

**IN THE MATTER OF** Application for a company license for  
**GUARDIAN SECURITY LTD** under  
The Private Security Personnel and  
Private Investigators Act 2010

**DECISION**

- [1] Adam Gould initially applied for a Certificate of Approval (COA) in the class of security technician and a company license Guardian Security Limited. He is the sole director for Guardian Security Limited. Mr Gould has previously held a COA in the class of security technician between 2012 and 2017.
- [2] The Police objected to Mr Gould's application because he was convicted of assault with intent to injure in 2018 which is a ground for disqualification under section 62 of the Act.
- [3] Within Mr Gould's response to the objection, it came to light that he had been working as a security technician without a COA at various times and that a falsified document was provided to Sterling Security stating that he did hold a COA when in fact he did not.
- [4] On the basis of his response to this concern raised by the Authority, Mr Gould's COA was approved given there does not appear to be any question over his technical ability. His COA was granted on the condition that he not work for Guardian Security Limited until their company license had been granted.
- [5] The matter was then referred to the Complaints, Investigation and Prosecution Unit (CIPU) for investigation. CIPU have now produced their report and made the following findings:
  - [i] On the basis of the information they received, they cannot make findings to the required standard as to whether Mr Gould or Stirling Security provided the falsified document.
  - [ii] Mr Gould has provided security technician work through his company Guardian Security with the required company license to do so.
  - [iii] There is sufficient evidence to prove a breach of sections 23 and 44 of the Act by Guardian Security and Mr Gould.
  - [iv] The investigator considers Guardian Security to be suitable to be granted a company license.
- [6] Mr Gould was asked to confirm that he had abided by the Authority direction
- [7] Having considered all of the evidence available to me, particularly that there is no concern regarding Mr Gould's technical ability, I am satisfied that it is appropriate to grant Guardian Security a company license in the class of security technician.

- [8] Whilst Mr Gould has breached the Act on a variety of occasions in the past, I accept his submission that these breaches were because of a lack of knowledge. He submits that he is now aware of the requirements of the Act, and I am satisfied that he has been complying with those, and the Authority's directions during this process. As he has worked hard to ensure his compliance and unfortunately has suffered due to this process, I consider no other repercussion for those breaches necessary.
- [9] Mr Gould is to ensure that he is clear on the requirements of the Act on Guardian Security, in particular the requirement pursuant to section 43 of the Act to file annual returns and the requirement to only engage security employees who hold the required COA. Given this situation, his running of Guardian Security will continue to be monitored by the Authority to ensure compliance with the Act going forward.
- [10] This decision is to be published and I see no public interest or other reason why it should be redacted in any way.

**DATED** at Wellington this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2023



K A Lash  
**Private Security Personnel Licensing Authority**