

**THE ROYAL COMMISSION  
INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES  
TO CHILD SEX ABUSE**

**STATEMENT**

I, **Alexander Baumann**, Chief Executive of High Performance Sport, New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand, state as follows:-

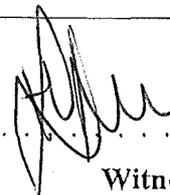
1. I am the Chief Executive of High Performance Sport, New Zealand, having occupied this role since 31 January 2012.
2. Prior to commencing this role I was Chief Executive Officer of the Own the Podium Programme in Canada.
3. Between 2002 and September 2006, I was Executive Director of the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS).
4. When I commenced that role, Mr Scott Volkens was already employed as mentor/coach for swimming.
5. In March 2002, staff of QAS and I became aware of media reports that Mr Volkens had been charged with child sex offences which had occurred some years earlier.
6. As far as I know, at no time was anyone else at QAS aware of these allegations prior to those media reports and the criminal charges being laid.
7. On 11 April 2002, the Director-General of the Department of Innovation and Information, Economy, Sport and Recreation (the Department) wrote to Mr Volkens advising that he was not to attend any QAS facility or training site until the charges against him had been fully determined. **Attached** and marked with letter 'A' is a copy of that letter.
8. Mr Volkens was accordingly restricted to the tasks referred to on the first page of the letter referred to in the preceding paragraph.

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9. As head coach, he could still remotely perform budgeting, co-ordinate swimming meetings, arrange travel and provide support to less senior coaches and manage training programs.
10. This involved him either working from home or in the office space which was made available for him at the Department's headquarters in the Brisbane CBD. I recall that if for any reason he needed to attend the Queensland Academy of Sport, he was to telephone me first to seek permission.
11. I recall that QAS was advised to the effect that Mr Volkens was entitled to due process by his employer and was effectively innocent until proven guilty. However, QAS also had the welfare and safety of its athletes in mind and it was this priority which caused the Director-General to write to Mr Volkens in the terms described above.
12. On 18 September 2002 when the charges against Mr Volkens were dropped, I emailed staff at QAS advising them that Mr Volkens is welcomed back to his normal duties. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'B' is a copy of that email.
13. I seem to recall that at some stage, QAS did consider notifying athletes and their parents about Mr Volkens being charged. However as I recall it, no such notification was made as this information was already well and truly in the public domain. It was also considered unnecessary to notify athletes and parents of his return to duties after the charges were discontinued.
14. I recall at the time that the public and media seemed to be of the view that Mr Volkens role at QAS involved coaching of athletes. This was incorrect. Mr Volkens' role was to coordinate the QAS swimming programme and to mentor coaches. He was in fact a "coach's coach".
15. By an agreement dated 14 May 2003, Mr Volkens was seconded to Australian Swimming Incorporated, for the period 1 November 2002 until 31 December 2004. This secondment required Mr Volkens to spend a lot of time in Canberra. **Attached** and marked with the letter 'C' is a copy of the Secondment Agreement.

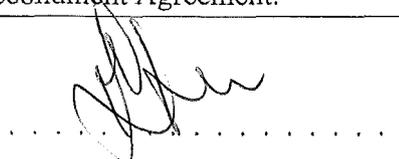
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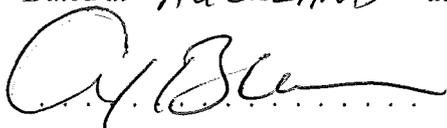


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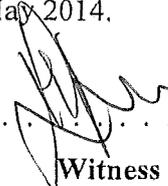
16. I understand that members of the public at that time had written to Environment Ministers criticising QAS's continuing employment of Volkens. QAS staff assisted the Minister in responding to some of that correspondence. I am informed that relevant correspondence in this regard has been provided to the Royal Commission.

I make this statement of my own free will believing its contents to be true and correct.

Dated at AUCKLAND this 15 day of May 2014.



Alexander Baumann



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