

ENGAGEMENT

One of the main arguments by the Department in this case is their allegation that I have “failed to engage” with them and the support service Communify. There’s plenty of contrary evidence making it easy to prove this allegation false.

Before presenting this evidence, I must bring to remembrance my policy that all forms of oral communication are to be minimised and avoided as much as possible for the major reason that they cannot be recorded for evidentiary purposes. This is for my own legal protection, to ensure that there is a written record of all communication between me and the Department, and any third party connected to the Department. Without written records, there is no sure way to know the substance of an oral communication. This is why I do not participate in face-to-face interviews, whether at the Department’s office or at my premises or voice calls on the telephone.

The Department has an appalling record of truth, and this expose is but one more example of that, strengthening the requirement for this policy to be enforced all the more.

I mention this policy, which has been explained to the Department before, although not the reasoning behind it.

The Department has apparently refused to accept the terms of this policy, and I suspect it is because they would prefer the majority of their communication off the record so they can do whatever they like with immunity from legal recourse.

Anyway, enough of the introduction, here’s the evidence of my engagement with the Department and Communify for the period from 1 July 2021 to 9 May 2022.

Annexure “A”: Emails between John Araneda (Communify) and David Barker

Annexure “B”: Selected emails between Department of Housing and David Barker

Annexure “C”: Transcript of recorded meeting between Department of Housing staff and David Barker on 2021-09-03, commencing at 11:01:33

The emails show that, at the beginning, I was highly engaged with Samuel Powderly, who was a new member of the Housing staff. I was keen to reset the relationship with Sam, and the email record shows cordial communication between us. I note that Sam did not write to me again after the meeting in September 2021. Perhaps he was influenced by his superiors to not be so cordial.

Engagement then switched to Communify. I am perplexed by the Department of Housing’s statement that Communify advised I was not engaging with them. The email record clearly shows otherwise. Perhaps what they *really* mean to say is that I was not engaging with them *in a manner they would have liked*. But they didn’t want to admit that their tactics weren’t working so they chose to lie about it instead.