

**Disciplinary Inquiry**  
Case no.: 2022/00246/01

Defendant:

Ms. Cheng Wing Yin 鄭穎賢, Registration No. ST00246

Investigation Panel members:

Dr. Lau Ka Ming, Chairperson of the Preliminary Investigation Committee

Dr. TO Kit Sum Carol, Speech Therapist

Mr. CHING Victor Wing Tak, Lay Member

**Summary of the case**

1. HKIST received a written complaint about a possible breach of *Code of Ethics for Speech Therapy in Hong Kong* (Code of Ethics) and *Scope of Practice for Speech Therapy in Hong Kong* (Scope of Practice) against the defendant on 24 March 2022.
2. The Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) considered the complaint to be a case requiring further investigation and an Investigation Panel was formed.
3. The defendant was informed of the complaint, and she provided a written reply related to this complaint on 1 June 2022.
4. The Investigation Panel held a meeting on 24 June 2022.
5. HKIST Professional Council received the report on the complaint from the PIC, endorsed the following outcome of the investigation and recommended disciplinary actions.

**Outcome of the investigation**

6. The complaint is upheld. There had been:
  - **a breach** of Code of Ethics 2.6 (Ethics Principle: Maintain at all times the professional knowledge and practice and acknowledge the limits of these).
  - **a breach** of Code of Ethics 6.1 (Advertising and Publicity: Advertising or publicity must be honest and truthful. It must not contain any statement or implication which cannot be substantiated).
  - **a breach** of Scope of Practice 2.0 (Speech therapists are defined as the professionals who practise in the areas of communication and swallowing across the lifespan ... Speech therapists are ethically bound to perform services that are appropriate to their levels of education, training, competency, skills and proficiency with respect to the roles identified within this scope of practice document).

**Findings of the PIC**

7. Evidence of a breach of Code of Ethics 2.6: The PIC agreed that only individuals with appropriate training and expertise should gain access to or administer the Wechsler Intelligence Scale(s). Ms. Cheng Wing Yin did not provide credentials demonstrating such training and expertise. There was evidence showing that Ms. Cheng Wing Yin had advertised the content of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale(s).
8. Evidence of a breach of Code of Ethics 6.1: The PIC agreed that the information about the relationship between speech rate/ expressive language abilities and attention, which Ms. Cheng Wing Yin did not provide any supporting evidence, might mislead the public.
9. Evidence of a breach of Scope of Practice 2.0: The PIC agreed that the claim of training on the five domains of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale(s) were out of the current scope of practice of speech therapists.

10. The PIC concerned that the test item(s) of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale(s) had been disclosed to the public before removal from the internet by Ms. Cheng Wing Yin, though insufficient evidence could be collected at this stage.

**Decision on disciplinary actions**

11. The complaint is categorized as minor breach.
12. Ms. Cheng Wing Yin has not been the subject of any previous disciplinary order. There was no evidence of this case involving fraud or harm done to clients. This case appeared to be an isolated case.
13. The Professional Council noted that Ms. Cheng Wing Yin, in her response to the PIC, admitted responsibility by removing the related content involving alleged breach of the Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice from the internet at a very early stage.
14. In light of all of the above, the Professional Council has decided to issue a written warning to Ms. Cheng Wing Yin.

Dr. Lau Ka Ming  
Chairperson of the Preliminary Investigation Committee  
Hong Kong Institute of Speech Therapists Limited

9 June 2023