

23 AUG 2016

Grace Haden  
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Dear Ms Haden

**Official Information Act 1982 request**

I acknowledge your Official Information Act 1982 request of 6 August 2016, regarding a court decision that has been published on the District Courts website - [districtcourts.govt.nz](http://districtcourts.govt.nz)

The move towards online publication of court decisions represents a significant move towards modernisation of New Zealand's justice system. It is hoped that the website will improve the understanding of the court process and contribute to the open administration of justice.

District Court decisions are published on the site provided they meet certain criteria. More information on the selection process is available here: [districtcourts.govt.nz/about-the-judgments](http://districtcourts.govt.nz/about-the-judgments)

The Office of the Chief District Court Judge advises that the judgment you inquire about now carries the following banner on the PDF document: "Some names and/or details in this judgment have been anonymised." This is in addition to the alerts about potential use of anonymisation already displayed elsewhere on the website.

However, as the courts and judicial functions are excluded from the operation of the Official Information Act 1982 under section 2(6)(a) and (b), I am declining your request as allowed by section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

You have asked for the full details of the alleged claim that was made against you. This information is court record and access is governed by the District Court Rules 2014. The rules are available here: [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2014/0179/latest/contents.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2014/0179/latest/contents.html)

Generally speaking, to request this information you will need to write to the Registrar of the Wellington District Court, where the case was heard. The form to make your application is available here: [justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Forms/20160714-application-for-access-to-court-documents.pdf](http://justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Forms/20160714-application-for-access-to-court-documents.pdf)

Once complete, you can email this form to [wellington.dc@justice.govt.nz](mailto:wellington.dc@justice.govt.nz); post it to the court at following address: Wellington District Court, SX11166; or hand it in at the counter on Level 6, Wellington District Court, 43–49 Ballance Street, Wellington.

You will need to identify the particular records you wish to access and give reasons for your application. The request will be considered by either the Registrar or if necessary a judge. Any decision relating to the release of a court record is a judicial decision and may attract a fee. The Ministry of Justice cannot intervene or comment on this decision-making process.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz) or call (04) 918 8980.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Jason Strangwick  
**General Manager, District Courts**

Ref: 58228