

From: English, Rob [R.English@napier.ac.uk]
Sent: 31 January 2013 13:51
To: tom1@dr rheology.com
Subject: Personal reference statement

Dear Tom,

In response to your request for a personal/professional reference, please see below. I'd be happy to provide more detail if required.

To whom it may concern: Mr Tom Dobbie

I am writing to provide a statement on the request of the above, outlining my opinions on his past professional standing and also my perception of the effects of recent events in Mr Dobbie's personal life on his capabilities to provide professional services through his business. I have known Tom well for around 10 years, in both a professional and personal capacity.

Mr Dobbie's company, DrRheology Ltd, was previously my principal supplier of scientific instrumentation and engineering design services - both in my current role as Professor of Materials Chemistry in the Forest Products Research Institute (FPRI) at Edinburgh Napier University and in my previous academic appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Water Soluble Polymers at Glyndwr University, Wrexham. This included supply of instrumentation and equipment, joint consultancy work and interaction through European grant funded projects. My scientific work spans the interface between materials chemistry and chemical engineering, and in my current role I manage the relationship with ENUs largest commercial sponsor. Prior to his recent personal difficulties, Mr Dobbie was the principal subcontractor on this project, responsible for the bespoke design, construction and maintenance of several key pieces of instrumentation/processing equipment.

I have been aware of Tom's background and his international reputation in rheometry and polymer engineering since before I knew him personally, through his past Directorships at Rosand Precision, Zwick and Porpoise Viscometers. Rosand, in particular, are a globally recognised brand in scientific instrumentation and the majority of academic/industrial polymer engineering labs still use a Rosand rheometer. Tom was extremely well regarded for his contributions to instrument design and applications support. During my interactions with Tom, he was always well regarded by members of my research team, as being very supportive and generous in the time he gave freely in supporting research students and early career researchers. This typically involved hands on training, seminars and provision of notes and reading material.

The ongoing legal conflicts linked to the breakdown of Tom's marriage have clearly had a profound effect on his capabilities to deliver professional services through his business. It was with great regret that our main commercial sponsor and I made the decision towards the end of 2011 to action the termination of our interaction with Tom. This was linked to his inability to satisfy contractually agreed deliverables over a period of several months - a situation that was completely out of character in comparison to my usual experience of working closely with Tom.

In addition my professional links to Tom, I would also say that I know him well personally/socially and have visited his home on numerous occasions over many years. Outside of work, it's obvious that Tom's main concern is his children and their welfare and education.

I would be happy to provide further information regarding this matter as required.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Rob English

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