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Neil Harding
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Via Email: Fyi-request-29233-3da89f2c@requests.fyi.org

28 November 2024

Kia ora Mr Harding

Official Information Act request dated 18 November 2024

We refer to your email dated 18 November 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The response to your request is set out below.

Request: I have heard through the Dilworth grapevine that a complaint was made against the Lost Boys of Dilworth docudrama that aired on TVNZ in April 2024. This was from Mark Easton, a former Dilworth student, also representing many other Dilworth Old Boys. Apparently, it asserts that I am not an abuse victim, nor is my friend Mark Staufer. As the main whistleblower in the Dilworth School sexual abuse scandal, I have encountered significant obstacles and opposition. Typical of many survivors, I have also encountered DARVO, an acronym for Deny, Attack and Reverse Victim and Offender. This is particularly distressing to me, hearing that my personal integrity and credibility may have been challenged. I therefore need to see this complaint to determine the nature and extent of this.

Response: In general, TVNZ considers the following withholding grounds apply to complaint documentation:

- Section 9(2)(a) of the Act: protection of the privacy of natural persons (note that this particular complaint contains personal information about multiple people); and
- Section 9(2)(b) of the Act: to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (disclosing complaint documentation would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of TVNZ).

However, the Act allows us to consult with Mr Easton to request whether we may disclose the relevant portion of his complaint to you.

Before we do so, please could you:

1. Confirm that you are happy for us to liaise with Mr Easton to ask whether we may disclose the relevant section of the complaint to you; and
2. Provide us with a private email address to which we can provide the relevant information (if Mr Easton agrees).

Please note that section 28 of the Act sets out the circumstances in which you may make a complaint to the Ombudsman in order to seek an investigation and review of this decision.

Ngā mihi,
Official Information Requests Team
TVNZ