



Federation of Master Builders

Claims examples



Debt Recovery

A policyholder contacted us after they were unable to recover £1,156 for renovation work they carried out on a hotel. Despite numerous demands for payment, the debt had not been settled. We appointed a solicitor to pursue the debt on their behalf. The hotel settled the debt as soon as court proceedings were served on them.

The legal costs of £941 were paid by DAS.

Property Protection

Following a period of heavy rain, a warehouse rented by our insured became flooded. The roof had been reported to the landlord as leaking several months previous to this. Our insured, a building company, filed a claim for flood damaged building materials to the value of £19,000.

We appointed a solicitor to act on their behalf. The solicitor entered negotiations with the landlord and liability was admitted resulting in full payment for the damaged materials being made to our insured.

Tax Protection

During a routine inspection by HM Revenue & Customs, an incorrect return was discovered and our policyholder subsequently became the subject of a Full Enquiry. Following our appointed accountant's investigation of the policyholder's business, bank accounts and property matters, a settlement was reached. This entailed two minor technical adjustments but no interest or penalties.

DAS paid the accountant's costs incurred during this complicated case which amounted to £8,929.

Employment Dispute

Our insured was a building supplies company whose former employee filed a claim for constructive dismissal on the basis of sexual discrimination. She alleged that she was verbally harassed by two managers of the company. We appointed a solicitor to act on our insured's behalf, the case then proceeded to tribunal. At tribunal the employee's case was struck out on the grounds that the claim was insufficiently pleaded.

DAS paid the legal costs of £1,000.

Legal Defence

The insured was prosecuted under the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) after failing to provide safe working conditions for his employees during the construction of a roof. Unfortunately, two employees fell through the roof, one of whom was injured. The insurer appointed solicitors, who, after examination of the case advised that the insured had no alternative but to plead guilty. The offences carried a potential maximum fine of £20,000.

Full application of the penalty would probably have caused the insured's business to close with loss of employment. A plea in mitigation was made and the insured was fined £2,000. Legal costs in supporting our insured, paid by the insurer, exceeded £1,300.

Bodily Injury

Our policyholder's employee tripped and fell badly whilst unloading his lorry and sustained a serious fracture to his ankle. The policyholder contacted DAS to make a claim of negligence against the third party. Medical reports obtained from the orthopaedic surgeon concluded that the employee would never again have full use of the ankle and would always experience some degree of pain. The third party refused to accept liability and the case went to court.

The case was won and a £13,000 compensation payment was ordered. Legal costs of £3,500 were met by DAS.

