COMP3056 Professional Ethics in Computing

Seminar 3 Guide Answers

These are some ways the BCS Code of Conduct is related to the scenario. As usual in ethics, some of these comments are open to discussion.

1. Public Interest

You shall:
   a. have due regard for public health, privacy, security and wellbeing of others and the environment.
      Not relevant.

   b. have due regard for the legitimate rights of Third Parties.
      Not relevant.

   c. conduct your professional activities without discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, colour, race, ethnic origin, religion, age or disability, or of any other condition or requirement.
      No evidence this is relevant.

   d. promote equal access to the benefits of IT and seek to promote the inclusion of all sectors in society wherever opportunities arise.
      Possibly, overpricing of software may make it less accessible.

2. **Professional Competence and Integrity**

You shall:
   a. only undertake to do work or provide a service that is within your professional competence.
      Competence does not seem to be an issue.

   b. **NOT** claim any level of competence that you do not possess.
      Possibly, Naz does not have the competence to understand the claim Ping is making, but claims to understand her solution.

   c. develop your professional knowledge, skills and competence on a continuing basis, maintaining awareness of technological developments, procedures, and standards that are relevant to your field.
      No direct relevance.

   d. ensure that you have the knowledge and understanding of Legislation and that you comply with such Legislation, in carrying out your professional responsibilities.
      This does not seem to be a legal issue.

   e. respect and value alternative viewpoints and, seek, accept and offer honest criticisms of work.

> Naz has failed to respect and value Ping's considered view and dismisses it too readily.

    f. avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious or negligent action or inaction.
> Naz's response is injurious to the clients who are knowingly overcharged. This is false and may eventually lead to reputational risk for ApricotCode if the misinformation is discovered.

    g. reject and will not make any offer of bribery or unethical inducement.
> Not relevant.

3. **Duty to Relevant Authority**

You shall:

    a. carry out your professional responsibilities with due care and diligence in accordance with the Relevant Authority's requirements whilst exercising your professional judgement at all times.
> - The relevant authorities here are ApricotCode and Whizz Engineering.
> - Naz has certainly not behaved with due care to either since he has knowingly lied to the clients.
> - There is an argument that he has considered the interests of ApricotCode by ensuring higher income for the software change for the company. However, this is outweighed by the potential reputational damage and civil action that may follow.
> - Arguably, at the end of scenario, Ping has also behaved inappropriately since she has chosen to remain silent rather than raising the issue at a higher level of management at ApricotCode.

    b. seek to avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest between you and your Relevant Authority.
> Not relevant.

    c. accept professional responsibility for your work and for the work of colleagues who are defined in a given context as working under your supervision.
> Naz has taken responsibility for the decision.

    d. **NOT** disclose or authorise to be disclosed, or use for personal gain, or to benefit a third party, confidential information except with the permission of your Relevant Authority, or as required by Legislation.
> Not relevant.

    e. **NOT** misrepresent or withhold information on the performance of products, systems or services (unless lawfully bound by a duty of confidentiality not to disclose such information), or take advantage of the lack of relevant knowledge or inexperience of others.
> This is the main code that has been clearly broken primarily by Naz as project leader, since Whizz do not understand the system well and rely on ApricotCode**.**

4. **Duty to the Profession**

You shall:

a. accept your personal duty to uphold the reputation of the profession and not take any action which could bring the profession into disrepute.
   - Naz's actions are ethically wrong and bring the profession into disrepute.
   - Given that Ping is a graduate programmer, and tried to raise the issue, arguably she cannot be accused of unprofessionalism.

b. seek to improve professional standards through participation in their development, use and enforcement.
   Not relevant here.

c. uphold the reputation and good standing of BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT.
   Not too relevant here.

d. act with integrity and respect in your professional relationships with all members of BCS and with members of other professions with whom you work in a professional capacity.
   Naz has not behaved with integrity with employees in Whizz Engineering.

e. encourage and support fellow members in their professional development.
   Naz is not giving Ping a good example and hence is not supporting her professional development.