

23 April 2013

Ben Uffindell
Editor
The Civilian

FROM: John McKay
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by email: editor@thecivilian.co.nz

COLIN CRAIG: DEFAMATORY PUBLICATION ON THE CIVILIAN WEBSITE

- 1 We act for Colin Craig.
- 2 On or about 22 April 2013 you published on The Civilian website a statement you attributed to Colin Craig that is inaccurate and defamatory, namely (the *Statement*):
 - 2.1 *"Williamson likes to talk about big gay rainbows," said Craig, "but it would help if he understood what the rainbow actually means. After Noah's flood, God painted a giant rainbow across the sky, which was a message that he would never again flood the world, unless we made him very angry. And we have."*
- 3 We are instructed that Colin Craig never made the Statement. It is a fiction created by you to make him look ridiculous and the use of quotation marks is designed to give it the appearance of fact. The Statement cannot be dismissed as satire in the circumstances, particularly when it is published alongside quotes from Maurice Williamson which we understand may largely be accurate.
- 4 If you wish to avoid being served with defamation proceedings, you should remove this Statement immediately and permanently from your webpage, but in any event by no later than 4pm today, 23 April 2013.
- 5 You must also:
 - 5.1 Publish on your website for a minimum of seven days a statement that: *"I recently published a statement which I attributed to Colin Craig regarding Maurice Williamson, "big gay rainbows" and the passing of the gay marriage legislation. I accept that Mr Craig never made the statement attributed to him. I retract the statement and apologise to Mr Craig for any harm I have caused to his reputation."*
 - 5.2 Confirm to us, in writing on or before 4pm today, that you fully retract the Statement on the basis that it is a fictional quote containing words which were not said by Mr Crag and that you apologise for making it. You can do this by signing the retraction attached to this letter and returning it to us.

6 Mr Craig also seeks a contribution of \$500 towards his legal costs and reserves all of his rights in respect of this matter.

Yours faithfully


John McKay

PARTNER

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RETRACTION & APOLOGY TO COLIN CRAIG

I fully retract and apologise for the Statement I wrongly attributed to Colin Craig as referred to in Chapman Tripp's letter to me dated 23 April 2013, as requested in paragraph 5 of that letter.

Dated: April 2013

Ben Uffindell