

The CIOB and ethics

Ethics and ethical behaviour are central to professionalism. It does not matter how skilled and experienced a person becomes: if they behave dishonestly and without regard for the rights of others, they are not a professional person.

If you have progressed to the point where you are to be interviewed for membership of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), you have already reached a point where you can be justly proud of your expertise and achievements. In addition to becoming a Chartered Builder, you must also commit to upholding the standing of your profession. Most importantly, you must understand your responsibility to comply with the CIOB Rules and Regulations of Professional Competence and Conduct.

Ethical behaviour is not an area that always offers easy answers. Sometimes, there is no clear 'right' or 'wrong' in real life situations. There will be times, where as a professional, you have to make difficult choices, and members of your interviewing panel will understand this. However, what will be expected is that you take the time to think about your commitment to the Rules and Regulations of Professional Competence and Conduct, and that you are able to express an understanding of the importance of ethics in Construction.

Questions that you might like to consider before your interview

- Have you ever been in a professional situation where you were unsure of the correct course of action? How did you resolve this?
- Why is ethical behaviour in construction important? Where can our choices make the most profound impact on society?
- What is your personal opinion of the Rules and Regulations of Professional Competence and Conduct? If you were writing it, is there anything you would change?
- Can you think of a current industry initiative that might impact the ethics of the Construction industry? What is your opinion of this?
- What do you think is the most important ethical issue for the industry to address, and why?

There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, except insofar as all members are expected to adhere to the values of honesty, fairness and regard for the interests of others. The CIOB's core requirement of its Members is that they should be able to demonstrate that they understand the importance of professional integrity. At your interview, you will be expected to show that you have thought about these issues, and that you understand what the Rules and Regulations of Professional Competence and Conduct will expect of you as a CIOB member. Prepare yourself thoroughly for this area of the interview, as a candidate who cannot convince the Panel that they take these duties seriously will not be admitted to membership.

Read the Rules and Regulations of Professional Competence prior to applying for your interview. These can be found at www.ciob.org.uk/about/royalcharter.



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