

Architects Registration Board – meeting of 22 July 2009

Vigilance

To one present in the public gallery at the meeting of the ARB on 22 July it appeared that there were some hopeful signs that the Board would become more attentive to complying with the Act than (in the view of this beholder) it has lately been; but there were also signs that some of the momentum of previous mission drift was still at work.

The proposed revised code was presented with inadequate attention to consultation responses; and an attempt of the Working Group chairman to push it through by threatening to resign from continuing with the task merely reflected badly on his capacity for the job, a retired civil servant with no past or present experience as an architect or (apparently) of professional practice of any kind: it was clearly an embarrassment to the Board chairman and other Board members, and his bluster failed to rebuff one of the newly elected Board members whose concern about certain practical difficulties deserved better consideration.

Well-wishers for the profession and, in the words of the Act, for the users of architectural services and the general public, may have some expectation that the ARB could be on the way to finding its proper place in the scheme of things, with the aid of constant vigilance to restrain the expansive tendencies which were still evident in the agenda papers and remarks of some of the Board and the Registrar.

22 July 2009