

Mr M Maynard
41 Liverpool Avenue
Ainsdale
Southport
PR8 3NP

30th October 2022

Dear Martin

Complaint made against Mr A Wood by Mr M Maynard

The complaint

The original complaint, made on 28th September by Mr Maynard, accused Mr Wood of ***being unfit to hold the position of controller or coordinator and of bringing RAYNET into disrepute by his presentations to members and the local resilience authorities from whom they received financial support.***

Mr Maynard's supporting documentation was submitted to Mr Mossop, the Zonal Co-ordinator, on the morning of 2 October, consisting of 17 pages and was received within the timescales set out. This was sent to Mr Wood for his response at 10:00 that day. Mr Maynard was advised of this at 10:21 when he engaged in another email thread. Following those email interactions, he stated that he was withdrawing his initial evidence at 15:19 even though he had been informed it was already in Mr Wood's hands. He re-submitted his revised documentation, now comprising of 30 pages at 18:41. He stated at the beginning that the revision was due to information that had come to light but did not include the email trail which provided that information.

Mr Mossop reviewed the second submission and highlighted the changed sections to assist Mr Wood in reading the changed segments and refine his response accordingly.

Evidence submitted in both documents by Mr Maynard appears not to support his allegation that Mr Wood is unfit to hold either post at group or county level. The submission from Mr Maynard cites some historic evidence from 2016, which was prior to Mr Wood's appointments to either post and clearly highlights that this difference of opinion has been ongoing for some time.

The fact that Mr Wood concluded an email of 14 September 2022 with the words "I would hope that we can continue to work together constructively but I would ask you not to be negative outside of RAYNET regarding Merseyside RAYNET's shortcomings, and perhaps adopt a more positive and constructive approach within RAYNET Merseyside" seems to indicate that Mr Wood was attempting to uphold the principles of RAYNET-UK's disciplinary and grievance procedure by adhering to the following

1.1 The disciplinary and grievance procedure is intended to be used as a means of assisting members to improve their performance or to settle any disputes which may exist between them. Where any such disputes arise, members are expected to settle their dispute in an amicable manner.

<https://raynetukoutlook.sharepoint.com/SitePages/Company-Documents.aspx>

Mr Wood strongly refuted the allegations made against him by Mr Maynard, stating he had kept the members informed via regular newsletters and had given a presentation at Merseyside LRF Exercise UNITY just prior to the

pandemic. Mr Maynard left Merseyside RAYNET in May 2020, rejoining in March 2022, and during this intervening period was not in receipt of the newsletters issued by the Merseyside County Committee and therefore was not party to their contents.

RAYNET Rules state:

5.1.e that a member shall not to act maliciously, deliberately or recklessly so as to cause any organisation or individual who is not a member of the Company to broadcast or form a denigratory or misleading opinion of the Company, its activities or of any of its members.

Mr Maynard had objected to the presentation given to Merseyside LRF Exercise UNITY but did not cite his reasons for doing so. However, Mr Wood submitted evidence that on occasions, Mr Maynard had not been "open and transparent regarding a possible conflict of his private business with RAYNET activities" and that he had not disclosed his company's involvement in providing handheld radios for running events, misleading, either intentionally or unintentionally, the organiser to believe the radios had been hired from RAYNET.

Mr Wood has proved beyond reasonable doubt that Merseyside RAYNET has played a full and pro-active role in recent exercises and activities with the LRF, as well as weekly remote checks of the MEARL fixed repeater output power level and receive sensitivity.

In summary

Having reviewed the substantial submissions from both parties, the Committee of Management, at a specially convened meeting on 28th September 2022 at 2000hrs concluded that there is insufficient evidence from the complainant to suggest Mr Wood is unfit to hold the post of Wirral Group Controller or Merseyside County Co-ordinator, or that of bringing RAYNET into disrepute by his representations to members and the local resilience authorities.

The Committee of Management also recognised that this is, in essence, a clash between two members of the organisation with differing views and that both parties should have reasonably been expected to settle their dispute in an amicable manner. This has however, been a long-running disagreement and it is regrettably that this matter has been brought to the attention of CoM after a prolonged period, resulting in the expenditure of considerable time and effort of the part of its Directors/Trustees in order to digest the documents submitted, discuss and formulate a conclusion.

Committee of Management decision

The Committee of Management consider there to have been insufficient evidence to substantiate the complaint.

The accusations made by Mr Maynard are therefore not upheld and the complaint is **dismissed**.

The decision of the Committee of Management is final.

Yours sincerely



Chairman/Company Secretary

cc: Mr A Wood