

**IN THE MATTER** of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act  
2012

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER** of an application by **GRANT HEPBURN  
LAWRIE** of the **JACK RABBIT  
RESTAURANT AND BAR** pursuant to  
ss.219 and 227 the Act for a Manager's  
Certificate.

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT LICENCING COMMITTEE**

**INTRODUCTION**

[1] On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Mr Grant Hepburn Lawrie filed an application with the Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Agency (the Agency) for a renewal of his manager's certificate. Mr Lawrie's accompanying reference letter stated that he is the owner and a company director at the Jack Rabbit Restaurant and Bar premises in Wanaka and had been employed as its manager since it opened in June 2017.

**THE APPLICATION**

[2] The Inspector has provided the Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Committee (the Committee) with a detailed summary and a time line of the application's progress within the Agency following the initial filing on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**THE REPORT**

[3] *"Mr Lawrie was emailed on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as further information was required for his application as well as the required fee. My colleague Lainy Black contacted Mr Lawrie on four separate occasions after this via email and telephone between 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Mr Lawrie's mobile number rings and then directs to voicemail and messages were left. No reply was received from the applicant at any stage.*

[4] *Upon further investigation on the premises Jack Rabbit, a post on their social media page indicates that the business has been permanently closed since 22 January 2020. On the Companies house website, the company is in the process of being removed and will be if no objections are received by 15 September 2020"*

## **THE HEARING**

[5] A Notice of Hearing for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to consider the application at the Queenstown Lakes District Council Chambers was issued on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020. As the application is of a kind as listed in s191 (3) (b) the quorum necessary to consider and determine the application is one member who must be the chairperson.

[6] The Committee has three permanent members that are council commissioners that meet the qualification necessary s191 (2)

[7] The meeting was convened at 1.00pm. In attendance were Ms Jessica Mason and Ms Lainy Black, both Agency regulatory support officers, and appearing to assist the proceedings was the Licensing Inspector Ms RM Scoons. The Committee was represented by Commissioner J M Mann. The applicant, Mr Lawrie did not appear.

[8] The Inspector, Ms Scoons presented a final submission that in addition to summarising her report to the Agency included the following observation.

*"The application could not be processed due to the failure of the applicant to respond to repeated attempts by (the Agency) to reach him. This would seem to cast doubt on Mr Lawrie's commitment to the application and thus his suitability to hold a Managers Certificate".*

[9] The Inspector went on to remind the committee that s227 of the Act directs us to have regard to the following matters

*(a) the applicant's suitability to be a manager*

*(b) any convictions recorded against the applicant;*

*(c) any experience, in particular recent experience that the applicant has had in managing any premises or conveyance in respect of which a licence was in force*

*(d) any relevant training, in particular recent training, that the applicant has undertaken and evidence that the applicant holds the prescribed qualification required under section 218;*

*(e) any matters dealt with in any report under section 225 of this Act."*

## **DECISION**

[10] The committee agrees with the Inspector. The applicant, Mr Lawrie has been given ample opportunity to engage in the process required to determine whether or not he is a suitable person to be a certificated manager. The Agency has not had any response to their initiatives nor have they had any other contact with the applicant since the initial application in early December. Mr Lawrie's lack of commitment brings into question his motivation and suitability to hold a Manager's Certificate. Accordingly, the committee rules pursuant to s 221(1) of the Act that the above application for a Manager's Certificate is refused.

**DATED** at Queenstown this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of September 2020



J.M.Mann  
Commissioner  
Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Committee

