

**IN THE MATTER OF**

A complaint made under ss 74 of the  
Private Security Personnel and Private  
Investigators Act 2010

**AGAINST**

**LALOA TAVANAVANUA**

Certificate Holder

**HEARD** on 9 June 2021

**APPEARANCES**

Sgt C Brooks, for NZ Police  
L Tavanavanua – no appearance

**DECISION**

[1] The Police have laid a complaint against Laloa Tavanavanua. They have given evidence on a series of incidents involving Mr Tavanavanua in the last 2 ½ years which they say shows that Mr Tavanavanua is no longer suitable to be a certificate holder.

[2] The Police have provided CCTV footage of the most recent incident when Mr Tavanavanua argued with security guards at the Sky City Casino and refused to leave when he was denied entry. When the Police arrived, he was uncooperative and needed to be handcuffed to be removed. At the time Mr Tavanavanua was intoxicated and advised the Police he had used “Molly” which is the street name for MDMA. Following this incident Mr Tavanavanua was given a formal warning for disorderly behaviour.

[3] Sergeant Brooks advised that it is important for the right people to be working in security in Queenstown given the current challenges being experienced within the hospitality area. He says that Mr Tavanavanua is no longer suitable to be a security worker given his tendency to violence. Mr Tavanavanua also has issues with alcohol and drugs which he needs to address to continue working in security.

[4] I am satisfied that Mr Tavanavanua is no longer suitable to be a security guard given his tenancy towards violence particularly after drinking or mixing drugs and alcohol. Drug and alcohol abuse are not a desirable characteristic for a security guard particularly in an area like Queenstown where most of the security work is at venues where alcohol is sold or readily available. Mr Tavanavanua has also demonstrated aggressive and inappropriate behaviour towards both other security workers and the Police which raises further concerns about his suitability to work in security.

[5] Being no longer suitable to be a security worker is a discretionary ground for cancelling Mr Tavanavanua’s certificate under s 83(ab) of the Act. However, as none of the incidents about which the Police have provided evidence occurred while Mr Tavanavanua was working, I consider a term of suspension is more appropriate than cancellation. This will enable Mr Tavanavanua to undergo further training and address his alcohol issues.

[6] Mr Tavanavanua can apply to have his certificate reinstated prior to the suspension period ending if no further matters of concern have arising for at least 12 months and he can provide evidence that he has addressed his alcohol and drug issues and undertaken further training.

[7] I therefore make the following orders:

- a) The Police have established that Mr Tavanavanua is no longer suitable to carry on business as a crowd controller, property guard and personal guard because of his character, circumstances and background.
- b) Mr Tavanavanua's certificate of approval is suspended for a period of 2 years from the date of this decision.
- c) Mr Tavanavanua may apply to have his certificate of approval reinstated within the two-year period if he:
  - Has not been involved in any further incidents of violence or aggression that have come to the notice of the Police for at least 12 months
  - Provides evidence that he has addressed his alcohol and drug abuse issues, and
  - Has completed further anti-violence counselling or training on de-escalation techniques

**DATED** at Wellington this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021

  
P A McConnell  
**Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority**

