

IN THE MATTER OF

An Application for a Certificate of Approval by **NICHOLAS MULOCK HOUWER** and an application for a company licence by **CENTIVE TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED** under the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act 2010

HEARD by video hearing on 7 September 2023

DECISION

[1] In April 2023 I referred a complaint that Nicholas Mulock-Houwer was working as a security technician and consultant under the name of Centive Technologies without the required licence or certificate to the Complaints, Investigation and Prosecution Unit (CIPU) for investigation.

[2] As a result of the complaint Mr Mulock-Houwer applied for a certificate of approval and Centive Technologies Limited has applied for a company licence, in the classes of security consultant and security technician. Mr Mulock-Houwer is the sole director and shareholder of Centive Technologies.

[3] For Centive Technologies to qualify for a company licence Mr Mulock-Houwer needs to be trained in the classes for which the company is applying for a licence and have at least 12 months experience within the last five years in each of the classes. The CIPU report concluded that Mr Mulock-Houwer does not hold the necessary training and experience to hold a licence as a security consultant and security technician. Concerns were also raised by the complainant as to Mr Mulock-Houwer's workmanship on one of the security jobs he completed without a licence.

[4] Mr Mulock-Houwer contests the assessment of his workmanship on the security job. I accept that some of the complainant's criticisms of this job was not Mr Mulock-Houwer's responsibility. I also accept that the positioning of the cameras was agreed to in consultation with the clients. Therefore, I do not accept that there is sufficient evidence of any shortcomings to show that Mr Mulock-Houwer is not competent to be a licence holder.

[5] However, Mr Mulock-Houwer does not have at least 12 months experience in the classes of security technician and security consultant which is the requirement for a licence holder. It is also of concern that Mr Mulock-Houwer submitted a letter in support of his company licence application which can best be described as grossly exaggerated. Mr Mulock-Houwer accepts this, but it is likely he was misled by the letter writer as to what he needed to do to get a security licence. He should not however have submitted a supporting letter knowing the information in it was incorrect.

[6] Mr Mulock-Houwer has approximately 2 ½ years experience in the related fields of IT support and servicing including networking, cabling, and web design. He advises that he only wants to work with CCTV installation and maintenance. He considers most of the work in this area is directly within his area of expertise. He has also had work experience in the positioning of cameras in his previous employment.

[7] Mr Mulock-Houwer is currently completing the Stratcom Securities course in security consultancy and has engaged an accountant to help him with the financial and accounting side of running a business.


[8] I am accordingly prepared to accept that Mr Mulock-Houwer has comparable experience that can be accepted as relevant security experience. I will therefore grant his applications but with several conditions attached. If Mulock-Houwer breaches any of the conditions set out below his licence and certificate are likely to be suspended.

[9] Mr Mulock-Houwer's application for a certificate of approval in the classes of security consultant and security technician and Centive Technologies Limited application for a company licence in the same classes is granted but on the following conditions:

- Mr Mulock-Houwer is to complete the Statcom Security SCCC course and file evidence of completion by 30 March 2024.
- Mr Mulock-Houwer can only work in the areas of CCTV installation, maintenance, removal, and consultancy.
- Centive Technologies Limited is not to employ any staff to undertake security technician or security consultancy work. Mr Mulock-Houwer may however subcontract work to other licence holders or where appropriate registered electricians.
- Within 12 months of the date of this order Mr Mulock-Houwer is to complete any courses offered by the manufacturers or suppliers of the CCTV products he installs or a comparable generic course.
- Mr Mulock-Houwer is to keep a record of all security consultancy and security technician work undertaken.

[10] These conditions will be reviewed after 12 months. Mr Mulock-Houwer must therefore provide the Licensing Authority with evidence of courses and other training completed and a summary of security work undertaken within the first 12 months of holding a licence by 30 September 2024. He should also provide letters in support from one or more clients for whom he has completed security work. The Licensing Authority will then decide whether any of the above conditions will be lifted or whether further conditions or restrictions should be imposed.

DATED at Wellington this 11th day of September 2023


P A McConnell

Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority