

**IN THE MATTER OF**

An application by **ADEENA PAASKE**  
for a certificate under the Secondhand  
Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004

**HEARD** remotely on 14 March 2024

**APPEARANCES**

A Paaske, the applicant supported by D Finlayson  
Sgt N White for NZ Police

**DECISION**

[1] Adeena Paaske has applied for an individual licence under the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act. Police oppose her application as they have concerns about her offending history and association with illegal drugs.

[2] In 2018 Ms Paaske was convicted of possession of cannabis for supply and permitting her premises to be used for the growing or sale of drugs. She was sentenced to six months community detention. The property where Ms Paaske lived was also associated with cannabis possession or dealing in 2018 and 2019 and she was warned for possession of an offensive weapon in 2019.

[3] Ms Paaske acknowledges her offending but advises she stopped selling cannabis six years ago after she was arrested. She has had no convictions since. Ms Paaske advises she moved to Duntroon three years ago and left her former way of life behind. She now lives a quiet life and is striving to be a better role model for her grandchildren.

[4] With every objection filed by the Police the question for the Authority is whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.<sup>1</sup> In making this decision the purpose of the Act is my primary consideration. A fit and proper person is someone who can be trusted to comply with her obligations as a secondhand dealer under Part 3 of the Act, and who is aware of the need to be vigilant and to use her best endeavours to ensure stolen goods do not pass through her business.

[5] On the other hand, a person who encourages the transit of stolen property through her business or who turns a blind eye when stolen property is offered to her is not a fit and proper person.

[6] It was appropriate for Sergeant White to raise Ms Paaske's cannabis related convictions and the other concerns about activities at her former home. These issues raise questions about Ms Paaske's suitability to be a licence holder and her willingness to comply with her obligations under the Act.

[7] However, Ms Paaske's 2018 convictions are her first and only convictions. She has moved away from bad influences and now lives a quiet life. No issues or concerns have arisen since 2019 and she has not come to police attention since then. Mr Finlayson confirms that in the last few years Ms Paaske has changed and become a better person.

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<sup>1</sup> Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004, ss25–29.

[8] I am satisfied that Ms Paaske is aware of her responsibilities under the Act, and she is confident she will be able to comply with them if she is granted a licence. I consider the risk of Ms Paaske knowingly allowing stolen property to pass through her business is low.

[9] Therefore, based on the evidence before me I am satisfied that Ms Paaske is now a fit and proper person to hold an individual licence. Ms Paaske's application for an individual licence under the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act is approved.

[10] Ms Paaske is however advised that to keep her licence she must comply with all her responsibilities as set out in the Act and do what is required to ensure stolen property is not bought and sold by her business. If Ms Paaske fails to comply with her responsibilities under the Act police can apply for the cancellation of her licence.

**DATED** at Wellington this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024



P A McConnell

**Licensing Authority of Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers**