



NEW ZEALAND
LAW SOCIETY

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8 July 2014

Private and confidential

Mr Paul Stichbury

By email: paulstichbury@gmail.com

Dear Mr Stichbury

New Zealand Law Society website

Thank you for your email letter dated 7 July 2014.

In your letter you raise concerns about certain content found on the Law Society's website relating to the employment histories of Judge Kenderdine and Judge Gittos. The matters you refer to have been raised with the Law Society's Communications Manager and I hope my comments below clarify matters.

The article you refer to appears in the Law Society's relatively new "Recent Movements" section and was prepared by our Communications department staff. You have indicated your view that the relevant material contains false information and was prepared with a view to perpetuating fraudulent activity.

Such an allegation is not accepted. The Law Society takes its responsibility to ensure that any material it publishes is accurate and impartial extremely seriously.

The article to which you refer was prepared with the sole intention of providing information to the public and the legal profession about individuals who had received honours in the Queen's birthday list. There was a need to prepare the article expeditiously so that information was accessible to those who were interested following the release of the List. I am advised that three publically available website sources were used to compile the information.

There appears to be a missing full stop in the hyper- link that appears in your email and this would explain the error message. If you add in the full stop at the end of the link, it should take you to the correct page.

If you have concerns about the conduct of any judge or queries about warrant or judicial tenure issues then those matters may be raised with the Judicial Conduct Commissioner or enquiry made through the Courts division of the Ministry of Justice (<http://www.jcc.govt.nz/> and <http://www.justice.govt.nz/courts>).

In your letter you also raise concerns about litigation related to the Turitea wind farm. The Law Society is unable to intervene or comment on Court matters or provide legal advice. However, if you have specific concerns about the conduct of any lawyer, the Law Society has a Lawyers Complaints Service. There is information about this process on the Law Society's website at <https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/for-the-community/lawyers-complaints-service>.

You have raised a number of questions at the end of your letter. The information provided above addresses the majority of these queries.

However, in relation to the matters you raise about the justice system in New Zealand, the Law Society is committed to ensuring that the rule of law is able to flourish and the values you refer to are never lost sight of. Significant work is undertaken every day in this area through our Law Reform committees. We also note that you have raised your concerns with the Attorney-General.

You have also asked whether any lawyer in practice does not have a current practising certificate. Under the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006 no person providing regulated services may call themselves a 'lawyer' or similar who does not hold a current practising certificate. The Law Society actively enforces the provisions of that Act to ensure that the consumer protection focus of the legislation is met.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Law Society.

Yours sincerely



Charlotte Walker
Senior Solicitor Regulatory.