

39-JUN-2005 10:06

61882261708

P.02

06/01 09:41 61883961289
 14-JUN-2001 10:14 FROM BANKSIA PK HIGH

TO 82261708

001 01679 P.02/04

Greg Knight
 PO Box 577
 Blackwood SA 5051

09 May 2001

The Principal

Dear Sir/Madam

Without Prejudice

I believe you recently received information about me from the Education Department.

I am upset about this, as I believe it was unnecessary under the circumstances, there was no finding made that I had done anything wrong, and expert opinion had been given to the Department that I was not even attempting to do anything wrong.

The other aspect of this which seems unfair to me, is that at no time was I given the opportunity to respond to any concerns, and therefore I was presented with this situation as a fait accompli.

The information you received seems to me to be very carefully worded, and thus my opportunity to respond officially is limited, and in any case you can imagine that I certainly don't have the resources to pursue any matter against a government department, if indeed such action was deemed appropriate.

All I can do is to explain myself to you and hope for the best available outcome.

The matter alluded to from 1978:

My legal advisors at the time reported to me that the police and crown law recommended that the matter not be pursued as they were unable to find any real evidence to support the allegations. My resignation was in disgust that the Education Department chose to pursue the matter anyway, and was not any kind of admission. The wording of my resignation reflects that. While the wording in the letter you received does not actually contradict this, I am concerned that you may have received a different impression entirely.

The matter referred to from 1993:

While the bare details of the case are available on the public record, I again feel that an impression is created of a continuing potential for improper behaviour. This is far from the truth. Further, I feel that my parole conditions are a private matter between the Parole Board and me. They were never published, and I doubt if they were supplied to the Department with a view to them being published. Further, the way they are reported also "creates" an impression, in my view.

In 1993, while I was a teacher in the NT, I participated in illegal behaviour with some students who were very well known to me. The court's ruling reflected this by accepting that there was no lack of consent involved. I am, however, deeply ashamed of what I did, and very embarrassed that I would let people down in such a manner. Comparing my sentence to others of a similar nature at the time, I was severely punished, and am still on parole.

39-JUN-2005 10:07

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P.03

06/01 09:41 61883961289
 JUN-2001 10:14 FROM BANKSIA PK HIGH

TO 82261708

001 016-2304

While I have (had) put the matter behind me as much as possible, I will say that from the outset, I have dealt with this situation as honourably as possible, facing up to the lawful punishments, participating in the appropriate behaviour management programmes, and creating a new, decent life. The parole Board have monitored my progress and made various suggestions along the way. They approved my website, supported me in my business venture (it being a positive way to use my skills, while removing any need for contact with students), in time approved my visiting schools knowing that I would comply with my parole conditions, and have shown such faith in me that the frequency of my reporting was quickly reduced to a minimum.

My method of contact with a school:

My first contact is almost always by phone to the senior music teacher. I explain who I am and what service I provide and ask for an appointment to meet the teacher and show him/her my product.

If an appointment is granted, I attend the school at the proper time and report directly to the office. I sign the visitors register and put on the visitor's badge (most schools have these now) and wait there, in view of the office staff until I am collected by the teacher.

When the teacher arrives we do business either in the foyer, in an interview room, the general staff room or the music staff room. There have been only a couple of instances when our meeting took place where students had access, but I had absolutely no dealings with any such students.

I had no need to interact with students, I did not seek to interact with students, and I have no plans to interact with students.

After the appointment, I proceed directly to the office to sign out and to return the badge, and I then leave immediately.

This has been my procedure in all schools.

Neither have I sought employment with schools, nor have I offered to work with students. Only a couple of times, teachers have asked me if I would do so, and I have found discreet ways to decline.

My parole conditions allow me to interact with males under 16 years if accompanied by an approved adult. I have not made use of this provision, and don't plan to. The simple statement "I am not a registered teacher" has been enough to move the conversation on. There is no restriction on my interaction with female students or males over the age of 15 years.

My website is <http://gregknight.mx.com.au> and if you look at it, you will clearly form the opinion, I am sure, that it has no appeal for youngsters. There is no chat room, no free give-aways, no downloads of pop music, no attractive graphics. It is simply a place where those responsible for buying sheet music for bands etc, can go to look at my catalogue and listen to brief samples. It is my impression that very few people look at it at all, and the only contacts I have had resulting from it were a couple of teachers and a professional classical guitarist from Turkey. I wish the teachers would look at it, then I wouldn't have to come to schools at all.

My life centres around trying to make a living in a socially productive way. It is not financially adequate yet, but at least I am trying to be a useful member of society. My social circle is all adult and I belong to no organisations involving young people. I lost more than just my freedom over my dreadful mistake. I lost my family, my job, my career, my life savings, I seem to be unemployable (even factory work), I can't get household or car insurance and etc.

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FROM BANKSIA PK HIGH

61883961289

TO 82261708

P.04/04

001 01677

In doing business with the schools for the last 2 ½ years, I have actually done nothing wrong. All my actions are supervised by the Parole Board, and my attempt to earn a living depends on being invited back for further business.

I am left wondering why the Department would send their letter to you, and through you to your teachers and students, and I fear (via gossip) to the rest of the music community. The national conference of ASME to be held here soon will of course provide an avenue for possible gossip to be spread even wider. And yet I am doing nothing wrong.

Even if there is a way through the legal system to address this upset, it is too late to prevent the damage which I believe is inevitable, has been started and can't be undone. I am not sure how any reasonable party could say that they don't want this to hinder my business.

Thank you for reading this letter. I have just one request. May I have your permission to come onto your school property if I am still able to get an appointment with your teacher(s), on the understanding that I would proceed as I outlined above?

Sincerely



Greg Knight