



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

19 July 2023

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Tēnā koe John,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 22/23-0923

I am responding to your email of 9 June 2023 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Can You please supply details of any audits or investigations completed involving Matthew Edwards or Molrudee Kasemchaiyanan.”

I outline below a high-level summary of the investigations undertaken by Te Tari Taiwhenua involving Matthew Edwards and Molrudee Kasemchaiyanan:

The complainant in this case was a non-profit company that distributes net proceeds from gambling, collected, for example, from gaming machines. Mr Edwards and Ms Kasemchaiyanan, professional pool players, entered into an arrangement with two others whereby the New Zealand Pool Association (NZPA) would apply to the non-profit company for grant funding. Because of this, over four years the NZPA received over \$100,000 in grant funding from the non-profit company. Of this funding, it was alleged that Mr Edwards and Ms Kasemchaiyanan used portions for personal travel and/or accommodation or retained unspent grant funds rather than returning them as required. It was alleged that Mr Edwards and Ms Kasemchaiyanan also used these funds to pay for an individual to travel to Beijing, which was not in accordance with the specific purpose for which the funding applications were made. Following the death of Ms Kasemchaiyanan, the prosecution was reviewed and then discontinued. The charges were subsequently dismissed.

The charges related to the above matters were ultimately dismissed.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Jeremy Cauchi
Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability