

IN THE MATTER OF

Complaint by the **POLICE** under s 74
of the Private Security Personnel and
Private Investigators Act 2010 against
GOERGE PIKAAHU

HEARD at Auckland on 30 June 2021

APPEARANCES

Snr Constable C Thomas – NZ Police
G Pikaahu – No appearance

DECISION

[1] The Police have filed a complaint against George Pikaahu as they say that since being granted his certificate of approval, he has become a patched member of the Rebels motorcycle club. In support of the complaint the Police have filed expert evidence about gangs in New Zealand and a photograph of Mr Pikaahu wearing clothing that can only be worn by patched members of the Rebels.

[2] The Police say that being a patched member of a gang such as the Rebels means that Mr Pikaahu is no longer suitable to hold a certificate of approval. They are accordingly asking that Mr Pikaahu's certificate be cancelled. They are relying on section 83(ab) of the Act which provides that it is discretionary grounds for the cancellation of a COA if the certificate holder is no longer suitable to carry on the class of business to which the COA relates because of the person's character, circumstances of background.

[3] Detective Delamare provided written evidence about gang in New Zealand in general as well as more specific evidence about the Rebels and Mr Pikaahu's association with the Rebels. He stated that a gang member having a COA is of huge benefit to their gang as working in security at a bar or club as they can facilitate illegal activity as the establishment.

[4] I accept that in general gang membership conflicts with Mr Pikaahu's responsibilities as a certificate holder particularly when it requires working closely with the Police in keeping the peace and by assisting them in their investigations. Having patched gang members working in security at clubs and pubs not only facilitates illegal activity but can compromise the safety of their employers as well as the public due to the ongoing disturbances between the gangs in the city, including the Rebels.

[5] It is also relevant to note that since the complaint was filed Mr Pikaahu has been charged with murder following an incident at a Blenheim bar. He was there with other members of the Rebels.

Conclusion and Orders

[5] The Police have established that Mr Pikaahu is no longer suitable to be a certificate holder because he is a patched member of the Rebels MC. I am therefore satisfied that his certificate should be cancelled. I make the following orders:

- Mr Pikaahu's certificate of approval is cancelled effective from the date of this order.

- Mr Pikaahu is to return his official ID to the Licensing Authority within seven days of his certificate of approval being cancelled. Failure to do so is an offence under the Act.

DATED at Wellington this 2nd day of July 2021

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'P A McConnell'. To the right of the signature is a circular official seal. The seal features a central coat of arms with a crown on top, flanked by two figures. The text 'THE PRIVATE SECURITY PERSONNEL LICENSING AUTHORITY' is written around the perimeter of the seal.

P A McConnell
Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority