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## FORMAL NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

### Serious Misconduct, Privacy Breach, Defamation, Doxing, and Misuse of Position

**To:** Chief Executive and Privacy Officer  
Horizons Regional Council

**Cc:** Board of Directors  
Manawatū-Whanganui LASS Limited

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#### . Introduction

I lodge this **formal complaint regarding the conduct of Martyn Lindsay Boyce**, Operations Manager of **Manawatū-Whanganui LASS Limited (MWLASS)**, a council-controlled organisation associated with **Horizons Regional Council**.

This complaint concerns the **collection, compilation, and public disclosure of my personal information** in an affidavit sworn by Mr Boyce dated **16 July 2025** filed in the High Court proceeding **CIV-2024-454-000074**.

The affidavit and its annexures contain material including:

- My **full name**
- **Photographs**
- **Residential address**
- **Property title records**
- Screenshots and extracts from **restricted membership websites**
- Material obtained from **social media and other online sources**

The material was published in a **public court document** and accompanied by **unverified allegations implying financial misconduct and questionable activities**.

These allegations appear **unsupported, irrelevant to the legal issues before the Court, and highly damaging to my reputation**.

The disclosure of my residential address, photograph, and other personal information in a public court filing constitutes conduct commonly referred to as **doxing**, and has resulted in **significant reputational harm, embarrassment, and unwarranted exposure of personal information**.

The actions appear to have been undertaken **without lawful purpose, outside the legitimate operational scope of MWLASS, and in breach of multiple statutory duties and governance standards**.

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#### 2. Breach of Staff Code of Conduct and Public Sector Standards

As an officer of a council-controlled organisation associated with **Horizons Regional Council**, Mr Boyce is required to comply with **standards of integrity, confidentiality, and responsible use of information** contained in organisational **Codes of Conduct and public sector governance standards**.

These standards typically require staff to:

- Act with **honesty and integrity**
- Use information **only for legitimate organisational purposes**
- Avoid conduct that **brings the organisation into disrepute**
- Respect **privacy and confidentiality obligations**
- Avoid misuse of organisational authority or resources.

The deliberate gathering and publication of personal information unrelated to MWLASS operational functions constitutes conduct capable of amounting to **serious misconduct and misuse of position**.

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### **3. Governance Obligations under the Local Government Act**

Under the **Local Government Act 2002**, local authorities and their council-controlled organisations must operate according to principles of **accountability, transparency, and responsible stewardship**.

Relevant provisions include:

#### **Section 14 – Principles relating to local authorities**

Local authorities must conduct their business in a manner that:

- Maintains **public trust and confidence**
- Acts **transparently and accountably**
- Promotes the **social and economic wellbeing of communities**

MWLASS, as a council-controlled organisation, must also comply with governance expectations under **Part 5 of the Act**, which requires responsible management and accountability to the community.

The conduct described undermines those principles and raises **serious concerns about misuse of authority associated with a council-related organisation**.

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### **4. Breach of Duties under the Companies Act**

MWLASS is incorporated under the **Companies Act 1993**.

Officers of a company owe statutory duties including:

#### **Section 131 – Duty to act in good faith and in the best interests of the company**

Using a corporate role to compile and disseminate private personal information unrelated to company operations appears inconsistent with acting in the company's best interests.

#### **Section 137 – Duty of care, diligence and skill**

Officers must exercise the care expected of a reasonable person in their position.

Publishing potentially defamatory or irrelevant material in sworn evidence exposes the organisation to **significant reputational and legal risk**, which may constitute a **serious breach of officer duties**.

## 5. Privacy Breach

The conduct described raises significant concerns under the **Privacy Act 2020**.

Potential breaches include:

### **Information Privacy Principle 1 – Purpose of collection**

Personal information must only be collected for a lawful and necessary purpose.

### **Information Privacy Principle 4 – Manner of collection**

Information must not be collected through unfair or unreasonably intrusive means.

### **Information Privacy Principle 11 – Disclosure**

Personal information must not be disclosed without lawful authority or consent.

The affidavit suggests personal information was **compiled from multiple sources and publicly disclosed without consent**, raising serious concerns regarding compliance with the Privacy Act.

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## 6. Doxing and Harmful Digital Publication

The publication of my **residential address, photograph, and other personal identifying information** in a public document accompanied by damaging allegations constitutes conduct commonly described as **doxing**.

Such conduct may engage provisions under the:

- **Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015**
- **Harassment Act 1997**

These statutes recognise harm arising from **digital publication of personal information intended to cause reputational harm or distress**.

[REDACTED]

I (we) have resided within Horizons Regional Council Boundary since 1980; I (we) have been Residents and Ratepayers since 1984, I (we) are known to many throughout entire Region because of my (our) community involvement with Volunteer Services. Being long time members of the Palmerston North community Mr. Boyce's Court filed Affidavit causes my (us) reputational harm.

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## 7. Defamation

The affidavit contains statements implying **financial mismanagement and improper conduct**.

These allegations appear:

- **Unverified**

- **Unsupported by evidence**
- **Irrelevant to the issues before the Court**

The publication of such allegations in a sworn affidavit is capable of causing **serious reputational damage** and may constitute defamation under the:

- **Defamation Act 1992**
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## **8. Possible Improper Access to Information Systems**

If any information was obtained using **workplace systems, council databases, paid subscriptions, or organisational resources**, the conduct may also raise issues under the:

- **Crimes Act 1961**

Relevant provisions include offences relating to:

- **Unauthorised access to computer systems**
  - **Accessing information for dishonest purposes**
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## **9. Potential Misuse of Land Information Records**

The affidavit annexures include **property title records sourced from the Land Information New Zealand register**.

The circumstances surrounding how this information was obtained raise concerns regarding the **purpose and use of land title information**, and whether it was obtained through third parties or organisational access.

This issue may require clarification from:

- **Land Information New Zealand**
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## **10. Accountability and Oversight**

Given that MWLASS is a **council-controlled organisation funded by public resources**, governance oversight may fall within the jurisdiction of the:

- **Office of the Auditor-General**

If the conduct involves misuse of authority, public resources, or governance failures, the matter may warrant review by that office.

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## **11. Evidence**

Evidence supporting this complaint includes:

1. Affidavit sworn by **Martyn Lindsay Boyce** dated **16 July 2025**.
2. Annexures containing:
  - Personal photograph
  - Residential address
  - Property title records
  - Screenshots from restricted membership websites
  - Social media extracts
3. Service documentation relating to the High Court proceeding.

Hard copy evidence can be provided upon request.

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## 12. Police Complaint

Due to the seriousness of the conduct described, **a formal complaint will also be lodged with:**

- **New Zealand Police**

This complaint will request assessment of whether any offences under the **Crimes Act 1961**, **Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015**, or other relevant statutes have occurred.

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## 13. Requested Actions

I respectfully request that **Horizons Regional Council and the governing body of MWLASS:**

1. **Acknowledge receipt of this complaint within five (5) working days.**
2. Conduct a **formal investigation** into the conduct of Mr Boyce, including whether:
  - Council or MWLASS resources were used
  - Privacy obligations were breached
  - Officer duties under company law were breached
  - Staff code of conduct obligations were violated.
3. Provide **written findings and any remedial action taken.**
4. Confirm what steps will be taken to:
  - Address the **publication of personal information**
  - Prevent recurrence of similar conduct
  - Ensure compliance with privacy and governance obligations.

If the matter cannot be resolved internally, I reserve the right to refer the matter to relevant regulatory authorities including:

- **Office of the Privacy Commissioner**
  - **Office of the Auditor-General**
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Yours faithfully

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