

Public Apology to Governing Council 19

The report of the Independent Review conducted by Alison Levitt QC recommended that RICS should issue a public apology to former members of the Governing Council who had improperly been threatened with legal proceedings.

Members of 'GC19':

***Dayle Bayliss - Keith Agar - Richard Asher - James Baker - Sara Cameron - Bruno Cohen
Diane Dumashie - Bryony Goldsmith - Michael Hannaway - Rob Hindle - Michael Holden
Nicola George - Julian Josephs - Gerhard Kemper - Amy Leader - Jon Lever - Monique Royle
Ramsey Tadros - Adrienne Yarwood***

Nick Maclean, Acting Chair of the Governing Council, has written to each of the 19 to apologise on behalf of RICS. The text of the apology is printed below:

I write to you on behalf of Governing Council as a member of 'GC19'.

Having reviewed the Report and accepted, in full, Ms Levitt's findings, conclusions and recommendations, the Governing Council is absolutely clear that you deserve a full apology for the way you have been treated by RICS.

A number of members of 'GC19' were inappropriately threatened by legal action for defamation in January 2021 which was unacceptable and inexcusable. On behalf of the Council and RICS, I apologise unreservedly for this action.

The Council also acknowledges that a number of members of 'GC19', who may have not been recipients of a direct threat of defamation, had raised their concerns about RICS governance yet were not sufficiently listened to. On behalf of the Council and RICS, I apologise.

I also apologise for the anxiety which will have been felt because of RICS' actions and the inconvenience caused to those who have supported the Independent Review process.

Through its action in commissioning the Review, in ensuring the independence of the Review, in publishing an unredacted version of the Report and in publicly accepting each of Alison Levitt's recommendations, Governing Council has taken steps to respond to what went wrong in the past and is determined to ensure that such actions are not repeated in the future.

The Council has taken care to fully understand the contents of the Review and is fully committed to rebuilding trust and confidence with all RICS members, governance board members, the public, stakeholders and staff.

Within her Report, Ms Levitt recommends that RICS reimburse you for fees you may have incurred in connection with obtaining legal advice about the threat of defamation. In accordance with your wishes, we are organising reimbursement.

This apology, set out in this letter, is warmly extended to all members of 'GC19'. Thank you for your offer to circulate to members of the group.

Copies of this letter will be posted to the RICS website and will be circulated to all RICS members later this week. Should you wish to discuss this letter or the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Maclean, RD, FRICS
Acting Chair of Governing Council