[2021] NZPSPLA 016 Case Number 0012359 / 2016 & 003087 / 18

IN THE MATTER OF A complaint made under ss 73 & 74 of the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010

<u>AGAINST</u>

ANIL SINGH & 24/7 PATROLS & GUARDS LIMITED

Respondent

DECISION

[1] The Police have laid a complaint against Anil Singh and his company 24/7 Patrols & Guards Limited. They have outlined a series of interactions they have had with Mr Singh since he was granted a certificate in 2016 which they say shows that Mr Singh is no longer suitable to be a certificate holder. The Police are asking for the cancellation of Mr Singh's certificate of approval and 24/7 Patrols & Guards licence.

[2] Mr Singh has not responded to the Police complaint other than to say that his company is no longer operating and that he is not currently working in security. However, he wants to retain his certificate, so he can return to work in the security industry.

[3] The complaint was heard on 31 March 2021. Mr Singh did not attend the hearing but arrived after the hearing concluded and asked for an adjournment, so he could present evidence in his support. I advised Mr Singh that I would consider holding a further hearing provided he filed a written response to the Police by 30 April 2021. Mr Singh has neither filed the information directed, nor requested an extension of the timetable for him to do so.

- [4] The issues I need to decide are:
 - Is Mr Singh still suitable to be a security worker because of his character, circumstances of background?
 - If not, should his certificate and 24/7 Patrols & Guards' licence be cancelled, or some other disciplinary action taken?

Mr Singh's suitability to carry on a security business

[5] The Police advise that Mr Singh has a history of failing to comply with court directed sanctions, breaching bail and failing to appear in court. They note the following:

- In the last three years Mr Singh has been charged with several drug offences. While he has not been convicted on any of these charges on at least three occasions during the progression of these charges Mr Singh failed to appear on scheduled court dates and warrants were issued for his arrest. During one of the warrant searches Mr Singh was found hiding in a closet.
- In June 2020 Mr Singh was arrested for breaching his bail conditions not to drive a motor vehicle.

- In February 2020 Mr Singh was charged with driving while his licence was suspended or revoked. He did not appear on the scheduled date and a warrant for arrest was issued. He was convicted of the charge on 17 December 2020.
- In 22 December 2020 Mr Singh was again convicted of driving while his licence was suspended or revoked. Mr Singh also failed to appear on a scheduled court date for this matter and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

[6] The Police also advise that they have received several other complaints about Mr Singh some of which have resulted in warnings being issued. These include:

- In April 2020 Mr Singh received a warning for visiting a friend and breaching Level 4 Covid lock down.
- On 7 June 2018 Mr Singh received a verbal warning in relation to common assault. During a verbal confrontation at his workplace Mr Singh grabbed an employee around the neck of his jumper and pulled him out of the office
- In November 2017 Mr Singh was warned after he became aggressive at a cardealers and punched a man in the face.
- Mr Singh's previous employees have laid complaints of assault and racial abuse against Mr Singh.
- Mr Singh is known to associate with members of the Killer Beez and was the passenger in a stolen vehicle with a Killer Beez member which was stopped and drugs, fire arms and ammunition was found in the car.

[7] The Police say that the nature and frequency of their interactions with Mr Singh establishes that he is no longer suitable to hold a company licence or to be a responsible security employee in any class.

[8] None of the incidents outlined by the Police in themselves establish that Mr Singh is no longer suitable to be a security worker. However, the frequency and nature of the incidents when considered together, raise serious concerns about his suitability to be a certificate holder and whether Mr Singh can work cooperatively with the Police as security workers are required to do. Some of the incidents outlined by the police regarding Mr Singh's actions towards employees, could also amount to misconduct.

[9] I therefore accept that Mr Singh's recent history, particularly relating to failing to comply with court-imposed sanctions and having multiple warrants for his arrest issued because of failure to appear in court, makes him unsuitable to be a responsible security worker or to run a security business.

Should Mr Singh's certificate and 24/7 Patrols & Guards licence be cancelled

[10] Being no longer suitable to carry on a security business or to be a responsible security employee is a discretionary ground for cancellation of a licence under s 80(aa) of the Act and cancellation of a certificate under s 83(ab) of the Act.

[11] Mr Singh has not provided any information to suggest that he has learnt form his mistakes or that he is more likely to comply with court-imposed sanctions or summons in the future. He has failed to comply with any directions or timetables set in conjunction with these complaint proceedings.

[12] In addition to the issues outlined above there are further matters that raise questions as to Mr Singh's integrity and his ability to run a security company. Mr Singh was previously associated with 24/7 Security Services Limited which was placed into liquidation owing 1.6 million dollars to Inland Revenue as well as debts to the bank and other unsecured creditors. While the company was, at least on paper, owned by his wife it was Mr Singh who ran the business.

[13] In April 2019 Mr Singh filed a company officer form purporting to be a company officer of his father's new company 24/7 Security Guards & Patrols NZ Limited. The company was relying on Anil Singh's experience and training to qualify for a company licence. However, in a later CIPU investigation Mr Singh accepted he was not, and never had been a director or company officer of his father's company.

[14] After considering all the information before me I conclude that it is appropriate to cancel Mr Singh's certificate and 24/7 Patrols & Guards' licence.

Summary & Conclusion

[15] Mr Singh is no longer suitable to carry on the class of business to which his certificate and 24/7 Patrols & Guards Limited's licence relates because of his character, circumstances and background. I therefore make the following orders:

- a) Mr Singh's certificate of approval is cancelled effective from the date of this order.
- b) 24/7 Patrols & Guards Limited company licence is cancelled effective from the date of this order.
- c) Mr Singh is to return his official ID to the Licensing Authority within seven days of receipt of this order.

DATED at Wellington this 24th day of May 2021

