

**Report to Association of Professional Political Consultants (“APPC”)
Management Committee September 2008
by Members of the Professional Practices Panel
Convened to Hear the Complaint against Morgan Allen Moore
made by Mr James Davenport**

1. The Professional Practices Panel was constituted by the APPC under the APPC “Complaints, Arbitration and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures” (“The APPC Rules”) to determine a complaint made against Morgan Allen Moore, an APPC member, by a member of the public, James Davenport. It met on 17 March 2008 and concluded that there was a prima facie case for investigating whether Morgan Allen Moore had breached the APPC Code of Conduct, as per the complaint made by Mr James Davenport. A hearing was arranged for 2 May 2008.
2. The Panel was informed on 24 April that Morgan Allen Moore were taking legal action against the complainant and, in accordance with the APPC Rules, the Panel suspended its proceedings.
3. The Panel was then informed on 12 August 2008 that the complainant had written to APPC (letter dated 5 August) withdrawing his allegations without reservation and formally requesting that they be struck from the record.
4. The Panel notes that the APPC Rules do not provide for a complaint to be unilaterally withdrawn. However, the Panel has decided to dismiss the complaint, as no useful purpose would be served by insisting that it re-convene to determine the complaint.
5. The Panel notes that expense has been incurred in dealing with Mr Davenport’s complaint.
6. The Panel also notes that, before the Panel proceedings started, the complainant gave a written undertaking to APPC to be bound by the APPC Rules, including clause 17 in respect of costs, which was drawn to his attention.
7. In the light of the withdrawal in the circumstances of this case, the Panel has also decided that the complainant should pay the cost of the disciplinary proceedings wasted by the withdrawal. This expense consists at least of the fees of the Panel members. To the extent that Morgan Allen Moore has incurred professional legal fees and reasonable incidental expenses in dealing with Mr Davenport’s complaint to the APPC in the context of the APPC determination under the APPC Rules, but not otherwise, these will be included and be payable by Mr Davenport to Morgan Allen Moore.

Lord Butler of Brockwell

Alan Jenkins

Rachel Rowson