

# IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

**CAUSE NOS: FSD 195, 196 AND 197 OF 2019 (RPJ)** 

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 124 OF THE COMPANIES LAW (2020 REVISION)

AND

IN THE MATTERS OF PARAGON HOLDING SCS 2 LTD. (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION), PARAGON HOLDING SCS 1 LTD. (IN OFFICIAL LIQUIDATION) AND PARAGON OFFSHORE

**IN CHAMBERS** 

Appearance: Mr Malachi Sweetman, Maples and Calder

Before: The Hon. Justice Parker

Heard: 7 September 2020

**Oral Ruling** 

Delivered: 7 September 2020

**Ex Tempore** 

Ruling Delivered: 28 September 2020

### Headnote

Summons for Dissolution – Section 124 of the Companies Law (2020 Revision) – dispensing with publishing notice of hearing – dissolution of companies – discharge of JOLs – refund of filing fees



# Ruling on Refund of Filing Fees

## Introduction

- 1. By Summons filed on the 28 July 2020, Messrs Mike Penner and Grant Hiley, the Joint Official Liquidators (the "JOLs") of Paragon Holding SCS 1 Ltd., Paragon Holding SCS 2 Ltd and Paragon Offshore Finance Company (each a "Company" and together the "Companies") applied to this Honourable Court for the following orders:
  - 1.1. That each Company be dissolved with immediate effect;
  - 1.2. That the requirement under Order 22 Rule 1(3) of the Companies Winding Up Rules 2018 (the "CWR") for the JOLs to publish a notice of the dissolution hearing be dispensed with in accordance with Order 1 Rule 4(1B) of the CWR;
  - 1.3. That the JOLs be discharged as official liquidators of the Companies and released from the performance of any further duties as JOLs of the Companies; and
  - 1.4. That the filing fees for the supervision applications for two of the three Companies be refunded to the JOLs in accordance with Rule 6(5) of the Court Fees Rules 2009 (as amended) ("Rule 6(5)").
- 2. This is my ex tempore Ruling in relation to the JOLs' application for the refund of filing fees and arises in the context of orders that I previously granted on 14 October 2019 (the "Orders"). Pursuant to the Orders, the applications for each Company were consolidated "so that only one set of fees shall be payable in respect of the three applications, in accordance with rule 6(5) of the Court Fees Rules 2009 (as amended)."

### **Submissions**

- 3. Maples and Calder, on behalf of the JOLs and in light of the Orders, applied to the Court seeking a refund for two of the three filing fees for these matters. By way of email dated 19 February 2020, the Clerk of the Court responded by that "the consolidation and purpose of Rule 6(5) [of the Court Fees Rules 2009] only applies with respect to further applications and filings." As the question of whether Rule 6(5) applies to filing application fees has now arisen on a number of different occasions, and as urged by the JOLs' counsel, I believe it would be beneficial to correct the position under Rule 6(5) in this respect.
- 4. Rule 6(5) provides that

"Where multiple applications are made under the Companies Law simultaneously in respect of two or more related companies, a Commercial Judge may direct that the applications be



treated as consolidated for the purposes of these Rules so that only one set of fees shall be payable."

#### **Decision**

- 5. In my judgment, it is obvious that Rule 6(5) caters for a situation where there are multiple applications made simultaneously in respect of two or more related companies and that the Court can direct that they be treated as consolidated so that only one set of fees should be payable. As laid out above, I previously ordered in this matter that the applications of each Company should be treated as consolidated so that only one set of fees should be payable in respect of the three companies. The Orders were granted appropriately with the powers defined in Rule 6(5). The issue presented before me is one based upon previous applications and filings. It seems to me that Rule 6(5) is not limited to further applications and filings. That would be illogical because the Orders have already said that only one set of fees should be payable in respect of the three applications. This is consistent in the circumstances where there are multiple applications and should be treated as consolidated so only one set of fees is payable.
- 6. Mr Sweetman, counsel for the JOLs, referred me to an informal written ruling made by Justice Segal in *Premium Point Master Mortgage Credit Fund Ltd (In Official Liquidation)* FSD 241 of 2017, the context of which is similar to this matter. Justice Segal, in his informal ruling, stated:
  - "It seems to me that where there will in effect only be three sets of proceedings (because each sub-group will be dealt with together) it is appropriate to charge only three fees. Furthermore, I see no reason why the Court cannot order that the excess fees be refunded."
- 7. It seems to me that Justice Segal's informal ruling in *Premium Point* provides further support for the JOLs' interpretation of Rule 6(5) as a refund was obtained once the Court considered that consolidation was appropriate. It would seem just to me that the filing fees for the supervision applications for two of the three companies ought to be refunded in accordance with Rule 6(5). I therefore order that the filing fees for the supervision applications for two of the three companies be refunded in accordance with Rule 6(5) of the Court Fee Rules 2009.

THE HON. RAJ PARKER

JUDGE OF THE GRAND COURT