



Ref: 230015

Monday, 5 August 2024

Bob McCoskrie

By email to bob@familyfirst.org.nz

Tēnā koe Bob

Response to your request for Official Information

On 17 July 2024, you requested the following information from Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”) under the Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”):

*Could you please provide ALL correspondence received and sent by the Commission, and all reports related to **ARISE CHURCH Registration number: CC30589** since the beginning of 2002.*

By email dated 19 July 2024, you notified us of a correction to this date range, which you intended to be from the beginning of 2022.

In response to your request, we confirm that the Commission has not received any enquiries or complaints between 1 January 2022 and 19 July 2024 (being the date of your updated request) which mention the term “Arise Church”. We also confirm that the Commission does not hold any reports which mention Arise Church during this period.

We have identified two emails between Commission staff which mention Arise Church during the period specified in your request, as summarised below:¹

In an email chain dated 10 October 2022 which related to planning for the Awaken Conference 2023, the Commission’s (now former) Chief Executive asked: “one of these churches has been in the media with bullying/sexual harassment claims. Are they participating in this conference?”

In response to this question, the (now former) manager of the Commission’s Conversion Practices Team responded: “I assume it is Arise church you’re speaking of ... [Arise Church is] not part of this conference at all, however, they are totally the type of church that we would like to invite to our pre-conference session if it goes ahead. Whether they come or not is another matter.”

We note that the email chain mentioned in the above summary was largely outside the scope of your request as it did not relate to Arise Church. The only mention of Arise Church is detailed in the summary provided to you.

¹ In accordance with s 16(1)(e) of the OIA.

For completeness, we confirm that the Commission participated in a pre-conference session for people working in faith leadership roles on the afternoon of Friday 17 March 2023, before the Awaken Conference plenary was held from 18 – 19 March 2023. The Commission does not hold a list of attendees for this pre-conference session, as we did not administer registrations for the event.

Alternative avenues

If you are unhappy with this response, under the Official Information Act you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or on freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries about this response, please feel free to contact me directly.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philippa', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Philippa Mitskevitch

Kaitohu Matua Ture | Senior Legal Advisor