by the company of which she gave £5,000 to her lawyer. She said that she had made a formal claim and the sum was proposed to her.
32. Concerning peer supervision, Client A said she did not participate since she was not qualified. Her understanding was that it was more within a group but she was not involved in such a group. She understood it to be a group of therapists who meet and discuss anonymized cases. She said that she and the Registrant were just in the kitchen chatting.
33. When asked about the impact upon her, Client A said that it felt like her life had been on hold since 11 January 2023 and she had not been able to form relationships. She said the Registrant was her last romantic involvement. She did not know if she had experienced the full response or impact yet and felt she was still in trauma which is why she wanted to conclude everything, she still felt trapped. She described being in her old skin and wanting to burst out of it but not being able to do so ; she couldn't

make relationships or trust people; she did not want to be a therapist so she had undertaken 4 years study for nothing. She said she did not trust authority and, regarding having crushes on people in authority, she said this was the second time a person in authority had pulled their mask off and it felt dark. She felt there was something wrong with herself. Client A said she had not seen a therapist this year (2025) because she felt that therapy did not work. She wanted to see how she would get on without therapy and did not know if she would return to it.

34. Regarding parts of her statement, Client A said that the Registrant told her he loved her and after that revelation came the suggestion that if they were in a relationship in three months' time she should know a bit more about him. Her response was 'yes' but she said that was probably not the best response. She said that he provided the basic story of his life and his traumas. At the time she did not know anything about him so she didn't know what to expect. She said that if someone did this to her now she would think of it as inappropriate, impulsive and frightening. She described it as if he was saying we have a similar story and are connected. She described feeling 'vomited on'. Client A said that she told him about being submissive and 'people pleasing' and he said he was compatible with someone with that sexual disposition. She described him sharing very personal details about his life and traits which was disturbing but she said, 'this is what draws me in' and was the nature of her problem. She said she was susceptible to being drawn in and the whole nature of the therapy was about the assault upon her being unresolved and feeling that she was not heard or it didn't matter or it had no impact. It was the feeling that anyone can do anything for £18,000. On the 21st she said he spoke a lot. There was about 10 or 15 minutes of therapy and then it was him from that point.

Evidence for the Registrant

35. The Registrant took the oath and adopted his witness statement and exhibits as his evidence in chief. He was then cross-examined by Ms Walmsley.
36. The Registrant said that Client A first made contact on 5 May 2021 by e-mail. He responded by e-mail but erroneously mentioned another client's name. The Registrant said that he subsequently explained this to the other client who was fine about it. The Registrant explained that sometimes he is not very good with texts and emails and this was an accident.
37. Regarding therapy in general he says that he sets out the process, the aims, the goals, and how these may be achieved. He keeps such details in his notes and he set this out to Client A. These notes would have included what Client A brought to him and what she was looking for. At the time he said his practice was to look up most if not all of his clients, particularly if he was working with them in person. He said that he looked on Facebook and similar social media partly for his own safety but also partly to find out more about them because one can pick up signals and information that might be relevant. He explained that since about May 2024 he had only worked online so he no longer did this.

38. The Registrant confirmed that he looked up Client A on Facebook and said that he did not have romantic feelings for her from the outset, rather these developed later on. When asked to comment on the reference to having romantic feelings since day one (def bundle p74) the Registrant said that he noted that she was attractive but was not attracted to her. He was aware that something was there but the attraction and the intensity came later on. He said that his note was not as accurate as his current evidence. He confirmed they had a good rapport and he misconstrued this as a good therapeutic alliance. He described caring for Client A but he denied having romantic feelings from the first meeting. He said that he stood by what he said now and he wrote the note on the advice of his then supervisor [REDACTED]. He conceded that the note was consistent with Allegation 1 which is that he looked Client A up on Facebook and she was his type. He again agreed that he had looked up Client A on Facebook but he denied saying she was his type. Ms Walmsley asked why the Registrant continued the therapeutic relationship given those initial feelings and the Registrant said but he had been taught to know what transference was and what was separate. He felt they could do some good therapy together. He stood by the fact that for a time they did and he held things in a good way.
39. The Registrant explained that he was aware of Client A's previous trauma but he did not agree that she set out to deal with this by picking him as her therapist. He said that she had explained there was a similarity with him and the man in the previous trauma but she had not explained this in session. He was aware that she was undergoing her own training and this affected the dynamic between them including the power imbalance which was something that he underestimated. He explained that he took answers at face value and he underestimated the potency of transfer. Because of all this he was now very much more aware of the power dynamic that comes from this work. He agreed with the suggestion that Client A 'flagged' her romantic feelings for him in several different ways. He said that he addressed this by what he felt were pretty good boundaries at the time.
40. When asked if these feelings could affect the benefits of therapy, the Registrant said there was a lot of 'potentiality' in therapy and he worked with what he had in front of him. He agreed the relationship was challenging but felt matters could be worked through if it was indeed transference. By way of example he said the Client A likened him to an ex-boyfriend who she really liked. He said other clients had said he was good looking, for example, but he had never experienced anything on the scale of Client A. He discussed the issues with his previous supervisor [REDACTED].
41. Ms Walmsley took the Registrant to page 8 of the bundle and the reference to 'first session' and the comment 'I love you' attributed to Client A. He said that this was the first session that the client had arrived on time it was not her first session of therapy. He was asked about the term 'Field Day' and said this was a festival. Client A had looked up some songs on Google and had looked up the Registrant. He had a love of music and a friend of hers enjoyed similar music. The Registrant said that he had a drawing of an artist liked by Client A's friend. Client A mentioned that person and she followed him on TikTok. She said that she had seen the Registrant at the festival as well as looking him up. In this session the Registrant said Client A was jovial and flirtatious and he was trying to maintain boundaries

during which time she said, 'I love you'. He explained that he thought maybe she meant it. The Registrant said he had taken Client A to supervision because of his growing feelings for her and he was trying to navigate this and stick with the therapeutic relationship.

42. The Registrant described his supervisor [REDACTED] as working in a particular modality about which he was evangelical. The Registrant said he was trying to get direct advice and rather than getting this he felt the supervisory sessions were more like therapy. He explained that he needed advice and was not getting it and therefore ceased supervision with [REDACTED] in October 2022. He explained that [REDACTED] had originally advised the Registrant to work through what was happening that it was likely to be transference. He said the supervision became more like Internal Family Systems (IFS) and he felt frustrated by the lack of support. He said he had felt like this for about 6 months and he simply needed some advice. He spoke of another supervisor called [REDACTED] who gave him direct advice and he did think of terminating the therapeutic relationship. He accepted that his feelings had built up from an early stage and Client A's feelings were quite intense. He said they were unavoidably in the room and he now considered it to be a very large projection. He described Client A as sending a huge number of memes and he responded because this is how he thought she communicated. One such was of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He said he had now learned not to communicate through memes.
43. The Registrant was asked about an invite to a gig and he said he thought he'd sent this at the end of the three month period the supervisor told him about; it was not during therapy sessions. He reiterated this and said they did not meet up until nine months after therapy had ended. He conceded that the memes and so forth blurred the boundaries and he said looking back he would never do that again. He said he had never done it before, nor had he done it since. He said he had sent videos of meditations and that sort of thing but not memes. He explained that Client A sent comedic memes in response to his formal communications and on two occasions he mirrored this back. He again said the gig invite was after the three month period about which he had been advised. The Registrant said Client A had explained she had found or was searching for another therapist but he said they had not had a concluding session themselves. Client A said she wanted to finish the sessions and they had agreed on the three month break. He said this was a mistake he would never make again.
44. The Registrant was asked if the supervisor [REDACTED] had referred to the UKCP Code of Ethics and he said not directly, but that was always in mind. He had suggested to Client A that they should have an initial three month break. It was put to the Registrant that [REDACTED] statement said, 'a minimum of three months' and he said she seemed more formal in the letter but more relaxed in sessions and had said 'around 3 months is what should happen'. She said there was no length in the UKCP Code of Ethics. [REDACTED] did not say any cooling off period should be as long as possible. The Registrant agreed it was his responsibility to act within ethics and boundaries. He had looked up the UKCP codes and could not find any exact reference. Regarding the two year rule, he said that was stated by Client A when she had seen a new therapist. The Registrant said that he had done his homework and checked but his naivete was to take the supervision at face value. He said to listen to himself was another learning

point. He agreed that [REDACTED] had been the supervisor from December 2022 to the end of January 2023 and in May 2023 he approached a different supervisor. During this time he had constant group supervision in IFS and designated weekly supervision. He said he was looking out for supervisors because he had become wary after [REDACTED]. At the time he was very ill and not at a good point in his life. He thought that [REDACTED] was a great fit.

45. The Registrant explained that Client A had added one of his songs to a Spotify list and she had played a song 300 times overnight to try and get his attention. She made a direct voice recording to which he replied, this was either late January or early February. He said that he had made contact and there was new information from Client A regarding a two-year period. He said having changed supervisor he also understood this to be the case and it was very sad. He explained that [REDACTED] had told him that having spoken to others she may have made an error regarding the time frame, and three months may not have been the best advice. He took these issues to peer supervision privately and he left [REDACTED] because of the error and other things. He said at the end of 2022 his belief was that there should be a three month cooling period with no or minimal contact between himself and Client A. He did not reach out to her, rather she reached out to him. The general consensus or agreement was to have minimal contact but simply to know that each remained on board to meet in three months' time. He explained that [REDACTED] advice had been quite loose and both he and Client A would have liked it to be less than three months but felt it was probably a good idea. He explained this as a line between them. When shown his comment that 'maybe they could do it a bit earlier' he said that Client A had said that she would love it to be less than three months and he was mirroring this back however, he did not intend it to be less than three months even though it reads that way. The Registrant said Client A sent a voice recording saying 'he was with her every day' and he said that he was thinking of her every day. He said he was mirroring what she was saying and the informality of the language made it unclear. He said that he was mirroring her pushing actually saying yes but she was persuasive and wanted to see him sooner. He again said the advice from Debbie had been loose but he was not saying yes let's meet.
46. The Registrant said that in hindsight a romantic relationship with a former client was 'simply don't do it, never do it, worst year of my life, don't do it'. It was pointed out to him that the UKCP advises caution and the Registrant said he interpreted that as trying to serve the process and he attempted to do this. He did not let his personal agenda get in the way. He explained that he tried to hold the process together but Client A was not engaging. He thought that perhaps she was living in some sort of projection and if he voiced where he was he would give her the agency to choose whether to engage or not. He said he did wonder where all this was coming from. He explained this was how he was feeling regarding her and she could choose to end it or not. He said at the time he felt that a passive process was becoming active and maybe he was not the therapist for her. He explained that after a while Client A did not appear to engage and he felt that if he put his feelings on the table they could deal with it or she could go elsewhere. He was questioning whether this was projection or whether it was real and said at the time he did his best, now he would do things differently.

47. Regarding the session on the 21st of December 2022 the Registrant said he felt that he should lay out his feelings to Client A and he had agreed with [REDACTED] that he would do that. He said the main thing was that he was already in a relationship. He agreed that he and Client A had conversations about sexual matters but this was part of the therapeutic relationship. He said that he discussed with Client A whether to continue or to end the therapeutic relationship and have a three month hiatus. When asked if it would ever have been appropriate to continue he said this had been [REDACTED]'s suggestion but he now thought not. He was asked again about looking up Client A on Facebook and he said yes he did do that, but he definitely did not say she was his type at that time.
48. Ms Walmsley then asked about the 28th of December and he said there had been some correspondence between the 21st and the 28th and from memory he thought the meeting had been 1½ - 2 hours not three hours. He was shown a phone message and then said he must be wrong in his belief that the meeting was less than three hours. He said the time in therapeutic session had been around 40 minutes which was definitely shorter than a usual session but Client A seemed to want to get the session done quickly. He said he did not recall Client A saying she had difficulties with endings rather she seemed curious about them. Regarding feedback she had said that maybe IFS was not for her. In the three hour period between 11:00 and 1:00 he said this was probably not all for ending the relationship and he would not do this now. He said that he suggested spending more time together if she wanted this and she said that she did so that is what happened. He agreed they sat on the sofa but he said they did not cuddle and he did not touch her thigh. He said he kissed her when she was leaving and going through the door. He asked if she wanted a hug and she said yes so they had a hug and he pecked her on the side of the head it was not a romantic thing it was a goodbye peck as they were seeing each other in about 3 months' time. He said he would never do any of this again.
49. The Registrant explained that as soon as he started supervision with [REDACTED] the ethical implications of all this was the first thing he raised and how urgent it was to hold boundaries. He said that it was no excuse, but he had suggested that Client A needed the final session to ensure that she processed everything. He said he now had to take responsibility as therapist, he had fallen into mirroring and this is what he had taken and voiced to [REDACTED]. It was put to him that he pursued a romantic relationship and he said it was mutual, it was not a question of 'I want this and intend to make it happen'. He said, 'it was so far from that'. Ms Walmsley again said that he pursued a romantic relationship and he said there was a romantic element but that was not the main thing rather there was a transition into mutual feelings. He said that he did intend to have a personal relationship but that would be after the therapeutic relationship and after an appropriate time.
50. Regarding the meeting at [REDACTED] the Registrant said that Client A reached out to connect and he agreed. They both had feelings for each other and he was open to pursuing a romantic relationship but he had to navigate a breakup at the same time and he did not know how this would go. He said that neither of them wanted a relationship with someone who was in an existing relationship. He

agreed that he suggested rekindling their relationship because it was evident that was what Client A had in mind and he mirrored this, but he had things to navigate. It was not a one way thing. He agreed he subsequently emailed Client A saying “it's done” regarding the end of his former relationship.

51. Concerning Allegation 13 the Registrant said that he had discussed clients without names probably twice and he said this was part of peer review. He agreed that peer review was a weekly session with someone who was a qualified therapist. He said these were not a formal review and he agreed this was his error. It was put to him that he was divulging personal information as gossip not peer review and he said ‘absolutely not, I did not use formal language which was another learning curve’ but he said he treated it as a professional back and forth. He was taken to the text which refers to “client goss” and it was put to him that this was gossip. He said that he stood by the fact that he treated it as formal and he was not even sure they talked about this [the contents of the text]. He did not agree that he was ‘filling her in on the gossip’ and said although Client A may be ironic when she spoke of supervision it was not ironic at the time. He conceded that he would not use this sort of language again. It was put to him that talk about another client was gossip and it did not read like a peer review. He said that he spoke to Client A twice about certain things, other things they did not talk about. He said what Client A said was not accurate. He said in divulging the information he had meant it constructively and he did not mention any names.
52. With respect to Allegation 15 it was put to the Registrant that all his actions in Allegations 2 to 14 were unprofessional and inappropriate. He said that he maintained that at least some of it was appropriate and professional and he acted with her best interests in mind. Ms Walmsley then went through the specifics of the allegation.
53. Ms Walmsley took the Registrant to the initial response to the allegations provided by his solicitors on his behalf. In this it is stated that he recognised that extending the meeting on 28 December was inappropriate. He said he agreed this had been inappropriate but that the full context had not been given by Client A. He said he looked back at clients who had had potential sexual abuse and he would not hug them. He said he accepted his mistakes but he did not accept this was one-sided and predatory. He said the hug and the peck on the 28th of December was inappropriate and this reflected his present view. Ms Walmsley pointed out that in the above response document it is said he conceded that disclosing his romantic feelings toward Client A was inappropriate. He confirmed that his disclosure of his romantic feelings was something he now regarded as inappropriate. He said at the time he was trying to forward the process but he now realised there was an aspect of this that was wrong, particularly in the way he went about it. Finally Ms Walmsley pointed out he conceded that in hindsight he could have approached his regulator for advice. He said he did not know he had to contact UKCP and he thought that speaking to his supervisor was sufficient.
54. Regarding the 21st of December meeting the Registrant reiterated that he had told Client A that he had looked her up on Facebook but he denied saying that she was ‘his type’. He denied saying they had complementary desires and may have good sex. As to the 28th of December he said that having seen the evidence he agreed that they must have spent three hours together. He agreed that he said

he had ended his relationship with his fiancée but he could not agree that he had rubbed client's leg because he did not do that nor did he kiss her on the cheek. He said he had 'pecked' her on the forehead or the side of her head and there was no intent behind it.

55. The Registrant said Client A asked if it was true about a three month hiatus and he took advice from his supervisor. He said it was mutual. It was put to him that he discussed matters about other clients and he reiterated that he had discussed two cases without names and he believed he had done so constructively. He said Client A had not provided the correct information. Ms Walmsley suggested that all this conduct was inappropriate and unprofessional, the Registrant said there was a lot there and she needed to be specific. He said that expressing his feelings was not perfect but he could not accept that it was inappropriate there was nuance and one needed to be specific otherwise what was being put to him was not true. He said it was not the case that all his actions were inappropriate or unprofessional they had to be considered in context however he conceded that in hindsight he would not have done any of this, indeed he would not have taken her on as a client.
56. Ms Walmsley said that considering the code and the dynamic the Registrant had not acted in Client A's best interests. He again said the Ms Walmsley should be specific but he accepted he did not fully act in Client A's best interests because of the boundary issues. He reiterated that he did his best. It was put to him that sending memes was not in Client A's best interest and he agreed in hindsight he was not professional but he did not intend anything by it at the time.
57. Ms Walmsley then took the Registrant to Allegations 2 to 14 and suggested all his actions were inappropriate. The Registrant denied this and said not every charge. These were then put in detail.
58. Regarding Allegation 2 the Registrant denied that it was inappropriate to send a link to a yoga course because he thought this would help. He said that he kept links to a minimum but that such things help clients. He said it was a professional referral and he did not accept it was either inappropriate or unprofessional. Regarding Allegation 3 he said he would say that it was 'in part inappropriate'. He explained that he was at the time under the impression that Client A sent memes as a method of communication and he regarding responding using the same as a way to progress the therapeutic alliance. However, he now agreed that some aspects of this were not appropriate. He reiterated that he would not do this again and at the time it was not intended to be sent as between friends. It was not sent with a personal agenda or with a relationship in mind. On reflection he now agreed that the e-mail with the memes was inappropriate and was unprofessional. He again said he would not do this now.
59. Turning to Allegation 4, he said he did not accept this was inappropriate in its entirety. As to Allegation 4a and telling Client A that he loved her, he said at the time he thought it was serving the process but he would not do this again. At the time he had felt it was appropriate to a degree and the intervention was defensible but he had phrased it wrongly. He again said that he would not do this now. He said he understood what he was trying to do at the time and he had taken it to supervision. He had meant

for either Client A to engage in the process or for the two of them to disengage. He did not do it with any sexual or predatory motivation. He said he was trying his best to keep things professional but he would not do this now..

60. As to Allegation 4b, the Registrant agreed that it would be inappropriate to say Client A was 'his type' and he said that he no longer looked anyone up on Facebook. He said that since he no longer worked face to face he did not look people up on Facebook, having done so at the time as a matter of safety. He agreed that saying someone was his type would be unprofessional but he reiterated 'I did not do this'. Turning to Allegation 4c, he agreed the disclosure of personal details regarding his relationship was inappropriate. He denied providing details of his relationship but agreed he had said that the relationship was over and this was unprofessional of him. He agreed that the comments set out in 4d regarding complementary desires and sex would be "for sure" be inappropriate and unprofessional but he "totally" denied this. As to Allegation 4e and continuing a personal relationship after three months he said that he now 'totally agreed' this was inappropriate and unprofessional. He said that his insight now was that he would not enter into any such relationship it would absolutely not happen again. At the time he said he was following professional guidance and he provided Client A with a decision. He thought he had been serving the process and was not saying something romantic but was leaving it open to Client A and she contacted him again nine months later but he wouldn't do any of this again. Finally, regarding Allegation 4f, hugging Client A, he said that given the circumstances he now conceded this too was inappropriate. He said his insight now was that he would not do this and although Client A gave her consent at the time he did not have any intent towards her. He said reflecting on her character and history it was inappropriate and unprofessional to hug her. He said sometimes it may be difficult to read what was right and wrong at the time but he conceded that in her case it was unprofessional.
61. The Registrant accepted Allegations 5a and 5b (inviting her to a concert and recommending her to other therapists with whom he had a professional relationship) were both inappropriate. Regarding the invitation to the concert he said he would not do this now it would not be appropriate and he realised that it was wrong and unprofessional. To explain what occurred at the time he said the date was after the three month timeframe suggested by [REDACTED] and Client A was eager to do this, so he thought to send a date or a possible date. However, he now realised this was wrong. Commenting upon the two therapists, he said that he did not have current relationships with them but he knew they were high quality and good at their jobs so he sent clients to them. He said Client A was in [REDACTED] and they were near where she lived so thought that was good. He said he recommended them on the basis that they may or may not be taken up by her. He said that on reflection he accepted this may not be fully appropriate but he did not accept it was unprofessional because he was not seeing either of them himself in therapy at the time.
62. Regarding the second invitation to a concert in Allegation 6a, he said that his answer was much the same as regards the previous invite. They were transitioning toward an ending and he thought at the

time this would be OK but he now accepted that his conduct was unprofessional. As to Allegation 6b, suggesting that Client A could pay as much as she thought appropriate, he said that his insight now was that it was a difficult situation to navigate and a difficult dynamic. He said this would not happen again as he would not be in this situation again. At the time he had agreed with [REDACTED] that he needed to have one final session with Client A so he said she should pay what she thought was appropriate. In fact she did not pay anything. He said he was confused at the time but he took [REDACTED] advice. He said that with hindsight it was unprofessional despite the advice he had taken.

63. Turning to the session on the 28th of December as set out as Allegation 7 the Registrant accepted that with hindsight he would not offer a three hour session (Allegation 7a). At the time he felt they may spend more time together after three months, something he was keen to do. He said this was not meant with any predatory or ill intent. He agreed this was unprofessional and he absolutely would not do this now but again reiterated there was no ill intent. As for Allegations 7b and showing Client A his apartment he conceded this was inappropriate and unprofessional and he would not do this now. He explained that at the time she said that if they were seeing each other at a later date it would be nice to see the apartment and he said OK. He reiterated that he would not do this now as it was inappropriate and unprofessional. Turning to Allegation 7c and the detail of ending his relationship with his fiancée he said that again his response now was that this was both inappropriate and unprofessional. He said the same in respect of allegations 7d that with hindsight it was unprofessional and inappropriate to hug Client A. He said he did not 'spring it' on her and Client A consented at the time so he thought it was in her best interests but he was wrong. He commented in the same way in respect to 7e kissing Client A. He said it was one peck to say goodbye but he now realised this was an error. He said it was like saying goodbye to a family member or friend with no sexual intent but he accepted it was unprofessional. When asked about Allegation 7f rubbing Client A's leg, he said that it would be inappropriate or unprofessional but he did not do it. Looking at Allegation 7g giving Client A a T-shirt, he said that now he certainly wouldn't do this. At the time Client A suggested she have a namesake for the three month period they would be apart and he acted naively. He said he would not do this now and he agreed it had been inappropriate and unprofessional. Finally, Allegation 7h accepting a crystal, he said it was at her suggestion but he would not do this now. He agreed it had been inappropriate and unprofessional.
64. Ms Walmsley then asked the Registrant about Allegation 8 and the texts in January and February of 2023. He said that he agreed these were inappropriate and unprofessional and he would not do this now. He said Client A had reached out to him and he felt he was letting her know that there was a thread between them. She had voiced keenness and he reciprocated. At the time he was trying to navigate that timeframe and he was doing what he thought was acceptable. He had replied with this in mind. He now saw it as unprofessional and he would not do it now
65. Regarding Allegation 9a and the meeting at [REDACTED] (8/1/23), the Registrant said he would not do this now and wished he never had. At the time he was trying to navigate the timeframe and it was

now nine months later and at her suggestion to make amends. He described it as an invite which he took but he would absolutely not do this again because he could see it was unprofessional and inappropriate. He said that he provided an explanation so it was a matter of degree. Regarding Allegation 9b, and the rekindling of the relationship, he said that Client A had been very active in making her actions known and they were not to make amends but to rekindle the relationship and he had responded. He said this was his explanation but he absolutely 100% would not do it now because he accepted it was unprofessional and inappropriate.

66. As to Allegation 10, the comment that it was heavenly to see her, he said he wouldn't send that now at all. At the time they were not working together and this was after many messages by Client A stating she was keen to see him and he was mirroring this. He said he agreed that it was not fully professional but they were not working together at the time and it was difficult to give a straight answer to the question of whether it was inappropriate or unprofessional.
67. Regarding Allegation 11 and the invite to the concert in September 2023, he said he would not do this now indeed he wouldn't do any of this. He said that at the time she was an ex-client, they were not working together, it was mutual and it was 10 months later, so beyond the three month suggested and it seemed OK. He said that friends and family were also there and there was no ill intent. He agreed it was not professional and he would not do this now.
68. In relation to Allegation 12 and the sexual relationship between them, the Registrant said he would absolutely never do this again. He said it was 10 months after the end of their therapeutic relationship and Client A had come to him and was very keen and it seemed consensual and mutual. He did not spring it on her. He said this had been his reasoning at the time but now he would never do this. At the time he was trying to navigate the circumstances with the information that he had and so at the time he didn't think it was wrong. Now with hindsight he agreed that it was unprofessional.
69. The Registrant was then taken to Allocation 13 and the comments regarding other clients. Regarding Allegation 13a he said he absolutely would not do this again but how Client A described it was not correct. He said that she was asking about information for her placement and it seemed like an informal supervision session. He said the following day she sent a text asking if other therapists could see couples, she was asking for advice and it felt like supervision. He said the information seemed OK on a minimal basis since he had not provided any names but he accepted he had not upheld all confidentiality. He agreed that Client A was not fully qualified and he thought it would be OK to divulge a little information since she had asked for his advice but he realised this was his error. He again said that he did not divulge any names and there was at least some confidentiality but he conceded that this had been inappropriate and unprofessional. As to Allegation 13b regarding someone that Client A had seen near the apartment about whom he had commented, he denied this. He accepted that if he had said it would be inappropriate or unprofessional. He made the same comment in respect of Allegation 13c that if he had said such comments it would be inappropriate and unprofessional.

70. Dealing with Allegation 14 the Registrant said that in sending the letter, the rose and the comment that he was 'sorry he was not a better therapist' he had tried to provide compassion to someone he cared about. He said it had been twisted into a story that he was a perpetrator and a predator but his intention was to create closure with the openness of speaking about it. He said that Client A did not reach out to speak and he said, 'I should have done better and not entered into a sexual relationship'. He said there was no intent behind the letter, it was all over and he would not do this again. He said he was a therapist, he had to hold the boundaries, and this had been his biggest learning curve of all, that is to hold boundaries. He said the transference is always there. Again he reiterated that this was sent with compassion not intent. He said that he had offered the Client A pretty solid therapy until the last sessions. He did help her in the earlier process but he accepted that he should not have sent the letter. In saying this the Registrant said he was trying to provide an explanation as to how he was working at the time with what had gone on and he had never been in anything like this before. He said he was trying to give his best answers and trying to explain what he had learned from this. He said he accepted now that his actions had been inappropriate and unprofessional.
71. Ms Walmsley then went through Allegation 16 and said that all the actions in Allegations 3 to 12 were sexually motivated - that is for his own gratification or with a view to entering into a sexual relationship. Regarding these the Registrant said he disagreed or disagreed wholeheartedly. Regarding Allegation 9a and 9b he said he did not meet up with that in mind whatsoever. Regarding Allegation 12 he accepted that they did enter into a sexual relationship and said it was a mutual relationship and they both engaged in it. The Registrant was reassured that it was not being suggested by the UKCP that Client A did not consent and it was not being suggested that he had acted in a predatory fashion. On that basis he accepted that they entered into a relationship.
72. Mr Walmsley next went through the multiple variations of Allegation 17. First, Allegation 17a which alleged that the Registrant's actions were not in Client A's best interests. Regarding Allegation 3 the Registrant said that in his mind at the time he thought he was acting appropriately but with hindsight he would not do this again and he agreed that it was not in Client A's best interest. He said this was his error and something he had learned from. Regarding Allegation 4 he said that at the time he felt that his actions were in her best interests but again in hindsight he recognised that they were not. He sought permission from Client A for his actions such as hugging her and he took the matter to supervision at the time but as stated he agreed in hindsight it was not in Client A's best interests. Regarding Allegation 4b he agreed that looking up someone on Facebook and calling them his type would not be in Client A's best interests but he maintained that he did not do this (ref 'his type'). As to Allegation 4c he agreed that disclosing his own personal issues was not in client's best interests. Regarding 4d he disputed ever saying this but agreed 'absolutely' it would be inappropriate and not in client's best interests had he said it. Regarding Allegation 4e he agreed that in hindsight again it was not in client's best interests. At the time he followed supervision and believed they could have a relationship after three months but now he realised that they could not. As to Allegation 4f the

Registrant said at the time he mistook permission and consent for best interests he now realised it was not in Client A's best interests. As to Allegation 5a the concert invite, the Registrant said at the time he provided good therapy for Client A but he recognised he did not do it perfectly and he accepted that inviting her to a concert was in hindsight not in her best interests. He said the same in respect of charge 6a and 6b that with experience and hindsight he agreed his actions inviting her to a concert and suggesting she pay any amount for the final consultation were not in her best interest.

73. Looking next at Allegation 7 the Registrant said that regarding 7a his actions were not in Client A's best interests. Regarding 7b he said he mistook eagerness and consent for best interests and that was his learning. He now agreed that his actions were not in her best interests. He gave the same explanation and admission in respect of 7c, 7d and 7e albeit he maintained the kiss was just a peck on the cheek or the side of her head to say goodbye. Regarding Allegation 7f the Registrant said this did not happen but had it happened he said it would absolutely not be in Client A's best interest. Regarding 7g and 7h, again he agreed these were not in Client A's best interests.
74. Regarding Allegation 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 the Registrant accepted all of these were not in Client A's best interests. He repeated that their relationship was consensual and was 10 months after they had finished therapy. He said that his actions and hers mirrored each other and were mutual but he now accepted that as her therapist it was not in her best interest to act as he did and this was his learning. He described his letter as an attempt by him to say that as her therapist he had tried to take responsibility, but he recognised he had not acted in her best interests
75. Turning to, Allegation 17b and the matter of respect, the Registrants answers were akin to those for 17a. Regarding Allegation 3, he said that he would not do this now and he recognised that this was not treating Client A with respect but his actions were not with a conscious disrespect. As to 4a he said that he felt he was treating her with respect but he would not do this now. Regarding 4b he denied doing this and agree that it would not be treating her with respect. Regarding 4c he agreed this was not treating Client A with respect. Regarding 4d he denied this and agreed that it would not be respectful at all. As to 4e he said that he was trying to provide certainty but agreed that this was not treating Client A with respect. He said that he sought and acted on supervision and thought that he was providing respect and that was his intention despite now knowing that it was not in client's best interest. Regarding 4f, he said that he sought permission and believed he had consent and he felt that he acted with respect as a person but now recognised that as a therapist he did not act with respect. As to Allegations 5a, 6a and 6b he said that he was respectful as a person but again not so as a therapist and he would act differently now. Regarding Allegations 7 a, b, c and d the Registrant said that he acted with respect as a person but agreed that as Client A's therapist it was not respectful. Regarding 7e, he agreed that kissing her on the cheek would not be with respect but he maintained that he did not do this and kissed her on the side of the head. He said that this was respectful as a person but not as a therapist. Regarding 7f, he said absolutely this would be a failure to treat Client A with respect if it had happened but it did not. Regarding 7g and 7h he made the same point and said the respectful

thing would have been not to go anywhere near any of this. Regarding Allegation 8 the Registrant said that although it was Client A who reached out and the therapy had ended, his responses were not respectful as a therapist. Regarding Allegation 9 at the time he believed he was treating her with respect but he now recognised as a therapist it was not respectful. He said that at the time he respected her request (as an individual) since it was clear but as her therapist it was not respectful. He made the same comment with regard Allegation 12 and 14.

76. Regarding Allegation 17c and the sexual relationship which breached Part 4 of the Code the resident said the wording was difficult to navigate and it was 10 months after the professional relationship had ended so he disagreed with this. In respect of Allegation 4f the hug, he said this was not sexual contact. In respect of Allegation 7f rubbing the leg he agreed this would have been sexual contact but maintained he had not done this.
77. As to 17d the Registrant said he was trying to understand the meaning of 'abused or exploited' and he said that he absolutely did not manipulate her and absolutely denied that he took advantage. He said there wasn't a gain there was a personal relationship which was mutual. Regarding Allegation 4b and 4d he said these did not happen otherwise in respect of all the charges 4 - 13 he denied that these were abusive or exploitative for his gain.
78. Looking at Allegation 17e, causing harm, he denied 4b and 4d as above and he did not agree that charges 4a, b, c, e and 4f caused harm (he denied 4d as a fact) or that Allegation 7a, b, c or d caused harm. He agreed that Allegation 6 had the potential to do harm but not done in this way. He said Allegation 7f (rubbing leg) would be harmful but he did not do this. Allegation 7g and 7h he did not consider caused harm. When asked about Allegation 9 he said he disagreed that this was harmful. Regarding Allegation 10, (heavenly e-mail) Allegation 11 (concert invite) and Allegation 12 the letter he did not agree caused harm.
79. Allegation 17f, the dual relationship, the Registrant recognised that Allegation 4 - 12 did indicate they had a dual relationship and although he said some things did not happen, some events were closer to the last session and some things were 9 or 10 months after everything had finished he said yes evidently they were in a dual relationship. He said the personal relationship confirmed that.
80. Concerning 17h a breach of confidentiality, the Registrant rejected this. He said there was no personally identifiable information provided by him.
81. Regarding 17i the arrangements to conclude the therapeutic relationship, he said in hindsight he would have he would have done things differently but he did not agree that 4e meant he did not take precautions. Rather, he said he took the matter to supervision and received bad advice. As to Allegation 5b he said that Client A was not in current therapy and so he disagreed. He said in respect

to Allegation 6b the offer was not for any future sessions it was for that one session and he did this after advice. He said he was doing his best but he would not do this now in any event.

82. Regarding 17j failing to uphold standards, he said in hindsight he made judgement errors, it was a difficult situation to navigate, he read everything wrongly and he acted naively. He said he did his best at the time and he would do much better now and in the future but yes he agreed that he did not uphold standards.
83. Regarding 17k he said that in respect to the emails charge 3 he would do things differently and in all social media he now blocks any clients. At the time his intention was professional but he accepted that it was not professional and he would not do this again. Allegation 8 the text messages he would not do this now. His thinking at the time was they had finished therapy and he had taken advice but he would not do this now. Charge 10 the e-mail he said at the time he was not Client A's therapist, it was nine months later and he said that if it was not within the code then he agreed it was inappropriate. As to Allegation 14 the letter he said that he was no longer her therapist and he was trying to take responsibility for what had happened but he would not repeat this action now.
84. As to Allegation 17l and not challenging questionable practices within himself, with regard to Allegation 7 he said that he had taken the session to his supervisor [REDACTED]. In respect of Allegations 4 to 14 it was put to him that he failed to report to the UKCP. The Registrant said he was not aware that he had to take matters to the UKCP and had he known this then he would have done so. He said he took matters to supervision. The Registrant agreed that he did not take matters to the UKCP but he said that he was not aware that he had to do that. Regarding Allegation 3 he took this to supervision so he thought that he had reported it and he made the same comment in respect of charges 4 – f and 5 – 7. All of these had been taken to supervision many times to try and work them through acting upon the advice. He said that with hindsight he could have taken these to UKCP. Regarding a note in the bundle paragraph 58 he said that his supervisor at the time [REDACTED] had told him to write it down he had taken things to supervision immediately.
85. In re-examination the Registrant was asked about this last point and he said that supervisor [REDACTED] had suggested from the outset it would be sensible to record the mutuality of the situation and he did so as best as he could. He said that it was not correct to say that there were romantic feelings from the outset he said that he noticed something intuitively in the ether and he should have been more careful. He was asked what he did if other clients expressed similar views and he responded that if there was a repetition or something getting in the way of the work he would refer that person onwards. He said one or two clients had said something like he was good looking but nothing more than this. If anything more than that did happen he would immediately take it to supervision and if appropriate, refer them onwards. He again said that he took Client A to supervision. He said that his supervisor was [REDACTED] and this was unsatisfactory which is why he ended it. Regarding [REDACTED] he said that he posted on an IFS community and was looking for a level two or three IFS qualified supervisor.

He said he wanted to get the best possible advice and having looked at the responses and the qualifications he thought [REDACTED]'s were the highest and best.

86. Regarding the music gigs he thought that these were the same gig which would have occurred after the three month hiatus. As to charge 4b he agreed that he had searched Facebook but he said he denied absolutely that he said that she was his type on that first meeting. He said he may have said this later but he could not remember doing so. As to the comment about dominating he said "I never said that". Regarding the session on the 28th of December he said that he believed the session lasted about 35 to 40 minutes but having seen the documentation he now accepted that they met for some 3 hours in total. In respect of the term "ended" he said that he wrote more than that. He asked her what she would like to bring to the end meeting but she did not bring any content and in asking for feedback she said that IFS was not for her. He accepted that one does not want to draw out such sessions but for the remainder of the meeting he felt he still had a responsibility. He said after the ending he wanted to be sensitive to the fact that therapy had just ended. He confirmed that the therapeutic relationship with Client A ended on the 28th of December.

87. In response to questions from the Panel the Registrant said that he qualified in January 2019 following which he started to build a website and take on clients probably in spring 2019. Between 2019 and 2021 he had a mix of in-person and online private clients but during COVID everything was online. He said the numbers fluctuated there were no more than 10 or so at the start. At one point he thought he had around 20 clients but now about 15 to 18 was the general number. He tried to keep practising during COVID as this was his only source of income. He had acted as a tennis coach but then moved entirely into practice.

88. Regarding his qualifications, the Registrant said he was qualified as an integrative psychotherapist and this was his main modality but there were other modalities which included Jungian and IFS. Regarding the issue of 'transference or something else' the Registrant said that he was not sure if something else was being played out at the time and whether it was two people with feelings separate to the work. He said that with Client A he used a mixture of IFS and Jungian ideas around transference and counter transference. He said he could not tell if the IFS was working or not and he was trying to navigate this. When asked if he had considered conscious and unconscious motivations he said that he had thought about this since because Client A had mentioned a previous manager. He was not sure how much of this was being played out unconsciously with himself. However he said now he can look and absolutely see it was transference and his own countertransference. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Through his reflecting and learning he recognised that there was something in his unconscious which motivated him to try and save someone as opposed to act with curiosity and observe how matters played out. He recognised that it was difficult for these matters to be separated.

89. Regarding endings, the Registrant said that his general training suggested one thing, IFS another and Jungian took another longer view. He said he was confused regarding which to go with and he was trying to clarify the speed and pace of the ending however there was confusion regarding which theoretical model to model to adapt.
90. Regarding communication between sessions, the Registrant said that he had learned a huge amount and he now kept contact to a minimum. He said that using different modalities had been very difficult and he now knew a lot more. It had been difficult to understand what was mirroring personal feelings, what was a working alliance and so forth but his boundaries were now much better and he had found himself through this process. He explained that mirroring is more a matter of IFS but the question was 'what was building a good working alliance and rapport?' With hindsight he recognised there was confusion in what he had done.
91. When asked about supervision he said that he had perhaps had 6 to 8 sessions with [REDACTED]. He had felt a great deal after everything had happened. He said he had a month of IFS peer supervision and with other qualified therapists. He said that he started supervision with [REDACTED] and she is still his supervisor. He had talked through his time with Client A right up to the present day. He thought [REDACTED] had advised him over a three to six month. She had said she had spoken to someone and the period may be two years but it might not. He said he was very confused. [REDACTED] suggested 6 to 12 months would have been better but there was no set rule. He repeated that [REDACTED] did not say it was two years rather someone had loosely suggested this but she stood by what she had said about the three months. The two years came from Client A who said that her therapist had suggested this period of time.
92. The Registrant said he worked in private practice before he was a UKCP member. He said that one starts with membership of the school and then works within that UKCP code of ethics. Prior to this he was governed by BACP. He said when he became a member of UKCP he was aware of the code of ethics or certain elements of it but recognised he should have read it in more detail and been more aware of it.
93. Following the close of the evidence the case was adjourned part heard. The case recommenced on 14 July 2025 for the Panel to hear submissions on the facts

Further amendment to the charges

94. Following completion of the evidence Ms Walmsley applied to further amend the allegations. She submitted that the following amendment should be made:
Allegation 4b – alter the allegation so that the issue of Facebook and the issue of using the words “my type” could be considered separately, the Registrant having admitted the former but denying the latter.

Allegation 7e - remove the specific reference to the Registrant kissing Client A's cheek the Registrant having accepted that a kiss took place.

Allegation 17 – remove the reference to Allegations 15 and 16 in all sub-paragraphs since these were already covered by Allegations 2 – 14 and their inclusion was a duplication

Allegation 17c – the allegation be confined to Allegation 7f and Allegation 12

Allegation 17d – Ms Walmsley clarified that it was not alleged the Registrant acted in a predatory fashion. The case was put on the basis that the relationship developed due to the power-imbalance between the Registrant and a vulnerable client.

Allegation 17i - the allegation be confined to Allegations 6b to 11 and Allegation 14

Allegation 17k - the allegation be confined to Allegations 2, 3, 8, 10 and 14

95. Ms Walmsley outlined the above amendments and submitted that they were in accordance with the evidence and in particular the admissions. She submitted that no unfairness was caused rather the amendments clarified the issues to be decided and reduced the complexity of the case.
96. The Legal Assessor invited Ms Walmsley to consider whether Allegation 17g should also be amended to remove the reference to Allegations 12, 13 and 14 since these were outside the ambit of Allegation 17g. The Allegation refers to conduct *before* entering a personal relationship and Allegations 12, 13 and 14 refer to conduct during or after that relationship. Ms Walmsley declined to apply to amend Allegation 17g on the basis that the Registrant had admitted this whilst represented by a solicitor. However, she conceded that it was a matter for the Panel.

Decision on further amendments

97. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. It recognised that it had a discretion to amend the allegations at any stage of the proceedings provided this caused no unfairness to either the Registrant or the UKCP and it met the overarching principle of public protection.
98. The Panel considered that the amendments sought by Ms Walmsley did reduce the scope and unnecessary complexity of the allegations and clarified the matters in dispute. It considered that concentrating upon the disputed matters assisted the Registrant and protected the public interest. In addition the Panel considered that Allegation 17g should be amended to remove reference to Allegations 12, 13 and 14 despite the Registrant's unqualified admission of Allegation 17g. The reason for this is that Allegation 17g refers to a failure to take reasonable care *before* entering a personal relationship. Allegations 12, 13 and 14 post date the commencement of that relationship and thus Allegation 17g and any purported admission by the Registrant could not apply to them. The Panel considered this was fair to the Registrant since this corrected a clear anomaly within the Allegation itself and it was the only sensible way to approach the Registrant's admission. The Panel was satisfied all these amendments were in accordance with the overarching objective.

Submission on the facts

Ms Walmsley on behalf of the UKCP

99. Ms Walmsley adopted her written submissions and amplified them in short oral submissions. She said that Client A and the Registrant had both provided written and oral evidence and she recognised that the Registrant had made admissions both before and during his evidence. Ms Walmsley confined her oral submissions to the disputed allegations and said that Client A gave clear cogent evidence on what were difficult issues. She described her as doing so with openness and candour and suggested her recollections appeared to be clear both in terms of the events themselves and the impact they had upon her.
100. Regarding Allegation 4a Ms Walmsley said that Client A was clear that the Registrant told her he had researched her on Facebook and he also said that she was 'his type'. The Registrant accepted that he had looked her up on Facebook but denied the latter comment was said at that time. He conceded he may have said this at a later date. Ms Walmsley submitted that there was clear evidence from Client A and, the Registrant's case notes suggested that he held romantic feelings for Client A from the outset. She submitted it was more likely than not that he did indeed make this comment as alleged by Client A. As to Allegation 4b she submitted that Client A was again clear and credible in her evidence. She described in detail how the comment arose and how it made her feel. She contrasted this with the Registrant who she submitted was less credible. She suggested that the Panel should look at the discussion which was taking place at the time and the evolving dynamic between the Registrant and Client A and submitted that it was more likely than not that the comment was made.

101. Concerning Allegation 7a, Ms Walmsley said that the Registrant had initially denied the meeting with Client A was three hours but that he had accepted this was likely in his evidence when shown written documentation that supported this contention. Concerning the Registrant kissing Client A and Allegation 7e she said that he accepted this in his own evidence, and where he kissed her was no longer in issue. As to Allegations 7f, Ms Walmsley said that Client A was clear about this and she had no reason to either make this up or be in error. Ms Walmsley said Client A provided context and, looking at the backdrop of the session and the relationship it was more likely than not that this occurred. Regarding Allegation 9b, that the Registrant suggested to Client A they should rekindle their relationship, Ms Walmsley said that Client A was again clear about this and explained why she was not happy about the initial suggestion.
102. Turning to Allegation 13, Ms Walmsley said that the Registrant admitted he had talked to Client A about some clients but denied the detail she gave. In looking at the individual allegations Ms Walmsley pointed out that the text messages supported Client A's version of events regarding Allegation 13a and, she suggested Client A's evidence was more likely than not correct in respect of all three sub-paragraphs. She submitted it was quite clearly not part of any peer review.
103. Turning to Allegation 15a and b, Ms Walmsley said that the term inappropriate was a word of general effect and the Registrant had accepted the majority of his conduct was indeed inappropriate. The Panel was in any event entitled to find all the matters proved amounted to inappropriate conduct. She made the same comment with respect to the term unprofessional and said this indicated a derogation from professional standards. She submitted that all the allegations were of unprofessional conduct.
104. Looking at Allegations 16, Ms Walmsley submitted that in light of all the facts including the Registrant's behaviour and the background to all events, it was more likely than not that all his conduct was sexually motivated. That is, his conduct was carried out with the intention of carrying on a sexual relationship. She submitted that the Panel should look at the dynamic between the Registrant and Client A, the fact that he said he held romantic feelings for her from the outset, the fact that boundaries were pushed and that at the very least the last two sessions were conducted with a sexual motivation. She reiterated that the case was not put on the basis that the Registrant was predatory rather it was based upon his desire to bring about a personal and sexual relationship between two people.
105. Finally Ms Walmsley dealt with Allegation 17 and the alleged breaches of the Code. She said this was where all the boundaries became completely blurred. She submitted that there was a dual relationship between the Registrant and Client A who had reached out to him for help as her therapist. She submitted that Client A had suffered previous trauma which she was keen to address and she was vulnerable because of this. She reiterated that there was an inherent imbalance between Client A and

the Registrant and this is where the dynamic 'grew legs and ran off'. Ms Walmsley said that the Registrant had admitted much of what was contained in Allegation 17 but that there was sufficient for the Panel to determine the case in any event. She suggested that the Registrant's actions were not in Client A's best interests nor did they evidence him treating her with respect. She said that the sexual contact and sexual relationship was a clear breach of the Code and that rubbing Client A's leg was capable of being sexual contact and capable of evidencing motivation. She said that these actions did in fact give rise to the end result of a personal and sexual relationship.

106. Ms Walmsley said that Client A had given evidence as to the impact and it was clear that there was a dual relationship. She submitted that the abrupt ending to the relationship contrasted with Client A's desire for a structured ending and was a cause of harm. It was not in accordance with the Code. Regarding Allegation 13, Ms Walmsley submitted that the Registrant clearly did not respect the confidentiality of his clients. He provided details to Client A which was clearly gossip and such actions were not congruent with the Code. Finally in respect of not challenging his questionable practice and not self-reporting, Ms Walmsley said the Registrant may have sought supervision but that was not sufficient. He failed to maintain boundaries and even joked about someone falling in love with their therapist. She submitted that he was aware that his conduct might not be within the Code and it was his responsibility to bear that burden not Client A's. Instead of doing so he relied upon others.

107. Ms Walmsley concluded by saying that Client A was credible, reliable and her version of events regarding all the allegations was more likely than not correct and that the Registrant was less credible and less reliable.

Submissions by the Registrant

108. The Registrant said that he stood by his evidence as to the facts he disputed and the facts he admitted. He said that he had given his truth regarding the events. He invited the Panel to consider that Client A had subsequently made an offer to withdraw her complaint if he paid her money. He concluded by saying that he stood by his evidence.

Decision on the facts

109. The Panel accepted the advice of the legal assessor which included reference to the burden and standard of proof, the good character of the registrant, the way that the Panel may approach the allegations and consider any consistencies or inconsistencies, whether and how inferences may be drawn on certain facts. In addition there was advice upon the meaning of specific words relevant to the case.

110. In following the above advice and, owing to the number and complexity of the allegations the Panel determined that it should first work through the factual allegations in turn to determine what

occurred and what was likely to be in the Registrant's mind at the time. Thereafter it would go on to considering the consequential issues of whether the conduct found proved was inappropriate or unprofessional and finally it should look at the alleged breaches of the Code.

111. In determining its approach to the evidence, the Panel noted that the Registrant accepted the majority of the factual allegations. In addition, whilst he initially denied the consequential findings (inappropriate and unprofessional) and the majority of the alleged breaches of the Code, when he gave evidence he readily admitted these allegations. The Panel considered that the concessions were properly made. However, during its consideration of the disputed allegations the Panel nonetheless took time to examine the evidence to determine whether there was evidence to support the reliability of the Registrant's concessions.

112. On balance, having fully considered the above, the Panel made the following findings.

The undisputed factual allegations

Allegations 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4c, 4e 4f, 5a, b, 6a, b, 7b, c, d, g, h, 8, 9a, 10, 11, 12 and 14

- (i) The Registrant admitted each of the above Allegations at the outset of the proceedings. The Panel therefore found each allegation proved based upon his admission.
- (ii) However, as outlined above, and owing to the Registrant's lack of representation at the fact-finding stage of the hearing, the Panel reviewed all of the evidence during its consideration of the disputed facts (which are set out below). When doing so it noted that there was both oral and written evidence from the Registrant and from Client A which supported the veracity of the Registrant's admissions. The Panel was thus independently satisfied that the Registrant's admissions were based on the evidence and were reliable.

The disputed factual allegations

Allegation 4b – Found proved

- (i) The Panel first noted that Client A gave a clear account of what she recalled to have been said and done on the 22 December 2022. It noted that the Registrant conceded he had looked up Client A on Facebook and that he told her so. This lends weight to Client A's version of events. In addition the Registrant conceded that the term 'his type' was most likely used by him at some point but he maintained he did not say this on the specific day.
- (ii) The Panel noted the Registrant's record as to his romantic feelings from the outset and his description in his oral evidence of knowing that 'something was there'. It was also notable that during the same therapeutic session the Registrant told Client A that he loved her. From this evidence the Panel drew the inference that the Registrant found Client A to be attractive - she was indeed 'his type'. Subsequent events and the fact of a personal relationship between them support this conclusion.

- (iii) Taking all the above into account, the Panel considered it more likely than not that as well as saying he loved her, the Registrant told Client A that she was 'his type'. In short the Panel considered the evidence given by Client A to be more reliable.

Allegation 4d – Found proved

- (i) The disputed comment was allegedly made on 21 December 2022. The Panel adopted the reasoning set out above in respect of that meeting. It was a meeting at which the Registrant by his own admission stated that he loved Client A. In her written evidence Client A provided quite some detail of the conversation. She gave a clear account of this in her oral evidence consistent with her statement and said that they did discuss sexual matters. She described how the conversation arose and how it made her feel. The Panel found her description of the events and her feelings to be credible and coherent.
- (ii) The Panel considered the Registrant's denial of this allegation but, it also noted the overall dynamic of the meeting and of the events that were occurring around them.
- (iii) The Panel determined that boundaries were already being crossed and that personal and/or sexual discussions and disclosures took place at the meeting on 21 December. That being the case the Panel concluded it was more likely than not that the disputed comment was made as part of these conversations.

Allegation 7a– Found proved

- (i) The Registrant initially denied that he met Client A for 3 hours on 28 December 2022. His recollection was that the session was for a shorter period. However, during cross-examination the Registrant was shown records and documents that suggested he was wrong. Upon sight of these the Registrant accepted his memory was in error and that he must have met Client A for longer than he believed. He conceded this allegation was probably correct.
- (ii) The Panel found this allegation proved based upon the Registrant's concession, supported as it was by the documentation.

Allegation 7e (amended) – Found proved

- (i) From the outset the Registrant did not dispute that he kissed Client A. He described this as a 'goodbye peck'. He did not accept the specific detail contained in the allegation that he had kissed her on the cheek.
- (ii) At the end of the evidence the UKCP applied to amend the allegation to remove the detail. The Panel consented to the application since the detail served no purpose in the context of the case.
- (iii) The Registrant having made the admission set out above, the Panel found this allegation proved.

Allegation 7f– Found proved

- (i) The Panel adopted the above reasons regarding the length of the meeting on 28 December. The undisputed circumstances of the meeting were that a few days beforehand the Registrant had told Client A he loved her, he then split up with his fiancée in order to be free to engage in a relationship with Client A at a future date. It was the Registrant's case that he wished for a personal relationship with Client A and, they were to pursue that after a period of time – some three months or so.
- (ii) At the meeting the Registrant and Client A concluded the therapeutic relationship in a relatively short period and then spent the best part of three hours engaged in personal conduct and conversation. This included looking at the Registrant's home, an exchange of gifts, hugging and cuddling on the sofa.
- (iii) Client A clearly described the Registrant touching her leg during the cuddling on the sofa. There appeared to be no reason for her to make up this detail and, in the context of what was occurring the Panel considered it more likely than not that this did in fact occur. The Panel preferred the evidence of Client A as being more reliable in describing what occurred.

Allegation 9b – Found proved

- (i) The Panel next considered the circumstances of Allegation 9b which, in short, was a meeting on 8 September 2023 suggested by Client A and to which the Registrant readily consented. They met at [REDACTED] and spent some time together.
- (ii) Client A's account was that having met after a gap of several months the Registrant said that he still had feelings for her, and they should rekindle their relationship. She declined on the basis that the Registrant had recommenced the relationship with his fiancée. The Registrant's version of events was that she sought to rekindle the relationship and he responded in kind.
- (iii) The Panel found it unlikely that Client A would invite the Registrant to rekindle their relationship given her reservations. It was notable that the Registrant acted in response to her reservations because within two days of the meeting the Registrant sent a message to Client A saying "it's done" meaning that he had split up with his fiancée. In addition he declared that it would be 'heavenly' to see Client A again.
- (iv) It was clear to the Panel that the Registrant's feelings for Client A had not changed but that she was reluctant to spend time with him whilst he was engaged to another person. Whilst it may be, as the Registrant asserted, that the feelings between himself and Client A were mutual, and they both sought to rekindle the relationship, the Panel determined it was more likely than not that the Registrant did say this to Client A.

Allegation 13 a, b and c – Found proved

- (i) The Registrant conceded that he discussed some detail regarding some of clients but he denied the specific conversations and circumstances as related by Client A and set out in the allegations. The Registrant described the discussions as akin to peer-to-peer supervision. He said he engaged in the discussions as a learning-experience for Client A who was at college

at the time. Client A gave a clear account of the detail given by the Registrant and described it as gossip. She rejected the suggestion of it being akin to supervision because in her view it was informal gossip and in any event she was not qualified and thus not able to undertake supervision.

- (ii) Regarding Allegation 13a, the Panel found Client A's description to be clear and compelling. It could determine no reason for her to make up the detail and, her characterisation of the events was corroborated by the detail of certain text messages which include references to "so much tea" (slang for gossip), "goss" and to the client as being "not gay, gay". There is a text message " *peer supervision* " and Client A described this as indicating the idea of peer supervision as being whimsical.
- (iii) The Panel determined that the contents of the texts themselves and the context of the other communication in which they were set indicated that the Registrant was indeed indulging in gossip. The style and content of the texts were entirely inconsistent with any form of peer supervision. That being the case the Panel was satisfied it was more likely than not that any discussion about that client was in the form of gossip and had clearly been disclosed by the Registrant.
- (iv) Regarding Allegation 13b and 13c, the Panel accepted Client A's clear descriptions of seeing a woman sitting outside and a man leaving the Registrant's premises. She clearly described the Registrant discussing them. This was not an abstract discussion rather the descriptions by Client A and comments by the Registrant are entirely in keeping with the theme of loose and inappropriate gossip. On this occasion it identified these two persons as his clients.
- (v) Having concluded that Client A's version of events regarding 13a was to be preferred to that of the Registrant, the Panel then went on to separately consider Allegations 13b and 13c as set out above. Whilst it noted the Registrant's denials it also noted his concession that he had engaged in some discussion. The Panel found his basis for the discussion to be unreliable and it could determine no reason for Client A to make up the specific details. Rather it found Client A to be clear direct and compelling in respect of both Allegation 13b and 13c.

The descriptive / consequential allegations

Allegations 15, 16, 17

113. Whilst the Registrant initially denied that any of his actions could be described as either inappropriate (15a) or unprofessional (15b), when he was challenged in cross-examination he readily conceded that many of his actions were inappropriate or unprofessional. As to those facts he disputed, he again accepted that the disputed acts would be inappropriate or unprofessional had they occurred.
114. The Registrant did not accept that his actions were all sexually motivated. His main contention through much of his evidence appeared to be that the attraction between himself and Client A was mutual and that he did not act in a predatory manner. Ms Walmsley made it clear that the case was

not put on the basis of predatory actions by him and confirmed that it was put on the basis that there was a power imbalance between himself as therapist and Client A. He should have controlled that imbalance but did not and the conduct alleged then ensued.

115. Regarding Allegation 17 and the breaches of the Code, the Registrant denied the majority of these albeit he again made some concessions in his oral evidence.

116. The Panel was of the view that the descriptive and consequential allegations and each of them, were to be seen in the light of all the evidence and all the findings of fact. The case involved a vulnerable client attending a professional therapist for assistance. Client A did not receive such assistance from the Registrant, rather he failed in that duty, became enamoured of her, communicated with her in unacceptable fashion, gossiped about other clients and eventually engaged in a sexual relationship with her.

Allegation 15a (inappropriate)

Allegation 2 Found not proved

- (i) The Panel noted that the Registrant provided Client A with a link to a Yoga teacher. In his evidence the Registrant said he did so because he thought it would be of help to Client A.
- (ii) Whilst the Panel considered that such an action may be incautious, it accepted that the Registrant's intention was to signpost Client A to services she may find helpful. It was not satisfied that his action had been proven to be inappropriate.

Allegations 3, 4a, 4e, 4f, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7g, 7h, 8, 9a, 9b, 10, 11, 12, 14

Found proved

- (i) Each of the above allegations was initially denied by the Registrant but, as set out in paragraph 113 when questioned about them he readily conceded that the conduct alleged was inappropriate.
- (ii) The Panel accepted the Registrant's concession as properly made.
- (iii) In addition the Panel determined that each allegation formed part of a course of conduct between the Registrant and Client A that was itself inappropriate. Client A came to the Registrant for professional help. Rather than conducting himself appropriately, maintaining boundaries and the professional relationship, controlling his personal feelings and using appropriate clinical skills to maintain professional boundaries to contain her feelings in the course of the therapy. Instead, he acted as alleged and each such action was inappropriate.

Allegations 4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 13a, 13b, 13c Found proved

- (i) Each of the above allegations remained in dispute as a fact but, when questioned, the Registrant conceded that were he to have acted as alleged, the conduct would indeed be inappropriate.

- (ii) Having made findings of fact adverse to the Registrant regarding each of the disputed allegations, the Panel determined that his concession was again properly made and as such this part of the allegation was proved.
- (iii) Furthermore the Panel adopts the reasoning set out above regarding its own assessment of each individual allegation.

Allegation 15b (unprofessional)

Allegation 2 Found not proved

- (i) The Panel adopted the reasoning as set out under 15a above. In so doing it recognised that the term ‘unprofessional’ refers to conduct that has fallen short of the objective standards the public may expect of a professional person.
- (ii) The Panel was not satisfied that the Registrant’s action was unprofessional.

Allegations 3, 4a, 4e, 4f, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7g, 7h, 8, 9a, 9b, 10, 11, 12, 14

Found proved

- (i) The Panel adopted its reasoning as set out under 15a above.
- (ii) In addition, it adopted the previous comment regarding the meaning of ‘unprofessional’.
- (iii) In short, the Registrant made appropriate concessions as to the lack of professionalism in his admitted conduct and, the Panel was independently of the view that each alleged fact found proved was indeed unprofessional. Each allegation referred to conduct that fell short of the standards the public may expect of a registered professional.

Allegations 4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 13a, 13b, 13c Found proved

- (i) The Panel adopted its reasoning as set out above. The Registrant denied the conduct but conceded that, had it occurred, it would have been unprofessional.
- (ii) Having made findings of fact adverse to the Registrant regarding each of the disputed allegations, the Panel determined that his concession was again properly made and as such this part of the allegation was proved.
- (iii) In coming to the above conclusion the Panel adopted the reasoning set out above regarding its own assessment of each individual alleged act being unprofessional.

Allegation 16 (sexual motivation)

Allegations 4 – 11 Found proved.

- (i) The Registrant denied that any of his actions were sexually motivated nonetheless his case was, in short, that he fell in love with Client A and they entered a mutual relationship and a sexual relationship. A central contention within his evidence was that the attraction was reciprocal and that he did not act in a predatory fashion. The Panel noted the way that the

case was put for the UKCP in this respect, it was not predatory behaviour by him, rather he failed to maintain the professional boundaries to properly manage the power imbalance in his relationship with a vulnerable client.

- (ii) The Panel also noted that there was clear evidence the Registrant ‘fancied’ Client A from a very early point in their relationship. He noted this in his records and observed as much in his oral evidence when he described ‘something’ being evident. Whilst he may have tried to hold the professional relationship together for a time, that ‘something’ was, in the Panel’s view, there all the time. The Registrant described taking his concerns to supervision and receiving insufficient or potentially incorrect guidance. From this, the Panel was of the view that at some level he was aware of what was happening however, his conduct was directed by his personal feelings rather than his professionalism as a Therapist.
- (iii) The Panel was of the view that the Registrant could not and did not properly contain feelings, nor professionally assess Client A’s expressed feelings toward him, whether they emanated from transference, countertransference or a genuine attraction. He failed to maintain professional boundaries and his standards fell well below what was expected of him. As his feelings grew regarding Client A, he acted upon them. Thus he told her he fancied her, was in love with her, disclosed details about himself and his relationship. He hugged and kissed Client A, invited her to concerts, offered her a favour regarding payment, he communicated in an unprofessional fashion and gossiped. He ended his relationship with his then fiancée. Following a period apart during which he got back together with his fiancée, when he and Client A met up again, he sought to pursue and did pursue (rekindle) their relationship. To do this he again ended his relationship with his fiancée. Finally he and Client A entered a sexual relationship which Client A eventually terminated.
- (iv) Each of the above descriptors is included in an allegation and, whilst some are perhaps more directly sexual than others, the Panel was satisfied that each of the facts found proved against the Registrant stemmed from his desire to engage in a sexual relationship with her. He was entirely enamoured with her and his actions individually or collectively were either intended to bring about the relationship that he desired.
- (v) In coming to the above conclusion the Panel considered each allegation both on its own merit and in the round taking account of all its findings of fact. The conduct was that of a registrant intent upon engaging in a relationship with a client. Whilst it may well be that at times he had other motives (such as friendship and music), the Panel was satisfied that his conduct included an element of sexually motivation.

Allegation 17

117. The Panel has already observed that having initially denied many of the alleged breaches of the Code, the Registrant conceded that in many respects his conduct did breach the Code. The Panel undertook the same exercise as outlined above in both relying upon his concession and independently evaluating whether the conduct alleged breached the Code.

118. Regarding Allegation 2, save as it related to Allegation 17g which the Registrant admitted and Allegation 17i which was withdrawn by the UKCP, the Panel was not satisfied that Allegation 2 (signposting Client A to a yoga teacher) was sufficiently incautious as to breach any of the Codes as alleged. As such it dismissed this part of the allegation.

Allegation 17a (conduct not in Client A's best interests) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 - 14

- (i) **Allegations 3, 4a, 4c, 4e, 4f, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7a-d, 7g, 7, 8 – 12 and 14** were all admitted by the Registrant in his oral evidence. Furthermore in respect of **Allegations 4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, and 13a,b,c** the Registrant conceded that if such conduct occurred it would not have been in Client A's best interests.
- (ii) The Panel regarded the above concessions to have been properly made and, having found that the disputed conduct did occur as alleged, it found all the above allegations proved.
- (iii) In the round and as previously stated, the Registrant failed in his duty to Client A and pursued his own desires and needs rather than containing hers within the professional relationship by maintaining professional boundaries. In putting his needs before hers he did not act in her best interests and breached paragraph 1 of the Code.

Allegation 17b (not treating Client A with respect) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 - 14

- (i) The Registrant made the same concessions as in 17a above.
- (ii) Again the Panel regarded the concessions to have been properly made but it also undertook its own assessment. It adopted the reasoning set out above regarding 17a in finding that paragraph 2 of the Code was breached.

Allegation 17c (engaging in sexual contact or a sexual relationship) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 7f and 12

- (i) At the close of the evidence the UKCP confined the case to two allegations namely 7f (touching Client A's leg) and 12 (the sexual relationship).
- (ii) The Panel has already determined that Allegation 7f was sexually motivated occurring as it did when the Registrant had declared his love for Client A and they were cuddling on the sofa. Given the conduct at 7f was sexually motivated it was indeed sexual contact within the meaning of the Code. As such the Panel found this conduct breached paragraph 4 of the Code. As to Allegation 12, the Registrant has always admitted that a sexual relationship occurred. This too breached paragraph 4 of the Code.

Allegation 17d (abused/exploited relationship etc) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 – 14 except Allegation 7h found not proved

- (i) The Registrant strongly denied that he acted in a predatory fashion which is implicit in the words of this allegation. Ms Walmsley clearly articulated that this was not the way that the UKCP put this charge. Rather the conduct occurred owing to the imbalance in the power

dynamic between the Registrant and Client A and his failure to maintain professional boundaries. The Panel regarded that as a fair description of the case there being no evidence to suggest the Registrant acted in predatory fashion.

- (ii) Nonetheless it was the Registrant's professional duty to manage the power imbalance and maintain professional boundaries. He did not do so, instead he acted upon his own desires/needs placing them ahead of Client A's. He failed to properly hold and maintain the professional relationship between them. The Panel therefore found this allegation proved.
- (iii) Regarding Allegation 7h, the Registrant accepting a crystal from Client A. The Registrant accepted that this was inappropriate and unprofessional but he denied it was sexually motivated. The Panel noted Client A's description as it being a therapeutic gift since she perceived the Registrant to be troubled. In light of this the Panel found no evidence that his acceptance of the crystal was sexually motivated.

Allegation 17e (caused harm to Client A) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 - 14

- (i) The Panel has already found that the conduct proved above fell short of the standards expected of a professional Therapist. It was inappropriate, unprofessional, not in Client A's best interests and was sexually motivated. Client A gave evidence as to the harm that she had suffered. This included a re-triggering of her original trauma, reduced self-esteem, inability to complete her training after three years of study and disillusionment with therapy. She was deprived of the opportunity to be properly and professionally assisted regarding her previous trauma.
- (ii) The Panel regarded each of the above descriptors to be indicative of harm to Client A. Whether the Panel considered each event in isolation or all the allegations in the round, it was satisfied that the Registrant's conduct caused harm to her and was in breach of paragraph 6 of the Code.

Allegation 17f (dual relationship) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 - 14

- (i) As set out above the Panel has found that the Registrant did not maintain a professional relationship with Client A. Rather he engaged in conduct indicative of a developing personal and potentially sexual relationship occurring during a therapeutic relationship. This continued whilst they were apart for a period of time but thereafter it progressed to a full sexual relationship.
- (ii) The Panel was of the view that the Registrant was attracted to Client A and acted upon that attraction. Taking that overview it was plain to the Panel that the Registrant did indeed engage in a dual relationship with Client A doing so without attention to her needs and his conduct breached Paragraph 8 of the Code

Allegation 17g (failed to take care re personal relationship) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3 - 11

- (i) The Registrant admitted this allegation from the outset.

- (ii) In addition the Panel adopts its reasoning regarding Allegation 17f above.
- (iii) The Panel dismissed Allegation 17g with respect to Allegations 12 – 14 since these are outside the ambit of the allegation.

Allegation 17h (failed to protect confidentiality) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 13

- (i) The Panel determined that the Registrant did engage in gossip with Client A. In doing this he disclosed information concerning at least three of his clients. He did so in texts and in person.
- (ii) The Panel rejected his assertion that this was a form of peer supervision or an educational exercise for the benefit of Client A.
- (iii) The Panel was satisfied that the disclosures were entirely inappropriate and unprofessional as set out above and that they constituted serious breaches of the duty of confidentiality he owed to his clients. The conduct was clearly in breach of paragraph i. of the Code.

Allegation 17i (failed to make proper arrangements to end) – Found proved

- (i) The Panel noted that the UKCP initially alleged that all the above Allegations 2 - 14 were referable to this allegation. That was plainly not the case and the allegation was then limited to Allegations 6a – 11 and 14. Allegations 6a – 11 occurred before the sexual relationship came into being. Allegation 14 was a subsequent concession of wrongdoing by the Registrant.
- (ii) The evidence before the Panel was that having expressed his feelings for Client A on 21 December, the Registrant ended his relationship with his then fiancée and saw Client A for one last session on 28 December. The last session was intended to end their professional/therapeutic relationship with a view to engaging in a personal and sexual relationship as soon as possible. Both Client A and the Registrant's description of the therapeutic meeting was that it was short if not abrupt. It was driven by the desire to engage in a personal and sexual relationship rather than professionally attending to Client A's therapeutic needs.
- (iii) The Panel was satisfied that the Registrant did not properly arrange a suitable ending to the closure of his therapeutic relationship with Client A. His actions in so doing were in breach of paragraph 27 of the Code.

Allegation j (not uphold standards) – Found proved in relations to Allegations 3 – 14)

- (i) The Panel took account of the numerous concessions made by the Registrant, its findings of fact above and the descriptors applicable to each of the alleged instances of conduct. Whilst the Registrant did not admit each sub-allegation individually in turn, he acknowledged as a general proposition that he had failed to uphold professional standards.
- (ii) For all the reasons set out above the Panel was of the view that each of the allegations found proved represented a failure by the Registrant and each was in breach of paragraph 32 of the Code.

Allegation 17k (comms/social media) – Found proved in relation to Allegations 3, 8, 10, 14

- (i) The Panel noted that the Registrant conceded in evidence that each instance of his communications namely the emails, texts & voice notes and the letter fixed to Client A's door as set out in the allegations represented a failure to adhere to the code.
- (ii) The Panel regarded that concession to be properly made with each instance being an inappropriate or unprofessional communication by the Registrant in furtherance of his intended relationship or breaching the confidentiality of others. Each instance was in breach of paragraph 37 of the Code.

119. In total the Panel found **252** breaches of UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct proved.

Determination of Misconduct and impairment

120. Having determined the facts in the case the Panel went on to consider the issues of misconduct and current impairment in accordance with rule 7.23 of UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process.

Evidence

121. The Registrant elected to give evidence on the issues of Misconduct and Impairment. He did not directly challenge the issue of misconduct but concentrated on his learning since these events and the issue of current impairment. In so doing he said that he had engaged in CPD education, personal therapy and continued supervision. He said that he had taken the process seriously and had remained engaged throughout. He said he accepted full responsibility for what had occurred and when he previously referred to Client A's keenness to have a relationship he was not shifting the blame he was simply trying to explain that it was a mutual attraction. He repeated that he took full responsibility and acknowledged his mistakes. He acknowledged that he had breached boundaries and said that he had reflected on the root causes of this, being assisted by the learning and the CPD that he had undertaken. He said that his insight was highlighted within the documents that he had provided.

122. The Registrant said that in the 2½ years since this had all occurred he had undertaken learning to ensure there was no repetition. This included almost 40 hours of CPD working with the unconscious, the power of projection and transference and, he was now much more aware of all of these. In addition he had undertaken consistent peer supervision groups to internalise the learning. He said he had engaged with his supervisor [REDACTED] and she was his supervisor to date. He said there had been no other complaints regarding him in his career. He recognised that his language had been loose in his communications and he had written an article about this. The looseness of his communications had been analysed in supervision and he had been asked to teach about this. He said he wished to learn from his mistakes and give back to the profession. The Registrant referred to professional and personal character references and again said he wanted to learn. He said at the time he was unsure as to the

timeframe regarding relationships with a client but he now firmly understood that no relationship with any client was acceptable. He said he understood and had learned that transference is always applicable and he said this would not be repeated due to his learning.

123. Concerning the effect of these entire events upon him he said they had been personal professional and financial. Regarding professional impact he said he had changed the way he practices to maintain boundaries and he had personally been in therapy since 2023. He said he had reflected consistently and had stayed in supervision. The Registrant explained that he had moved his practice to be entirely online due to the personal impact of these events upon him and to ensure that boundaries were maintained. Concerning his supervision he said this was one hour every week and he had reflected on the blind spots that he understood were present to ensure this would not happen again.

124. In addition regarding the professional impact he said that he worked with a number of people including clients who had stayed with him for several years some of whom were at risk due to their physical and mental health and if he could not be in practice this would severely impact them. As to the personal impact he said this process increased his levels of stress and affected his recovery from surgery. He said that because he had [REDACTED] these proceedings and the impact of any sanction may be different for him compared to others. He stressed that when he spoke of [REDACTED] it was not an excuse but an explanation and he said that a number of his clients [REDACTED] and they identified with him. The Registrant said that he had accepted all his learning points it had had a deep personal impact and had affected him.

125. In terms of his finances the Registrant said that he had lost all his savings to fund representation. He had moved online which had reduced his income through the loss of clients and he had to move from the town and the house where he had established himself. He said he had two jobs to pay his rent and an additional sanction would have a further impact upon him and may mean that he would have to move again.

126. The Registrant said that he had chosen the outcome at the time, it was his choice and he had undertaken a huge effort to learn. He said he was now aware of his blind spot and he was fully committed to integrating this into his practice. He said he recognised the harm that he had caused to the reputation of the profession and insisted that the public would not be in danger because of what he had learned, what he was taking with him and what he would carry all his life.

127. Ms Walmsley then asked questions regarding the above evidence. She first invited the Registrant to consider what impact his actions had had on Client A. The Registrant said that he could now see his position and his responsibility and could understand what he should have done at the time and see the impact more clearly. He said all he could do is learn from this. When asked again about the impact upon Client A the Registrant said that he had taken weekly supervision and personal

therapy to understand this and how his actions affected someone else. He said he had done this to understand it not just from his side but from hers as well. He said that what had been expected of him was not upheld and he had spent many hours working on that to understand it and ensure he carried it all his life. When asked about the harm to Client A he said his actions were negative he understood what he had done and said he needed to learn and integrate that learning in order not to repeat it.

128. When asked what he would do if he had a future client with romantic feelings which he then reciprocated, the Registrant said that he would refer such a person to someone else after the initial assessment. However, if such feelings became apparent during the course of therapy he said he would take it immediately to supervision and then either end the therapeutic relationship or listen to what his supervisor advised. He said it was unlikely to happen again because he now understood what could happen regarding transference and how he needs to keep the boundaries.

129. Ms Walmsley pointed out that he was in supervision at the time of the events and asked him to explain how he would uphold his obligations. The Registrant said that he was mistaken in commencing with a new supervisor and immediately relying upon their advice. He said he should have taken time and been more reflective concerning himself. He said that now he would take time to make such a decision, he would reflect, look at what was going on and not be reactive to such feelings. He said that deep within his soul he knew this would never happen again and he would do his best to uphold boundaries. Ms Walmsley asked the registrant if he would change his approach if he was seeing clients in person and he said he would not. He said he would be much more aware of anything going on and if there was any risk of repetition he would be onto it. He said that the fact that he is online does not affect the way he needed to communicate rather he needed always to look at himself.

130. Concerning the way that he communicated, the Registrant said that he had put this in bullet points in an article that he had submitted to the Panel. He understood that he was never to share any content outside a session and he referred in the article to what he should have put in place is. He said that he now only communicated to set up therapeutic sessions.

131. Ms Walmsley asked why he had used the term 'naïve' in the reflective portion of his statement. The Registrant said this was not a question of failing to take full responsibility he was not suggesting that he was naive as an excuse and he repeated that he took full responsibility. He explained that his naivete was in taking a good rapport to be a good alliance, and he was naive to the risk of not taking transference into the equation. He had not taken it into account at the time and he had been naive to the transferential content. He reiterated that he was not suggesting he was not taking responsibility. When asked why he referred to Client A's actions and whether he was placing some of the blame, accountability or responsibility upon her regarding the transferential elements he said; no, I am not shifting blame I am taking responsibility. He said he could now see what occurred and see that transference is always possible. He said he was not shifting blame but describing part of his learning.

132. In answer to questions from the panel the Registrant said that he was now more of a Jungian practitioner albeit he used IFS as a tool. He said at the time of these events he had been more inclined to IFS but now he was more Jungian and recognised what had occurred. He was asked about the integrative and eclectic modes of thought and said that he was trained in an integrative way as he identified with this. He explained that the core he held was Jungian. He said he had done an MA in the Jungian approach but that was an academic process rather than a practical one and he wished to consider what practice was best for him. He said he started using IFS after his training but was now back to working in the Jungian way.
133. When asked how he would conceptualise the treatment plan for Client A if he was to meet her now he said that he would hold more strongly to the view of seeing something within her unconsciously trying to repeat itself and he would observe this as transference. He said he would see himself as being projected upon and if he had similar feelings as had occurred in this case he would immediately take this to supervision. He said he would regard this now as working with the unconscious and see it from the perspective of repetition. He would ensure that the events would not happen again. Concerning the core components of Client A were he to meet her again he said this would include previous sexual trauma that he would need to be aware of, addiction issues, and that picking himself as her therapist may be an extension of those things.
134. When asked whether there was a conflict between Jungian and IFS models the Registrant said there was an overlap but that there was some conflict since one considers transference whilst the other considers background. He said he held more with the Jungian view. He said that he generally preferred the Jungian approach but IFS may be a preferable way to work to ensure they unburden their trauma such as PTSD. He said the Jungian approach was not so good at this. He explained that he would have to make a judgement call in order to ensure that a client was not re-traumatised. He would need to take this to supervision but he would also need to check in with himself to see what was going on.
135. The Registrant explained that his current supervision was with [REDACTED] who was a Jungian practitioner and analytically trained. He saw her every week for an hour. In addition he attended IFS group supervision meeting for two hours each month and said that he had recently started seeing [REDACTED] another Jungian practitioner for an hour every other week. Regarding any conflict in the supervision he said that he leant towards the Jungian process as he thought that transference was always there. He explained that he took this to the IFS group discussions. When asked why he had undertaken a second supervisor [REDACTED] it was useful to have his input. He explained that [REDACTED] was quiet whereas [REDACTED] was vocal, he felt this, and the extra peer input was beneficial. The Registrant spoke of personal therapy which he had undertaken since January 2023 with [REDACTED] a Jungian analyst. He had been working through trying to understand what had happened and he saw her weekly.

136. The Registrant confirmed that all of his supervisors were aware of the hearing process and he had discussed it regularly with them. He said he found the assistance from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be of almost equal measure but if asked to choose he would pick [REDACTED] as he had found her input to be helpful in reflecting upon himself and what had occurred.

137. Finally the Registrant was asked about the UKCP Code of Practice and whether he would now refer to it and adhere to it since he had not referred to it in his evidence. He said that he had now looked at it more thoroughly and he recognised its significance and put it into his work. He said that to say he was 'more aware of it' would be an understatement. When asked whether he would refer to the code or to the UKCP if he was faced with a similar situation he said yes, he would do so straight away. He did not do so at the time but now he would.

Submissions on misconduct and impairment

138. Ms Walmsley first reminded the Panel that the two issues should be considered in order and that they were for the Panel's own judgement.

139. Ms Walmsley referred to the well-known authorities of *Roylance v GMC [1999] 1 A.C. 311* and *Nandi v GMC [2004] EWHC 2317* and the guidance they provide. She submitted that to constitute misconduct an act or omission must be serious and said that the acts found proved were comfortably within that description. She said that there were a total of 252 breaches of the Code and that the Registrant had crossed boundaries in significant ways for a period of time. She said his conduct fell far below that expected of a registered professional. She submitted that the Panel should consider the circumstances and the dynamic of the relationship between the Registrant and a vulnerable client and concluded by submitting that his conduct amounted to misconduct.

140. Turning to the issue of current impairment Ms Walmsley submitted that there were two principal matters to consider, First whether there was a continued risk to the public, second the maintenance of public confidence in the profession. She referred to the four questions from *CHRE v NMC and Grant [2011] EWHC 927* regarding prior conduct and future risk. She submitted that the Registrant had put clients at risk of harm, he had brought the profession into disrepute and he had breached one or more of the fundamental tenets of the profession. (The fourth question which deals with dishonesty does not apply to this case.)

141. Ms Walmsley acknowledged the documentation provided by the Registrant and his oral evidence. She conceded that the Registrant acknowledged his failings but submitted that there was a continued risk of repetition and therefore a risk to the public. In additions she said that owing to the seriousness of the findings, public confidence would be undermined if a finding of current impairment was not made.

142. Ms Walmsley submitted that the Registrant had demonstrated insufficient insight and insufficient reflection upon the impact his actions had upon Client A. She said that were similar circumstances to arise he would now do little more than he had done then. She said that he had sought supervision and peer review at the time and she asked, 'where was the learning to support the conclusion that events could not and would not repeat themselves?' She said that she did not undermine the fact that this had been a difficult process for the Registrant and said he had clearly undertaken some learning and taken that forward. Nonetheless she submitted there remained a significant lack of insight. She also said that there still appeared to be elements of shifting or detracting from the blame despite the Registrant saying he accepted responsibility. She said that some learning had undoubtedly taken place but as yet the Registrant had been unable to explain the real difference that ensured he would maintain boundaries with reference to the code and the regulator. She said that despite the Registrant's evidence concerning his remorse, his insight and what he had done to put right his behaviours, the question for the Panel was whether the risks were so low that he should be permitted to practice without any form of restriction. She concluded by saying that the risk to the public and the public confidence in the profession meant that a finding of current impairment was appropriate.

143. The Registrant did not wish to make further submissions but stood by what he had said in his evidence.

Decision on Misconduct

144. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor as to the approach it should adopt in considering the question of misconduct. The Panel recognised that the question of misconduct is a matter of independent judgement and is not a matter of proof for the parties.

145. In addressing whether the facts proved amounted to misconduct, the Panel had regards to the words of Lord Clyde in the case of *Roylance v GMC [1999] 1 A.C. 311*. That *"Misconduct is a word of general effect, involving some act or omission which falls short of what would be proper in the circumstances. The standard of propriety may often be found by reference to the rules and standards ordinarily required by...a practitioner in the particular circumstances."*

146. In addition, the Panel had regard to the judgement of Collins J in *Nandi v GMC (2004) EWHC 2317 (Admin)* in which he said: *"The adjective "Serious" must be given its proper weight, and in other contexts, there has been reference to conduct which would be regarded as deplorable by fellow practitioners. It is, of course, possible for negligent conduct to amount to serious professional misconduct but the negligence must be to a high degree."*

147. The Panel determined that the conduct found proved does amount to serious misconduct.

148. In coming to the above conclusion the Panel considered that the Registrant engaged in conduct over a significant period which crossed professional boundaries and which involved numerous breaches of the Code. Client A was a vulnerable client and he had caused harm to her. In addition the Panel concluded that the Registrant's actions had adversely impacted the profession. The Panel was satisfied that fellow registrants and the public would be very concerned and shocked by the Registrant's actions.

149. Having determined that the Registrant's actions amounted to serious misconduct the Panel then went on to consider the question of current impairment.

Decision of Impairment

150. In reaching its decision, the Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. It was mindful that the question of impairment is a matter for the Panel's professional judgement. The Panel was required to determine whether the Registrant's fitness to practice is currently impaired. The Panel had to assess the current position looking forward not back, however in order to form a view of the Registrant's fitness to practice today, the Panel would have to take account of the way in which the Registrant has acted or failed to act in the past. The Panel acknowledged that a finding of misconduct does not necessarily mean that there is impairment of fitness to practice. There must always be situations in which a Panel can properly decide that the act of misconduct was, on the part of the Registrant, isolated and the chance of it being repeated in the future is so remote that his or her fitness to practice has not been impaired. The Panel also bore in mind that irrespective of the issue of risk to the public, a finding of current impairment may be appropriate to mark the gravity of prior misconduct in order to declare and uphold professional standards.

151. The Panel applied the approach to determine the question of impairment by Dame Janet Smith as set out in the 5th Shipman Enquiry and cited with approval in the case of CHRE v Grant (2011) EWHC 927 (Admin):

"Do our findings of fact in respect of the [Registrant's] misconduct . . . show that his fitness to practice is impaired in the sense that he:

- a. Has in the past acted and/or is liable in the future to act so as to put a [client or clients] at unwarranted risk of harm; and/or*
- b. Has in the past brought and/or is liable in the future to bring the profession [of psychotherapy] into disrepute; and/or*
- c. Has in the past breached and/or is liable in the future to breach one of the fundamental tenets of the profession; and/or*
- d. Has in the past acted dishonestly and/or is liable to act dishonestly in the future.*

152. The Panel recognised that the fourth question does not apply to this case.

153. The Panel next considered whether the Registrant was liable to act in such a way in the future. The Panel had regard to any level of insight shown by the Registrant. The Panel also had regard to the decision in the case of *Cohen v GMC (2008) EWHC 581* and considered whether the Registrant's misconduct is easily remedied; has already been remedied; and whether it is likely to be repeated.
154. The Panel was also mindful that when considering impairment, it is entitled to have regard to the wider public interest in the form of maintaining public confidence in the profession and declaring and upholding proper standards. The Panel had regard to the following part of the judgement in the case of Grant:
- "In determining whether a practitioner's fitness to practice is impaired by reason of misconduct, the panel should generally consider not only whether the practitioner constitutes a present risk to members of the public in his or her current role, but also whether the need to uphold proper professional standards and public confidence in the profession would be undermined if a finding of impairment were not made in the particular circumstances."*
155. In considering the questions a – c above (d being irrelevant to this case) the Panel concluded that all could be answered in the affirmative.
156. The Panel found there were numerous breaches of professional standards by the Registrant over a period of time and that he caused harm to Client A. Whilst the Registrant spoke of the effect these events and proceedings had upon himself, he appeared unable to articulate the effect upon Client A. He said he had taken these issues to supervision and learning but, when asked to acknowledge and state what damage he had caused to Client A, he seemed unable to understand or give voice to this. The Panel considered that in the absence of a clear and well-articulated understanding of the risks and the harm he caused and, without clear directed learning to meet that risk and that harm, it could not be satisfied that there was no risk of repetition. This was despite the lengthy process to date and the CPD and supervision that the Registrant had undoubtedly undertaken. The Panel was of the view that he retained a blind spot to this issue. In coming to this conclusion the Panel acknowledged that there were no prior and no subsequent complaints made against the Registrant and that positive testimonials had been provided in support of him.
157. In addition to the issue of public protection, the Panel gave careful consideration to the question of public confidence in the profession, the declaration and upholding of professional standards. The panel adopted its reasoning above and considered that given the seriousness of the Registrant's proven misconduct, public confidence in the profession would be undermined if the Panel were to conclude that the Registrant's fitness to practice was not currently impaired. It was of the view that a finding of current impairment was necessary to declare and uphold professional standards.
158. The Panel concluded that the Registrant has shown insufficient insight into the risks posed by his conduct and there was little evidence of learning to address the fundamental issue of the harm

caused to Client A. In addition his misconduct had adversely impacted the profession itself. As such the Registrant's fitness to practice is indeed impaired.

Determination on Sanction

159. Having come to the above conclusions the Panel then went on to consider the question of sanction in accordance with rule 7.25 of UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process.

Submissions on sanction

160. Ms Walmsley reminded the Panel that the purpose of sanctions is to protect the public, uphold professional standards and maintain public confidence in the profession. She said that they were not intended to punish but that they may have a punitive effect. She submitted that the two issues of public protection and the public interest were both engaged in this case. She reminded the Panel that they had heard evidence concerning the impact these events and proceedings had had upon the Registrant but that it was also important to consider the impact upon Client A. She said that the conduct found proved was itself very serious. It involved a substantial number of breaches of the Code, continued over a period of time with a vulnerable client and there was a clear power dynamic at play. She suggested these were aggravating features of the case. As to mitigating features, Ms Walmsley suggested that there was evidence regarding the Registrant's efforts to gain insight and his attempts to address his wrongdoing. She said he had made numerous admissions during the proceedings and he had undertaken continual professional development. In addition she reminded the Panel of his overall adherence to good practice on the basis that he had no other complaints to his name and there were testimonials regarding his character. She said that notwithstanding these positive factors, the UKCP's principle submission was that due to the Registrant's significant and serious misconduct the only proper sanction was one of removal from the register.
161. Concerning the lesser sanctions, Ms Walmsley said that orders involving an apology, a warning, written letter, report, training, supervision and the like were insufficient to meet the public interest or protect the public. The case was simply too serious. Regarding a Conditions of Practice Order Ms Walmsley said that any such order needed to involve clearly defined conditions that were adhered to, workable and measurable. She submitted that no such conditions could be defined in this case and none had been suggested. She added that even if they could be devised, such an order did not reflect the seriousness of the case and meet the public interest.
162. Regarding a Suspension Order, Ms Walmsley said that this may be of up to 12 months duration but even this did not meet the seriousness of the misconduct found proved. The case involved prolonged sexual misconduct with a vulnerable client, embarked upon by the registrant. Ms Walmsley acknowledged that Client A may have entered the relationship voluntarily but said the power imbalance remained. There were also breaches of confidentiality regarding other clients.

163. Ms Walmsley said that the Panel had determined there was a risk of repetition and, this was a case of serious misconduct. She said that a Suspension Order would have no measurable aim and as such it would not meet the issue of public protection and, it was still insufficient to meet the public interest.
164. Ms Walmsley concluded by submitting that the nature and seriousness of the case meant that the only appropriate sanction was the final sanction of removal from the register. Only this met the twin issues of public protection and the public interest.
165. In his submissions the Registrant said that he wished to address a question he had been asked previously regarding his insight into what had occurred and particularly with regard to the impact upon Client A. He said that he sometimes found it difficult to do justice to what he was trying to say. He said that he did feel the impact these events had had upon Client A and he wished he had held the boundaries better for her. He said he recognised that he caused confusion, re-traumatised her, dissuaded her from the profession and he had impacted the identity of the profession. He said he had spent 2½ years since these events learning and maintaining his distance. He said that he had made efforts to maintain his insight, he had changed his supervisors, produced an article as to his learning and he had provided references about his professional practice. He said that he was committed to continuing his learning and would do anything to ensure this did not happen again. The Registrant said that he will maintain his current levels of personal therapy in order to see and continue to see the root causes.
166. Concerning the impact of these events upon him, the Registrant said that having cut back on his client load by taking his practice online, he was currently undertaking two jobs to make ends meet. He spoke of his current clients, how they are helped by and benefit from his support. He said he felt responsible for them. He spoke of his own period of recovery and said suspension or removal from the register will increase this recovery period. He said that such orders would mean that he would have to leave his home. He said that he recognised what he had done was not good for the profession and he would do all that is necessary to ensure that he has insight and is the best he can be.
167. When asked to address the impact of these events upon Client A, the Registrant said that he realised his actions had impacted her personal life, her relationships and her therapy. He recognised that her previous trauma may have been re-triggered and this may have had even more of an impact. He said he realised that “what she hoped for was not this.” He said he would do everything he could to prevent a recurrence. The Registrant said that he wished he could share what he had learned in therapy and said he “did see it and he did know it” and he would continue to give himself as much as he could to that process.

168. In a final response Ms Walmsley said that owing to the issue of public confidence in the profession, the sanction must necessarily be at the top end of the range notwithstanding the impact it may have upon the Registrant.

Decision on sanction

169. In reaching its decision, the Panel had regard to the UKCP's Indicative Sanctions Guidance 2019 ("the ISG") but exercised its own independent judgement.

170. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. The Panel recognised that the purpose of any sanction is not to punish the Registrant, although that may be the consequence of a carefully weighted decision. The Panel recognised that any sanction must be proportionate and weigh the public interest with that of the Registrant.

171. The public interest includes the protection of members of the public, including clients; the maintenance of public confidence in the profession; and the declaring and upholding of proper standards of conduct and behaviour within the profession.

172. The Panel considered the sanctions available to it under rule 7.25 of the Complaints and Conduct Process in ascending order and was mindful that any sanction imposed should be the minimum that would be considered proportionate and appropriate in the circumstances.

173. The Panel has already set out in detail the facts found proved and how it considers them in terms of seriousness and the impact they will have had upon the profession. Whilst it acknowledged that the relationship between the Registrant and Client A may have been mutual, nonetheless it was a relationship brought about by the Registrant's failures and it harmed Client A. The Panel was of the view that this is a very serious case.

174. In terms of aggravating features, the panel considered that the vulnerability of Client A was aggravated by her previous history, the impact of events upon her will also have been increased by this, the length of the Registrant's misconduct and the sheer number of breaches of the code all aggravated what is already a serious case. As to mitigating features the Panel recognised that the Registrant was of previous good character and had no complaints since these events. He made admissions as to his conduct and the lack of professionalism etc both before and during the proceedings. He had undertaken work to improve his understanding and insight into what had occurred. The panel accepted that the Registrant genuinely sought to make the change required of him but it was of the view that he had not made the change to date.

175. The Panel regarded it as notable that the Registrant often spoke in technical or intellectual terms rather than personal terms as to the impact of what he had done. He clearly articulated the damage to himself but seemed unable to do so regarding the damage he had inflicted upon Client A. He had not apologised for that damage and, when repeatedly asked to consider the impact upon Client A, he appeared unable to bring himself fully to this point. It was apparent to the Panel that he had as yet not understood the degree of harm he caused to Client A and, that being the case, there remained a risk of repetition. The Panel considered that the Registrant had not demonstrated appropriate self-reflection or self-awareness regarding the harm consequent upon his actions.
176. Looking at the case as a whole and having considered the competing factors above, the Panel went on to consider the appropriate sanction(s) in order of seriousness. It kept the issues of public protection and proportionality at the forefront of its consideration. In so doing the panel concluded that none of the lesser sanctions met the public interest in the declaration and upholding of professional standards and maintaining confidence in the profession. Nor did they address the continued risk of repetition.

Apology

The Panel considered that neither a written nor a verbal apology reflected the seriousness of the case nor would it be sufficient to protect the public. The Panel regarded this sanction as appropriate in cases of a minor or isolated misdemeanour fully accepted and remediated by a Registrant. That was not the case here nor did such a sanction meet the public interest in terms of the need to declare and uphold professional standards.

Warning

The panel determined that this was this sanction was not appropriate given the facts of this case. The panel adopts the reasoning above in particular with respect to the public interest and the need to impose a sanction to declare and uphold professional standards.

Written report or oral statement

For the reasons given above the panel determined that this was this sanction was also not appropriate.

Further training

For the reasons given above the panel determined that this was this sanction was also not appropriate. The Registrant has provided details regarding his continued professional development and yet in the view of the panel the risk to the public remains for the reasons given above. In addition, once again this sanction does not meet the public interest.

Further supervision or therapy

For the reasons given above the panel determined that this sanction was also not appropriate.

Conditions of Practice order

The panel carefully considered whether the imposition of a conditions of practice order would meet the risks it has identified. It was of the view that whilst conditions directed towards further learning on the part of the registrant may assist him in confronting his errors it noted that he had already undertaken a considerable amount of CPD and remained in supervision and personal therapy. Such learning had not brought about the change the Panel regarded as necessary for the Registrant to practise safely. The panel was not satisfied that it could devise conditions that would enable the Registrant to understand and work toward the required changes as identified above. As such, the risk to the public remained. In addition, given the seriousness of this case the Panel was of the view that a Conditions of Practice Order did not meet the public interest as outlined above.

Suspension Order

The panel next considered whether a Suspension Order would meet the twin aims of a sanction namely, public protection and the public interest. Whilst the public may be protected in the short term by such a Suspension Order, the Panel was of the view that the long term concern set out above remains and would not be addressed by suspending the Registrant.

The panel acknowledged that suspension is a serious and impactful sanction and that its imposition would undoubtedly have such an effect upon the Registrant but it remained of the view that the misconduct found proved was so serious even this sanction would be insufficient to mark the gravity of the case. The panel was of the view that the public and fellow professionals would be concerned if, having found the case to be so serious and involving so many breaches of the code, the Registrant was merely prevented from practising for a temporary period. In all the circumstances of this case the Panel was of the view that a Suspension Order was not appropriate

Removal from UKCP Register

Having considered all the lesser sanctions and for all the reasons outlined above, the Panel concluded that the only appropriate and proportionate sanction is to remove the Registrant from the register. It recognised that this would have a serious professional and personal impact upon the Registrant but it was satisfied that no lesser sanction was sufficient to protect the public from the risk of harm or meet the necessity to declare and uphold professional standards and maintain public confidence in the profession.

177. The Panel determined that the appropriate sanction is removal of the Registrant from the UKCP register.

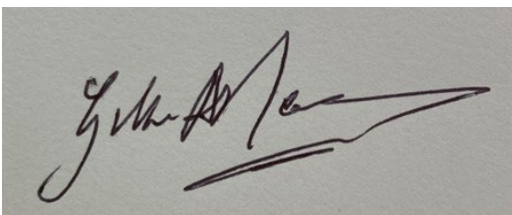
Application for an interim suspension order

178. Ms Walmsley submitted that an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) was necessary to cover the 28 day appeal period and the time taken for any appeal to be determined should one be lodged.
179. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor.
180. The Panel considered that an ISO in the terms sought by Ms Walmsley was necessary to protect the public and was in the public interest. In addition, not imposing an order would be inconsistent with the Panel's finding of an ongoing risk to the public and to the reputation of the profession.

Right of Appeal

181. Both the Registrant and UKCP have 28 days from when the written decision is served in which to exercise their right of appeal.
182. The sanction outlined above will not take effect until after the 28-day period has lapsed. If no appeal is received the decision will take effect after the 28th day.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gill Madden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gill Madden, Lay Chair
17 July 2025