

**Background Information:**

Following a CICAIR disciplinary hearing and subsequent appeal, a level three sanction has been issued to Assent Building Control. As a multi-licence business, we will continue to provide our services to clients, ensuring all projects will be managed as normal whilst we pursue a Judicial Review of this decision.

**FAQs:****Q. Are any live projects at risk?**

A. Assent currently has approximately 36,000 live projects. We would not consider any of these projects to be at risk as we have procedures in place to safeguard all of these projects to see them through to final completion/certification. We will also continue to accept new projects due to the multi-licence and regional structure of our business.

**Q. What's the project value of these contracts?**

A. The project value of both domestic and commercial projects is in excess of £2bn.

**Q. What went wrong in Luton?**

A. In 2016 Assent was appointed by the developer as the Approved Inspector for a new build residential building (flats) in Downs Road, Luton. On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018, two associates working on behalf of Assent issued a final building control certificate.

Upon subsequent investigation by the Local Authority (LBC), the building was believed to be not in compliance with the Building Act and the Building (Approved Inspectors) Regulations 2010. The work covered by the approval certificate was deemed not complete and it was believed the inspectors had not performed their functions as governed by the regulations.

**Q. Were lives put at risk due to the error?**

A. No. At no point were lives put at risk. The building has remained occupied throughout this case following Assent certification of the project, no Local Authority enforcement measures have been taken and notably at no point has the Local Authority required anyone to vacate the premises, even on a temporary basis.

**Q. What measures have you put in place to stop it happening again.**

A. Assent have a successful track record of continual improvement, providing the highest standard of service and as part of that process we have invested in resources, and improved systems/processes and training appropriately to ensure that we mitigate the risks of this happening again.

Subsequently Assent passed a CICAIR relicence audit in March 2019 and its CICAIR licence was renewed in May 2020. Assent also upheld its ISO9001 accreditation in 2020, which is reflective of the excellent systems and processes in place, adhering to both regulatory and industry best-practice.

**Q. Why has CICAIR decided to give Assent the most severe sanction?**

A. That is a question for CICAIR to answer. We trust in our systems and processes and most importantly our people. We are sure that the 2018 Luton issues were as a result of the actions of two individuals and not a true representation of how Assent operates. The Assent Group intends to continue to work constructively with CICAIR moving forwards, but respectfully suggests it made the wrong decision on this occasion.

**Q. Do you think the CICAIR process is fit for purpose?**

A. The process is one that the whole industry has to accept, and we have to work within that process like all other Approved Inspectors. There are some bigger questions to be asked around whether the process and sanctions guidance and Assent intends to pursue the appropriate channels to ensure the process is fit for the future. In the meantime, Assent will now follow the legal processes available to it to seek that the Appeal Decision be overturned.

**Q. Are your employees' jobs at risk?**

A. Assent has been operating and growing successfully for 16 years as a group of businesses operating regionally with multiple AI-licences. This ensures that we will continue to offer high quality approved inspector services for our clients and continue to be an exciting destination for talented people wanting a career in building control.