

Why Ethics Standards Are of Limited Use on Their Own for Professionals Working in Land, Property and Construction – and If to Be Effective How Such Standards Need to Be Embedded, Monitored and Regulated Against by Professional Bodies.

Gary Strong (United Kingdom)

Key words: Education; Legislation; Professional practice; Risk management; Standards; FIG Ethics; business practice; trust; standards; International Ethical Standards (IES); client and public protection; implementation; regulation.

SUMMARY

In 2015 I delivered a paper which explored the opportunities and very real benefits that could be afforded not only to professionals working in land, property and construction surveying but also to clients, the public and society more generally by the setting, promotion and monitoring of international standards on ethics.

□

Trust between businesses and society is still at a low point and there is a real danger that focusing on targets and regulations can drive dysfunctional and unethical behaviour.

However, a code of ethics on its own is potentially of limited use and this paper takes the subject further focusing on the following issues:

- Is just having ethics standards enough? – do you produce standards and leave it at that?

Will that really get buy in?

What does adoption look like and what are the risks to an organisations or country's reputation if people just pay lip service?

- An update on the important work that has been undertaken in the last year by the International Ethics Standards (IES) coalition and the increasing interest in this project from varying organisations, stakeholders and governments inc the UN and World Bank. The IES are due to be published in Dec 2016, and all 100+ members of the Coalition (inc FIG) are committed

Why Ethics Standards Are of Limited Use on Their Own for Professionals Working in Land, Property and Construction – and If to Be Effective How Such Standards Need to Be Embedded, Monitored and Regulated Against by Professional Bodies. (8705)
Gary Strong (United Kingdom)

FIG Working Week 2017

Surveying the world of tomorrow - From digitalisation to augmented reality
Helsinki, Finland, May 29–June 2, 2017

definitions of what is ethical, how the various members will be challenged to implement IES.

- How FIG Commission 1 intend to provide guidance across our many diverse types of members working in different fields of surveying.
- How are FIG intending to get the message across to members across the world and how we are looking to embed ethics standards into our constituent professional bodies membership requirements, training and (critically) regulation.
- Should compliance with ethics standards be reactive or proactively measured?

Ethical behaviours by professionals is critical to both business, consumers and society in general but what more needs to be done to continue trying to change what for many is 'normal business practice'.

We intend in FIG Commission 1 to build on the growing interest generated in KL in 2014, Sofia in 2015, New Zealand in 2016, and the International Ethics Standards Coalition of over 100 professional bodies globally who have now come together on this topic, to hold a workshop in Helsinki to hear updates from countries and their representatives about real life examples of ethical issues they face as surveyors in their geographies.

This insight will help the FIG Commission 1 Working Group shape the new FIG Ethics Code which will be a major feature of the workplan for 2014-18 as it will be based on the International Ethics Standard about to be published in late 2016.

Why Ethics Standards Are of Limited Use on Their Own for Professionals Working in Land, Property and Construction – and If to Be Effective How Such Standards Need to Be Embedded, Monitored and Regulated Against by Professional Bodies. (8705)
Gary Strong (United Kingdom)

FIG Working Week 2017
Surveying the world of tomorrow - From digitalisation to augmented reality
Helsinki, Finland, May 29–June 2, 2017