

IN THE MATTER OF

An application for a Certificate of Approval filed by **XAVIER TUAPAWA-HOKIANGA** under the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010

HEARD by way of an online hearing on 10 August 2023

DECISION

[1] Xavier Tuapawa-Hokianga has applied for a certificate of approval (COA), together with a temporary COA, in the classes of crowd controller, property guard and personal guard. He was granted a temporary COA as he has no disqualifying convictions.

[2] Police object to Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga's application on character grounds as they say he is a patched member of the Mongrel Mob. They also advise that earlier this year he arrived at a suburban address wearing mongrel mob regalia and threatened people with a hammer.

[3] In response to the police objection Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga denied he was a gang member and said that he was not associating with or having any part in gang activities. He also provided a letter in support from his employer, but the employer subsequently withdrew his reference.

[4] In response police have filed witness statements detailing two occasions this year where they have encountered Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga wearing a Mongrel Mob patch and earlier occasions where he was wearing clothing associated with the Mongrel Mob. They have also confirmed that only patched gang members are entitled to wear the patch.

[5] Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga did not attend the hearing set down to consider his application and the police objection. He has not filed any other information other than his initial denial of gang associations. In addition, he has not provided any other references in support of his application although asked to do so after his employer withdrew their reference.

[6] Police have established that Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga is a patched member of the Mongrel Mob. Being a patched member of a gang such as the Mongrel Mob is inconsistent with the character and background requirements of the Act. I am therefore satisfied that Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga is not suitable to be a responsible security employee.

[7] I therefore make the following orders:

- Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga's application for a certificate of approval is declined.
- Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga's temporary certificate of approval is cancelled effective from Thursday 24 August 2023.
- Mr Tuapawa-Hokianga is to return his security ID to the PSPLA within seven days of receipt of this order.

DATED at Wellington this 24th day of August 2023


P A McConnell
Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority

