

JUN 3 TO JUN 17, 2025



Advice from Alan Building Practitioners Board

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Building and design practitioners (LBPs) have to be licensed to carry out restricted design or building work and they are overseen by a licensing board, which can investigate complaints about LBPs.

The members of the board include professionals from the various areas of the building and design industry plus legal experts. If a complaint is made against an LBP, the complaint will be looked into first by the registrar to see if any charges should be brought before the board. Common matters dealt with include negligent work carried out, not complying with building consents, and failing to provide a record of work to the owner and territorial authority.

The registrar will notify the LBP, who will be given an opportunity to respond to the complaint and provide supporting material if they wish. Once all of the responses have been considered, the registrar will prepare a report setting out the evidence and the

allegations to be heard by the board. The board will organise a hearing and advise the parties of the board members who are proposed to hear the charges. A party can object to a board member if there is a valid reason to do so. The LBP can be represented at the hearing. It is not usual for the complainant to be represented, but they can be if they wish. The board will carry out the investigation and the complainant will be a witness rather than a party at the hearing.

Any witnesses will give evidence and can be questioned by the board and any lawyer representing the LBP. Once all of the evidence is heard, the board will consider the evidence and reach conclusions on the facts. If any charge is upheld, the LBP will then have an opportunity to comment on any proposed punishment before a decision is finalised. The board has wide powers if it finds an LBP in breach of their responsibilities, including fines, costs, suspension, and in the most serious cases, revoking the builder or designer's licence.