

Checklist:

Should similar fact evidence be taken into account?

Work through this checklist to determine if the evidence should be considered in your analysis. You should be able to tick every box for the similar fact evidence to be acknowledged.

- Is the similar fact evidence relevant to the allegations being investigated? *(relevant)*
- Does the similar fact evidence really help me to know whether the respondent behave as alleged, or not, and in the way alleged? *(probative)*
- Is the evidence of good quality? That is, it should show more than a vague tendency, a coincidence of no real significance or be a personal opinion about the respondent's character. *(reliable)*
- Does this evidence do less damage to the respondent than it does help me to make the right decision about the alleged conduct? *(not overly prejudicial)*
- Did I give the respondent an opportunity to respond to that evidence before I took it into account?

Be Aware: *Due to the potential risks associated with this sort of evidence, it is always preferable to obtain direct evidence about the allegations at hand.*