

Reference No. HRRT 089/2016

UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1993

BETWEEN JOHN MURPHY

PLAINTIFF

AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DEFENDANT

AT WELLINGTON

BEFORE:

Mr RPG Haines QC, Chairperson

Ms GJ Goodwin, Member

Mr RK Musuku, Member

REPRESENTATION:

Mr J Murphy in person

Mr P Gunn for defendant

DATE HEARING: Heard on the papers

DATE OF DECISION: 1 May 2017

**DECISION OF TRIBUNAL GRANTING DEFENDANT EXTENSION OF TIME
FOR FILING STATEMENT OF REPLY¹**

[1] Regulation 15(1) of the Human Rights Review Tribunal Regulations 2002 provides that a defendant who intends to defend proceedings must, within 30 days after the day on which the notice of proceedings is served on him or her, file in the office of the Tribunal a statement of reply to the plaintiff's claim and must serve a copy of the statement of reply on the plaintiff and any other party.

[2] By memorandum dated 12 April 2017 the Ministry of Social Development has sought an extension of time for filing its statement of reply until 12 May 2017. The grounds of the request are that the extension will enable the filing of a more substantive reply.

¹ [This decision is to be cited as: *Murphy v Ministry of Social Development (Extension of Time)* [2017] NZHRRT 15.]

That, in turn, will assist the Tribunal and the plaintiff to better understand the Ministry's position and ultimately lead to a more efficient resolution of the claim.

[3] Counsel for the Ministry (Mr Gunn) has spoken to Mr Murphy by telephone and Mr Murphy has agreed to an extension of time until 12 May 2017.

[4] Given the circumstances relied on in support of the application and further given Mr Murphy does not object, the application for extension of time is granted.

Order

[5] The time for the Ministry of Social Development to file its statement of reply is extended to 5pm on Friday 12 May 2017.

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Mr RPG Haines QC
Chairperson

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Ms GJ Goodwin
Member

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Mr RK Musuku
Member