

17 February 2014

Russel Norman MP
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand
PO Box 11 652
Wellington 6142

FROM: John McKay
DIRECT: +64 9 357 9064
MOBILE: +64 27 494 9312
EMAIL: john.mckay@chapmantripp.com
REF: 092713351/3267755.1

by email: russel.norman@parliament.govt.nz

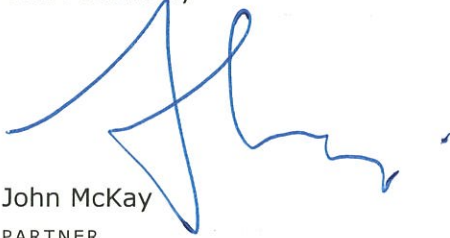
COLIN CRAIG: DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS MADE AT THE BIG GAY OUT: SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2014

- 1 We act for Colin Craig and are writing to you to seek a retraction and apology for the statements you made about him at the recent Big Gay Out event. As you no doubt expected, the statements later received widespread publicity on national television.
- 2 The statements you made were:

"A vote for John Key is a vote for Colin Craig. Now the thing about Colin Craig is he thinks that a woman's place is in the kitchen and a gay man's place is in the closet."
- 3 In the statements you purported to state, as a matter of fact, the truth about what Mr Craig thinks and really stands for. The statements are untrue. They are also defamatory, as it harms his reputation to say that he holds such sexist, derogatory and offensive views about woman and gay men.
- 4 Neither the context of an election year nor the occasion of the Big Gay Out provide you with a licence to say anything you like about Mr Craig. The statements crossed the legal boundary of what is acceptable and we invite you to accept, publicly, that they should not have been made and to apologise for making them.
- 5 In particular, we invite you to publish a retraction of the statements in a form and manner which is likely to receive similar prominence on national television to the original publication. We suggest it would be sensible for the parties to discuss the details as to content, timing and placement, to ensure that there are no misunderstandings in that regard.
- 6 We hope this matter can be promptly resolved in the manner suggested and that it will be unnecessary for Mr Craig to resort to defamation proceedings, but should they be necessary he would most likely seek a declaration under section 24 of the Defamation Act 1992.

7 We seek your response to this letter by 5pm Friday 21 February.

Yours faithfully



John McKay

PARTNER

DIRECT: +64 9 357 9064

EMAIL: john.mckay@chapmantripp.com