

Tuesday, 22 August 2023

Sanjana Hattotuwa  
The Disinformation Project

**By email:** info@thedisinfoproject.org

Dear Mr Hattotuwa,

## **DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS ABOUT JULIAN BATCHELOR**

1. We represent Julian Batchelor. This letter is sent on an open basis.
2. On 5 August 2023, Television New Zealand (**TVNZ**), published an article titled "Julian Batchelor under investigation over anti-co-governance pamphlets" (**the Article**).
3. The Article, which had text and video content, was published online and in print to the national and international audience of TVNZ.

## **Defamatory Statements**

4. The Article contained the following defamatory statements made by you in relation to Mr Batchelor:
  - 4.1 "It is what you would call dangerous speech. It incites hate, and it instigates harm offline."
  - 4.2 "This is racist rhetoric. This is colonialism's long shadow."
  - 4.3 "The Disinformation Project has looked at what he has said, what he has printed, and what he's published... There is open talk, repeatedly, of civil war. There is [sic] open calls for weaponisation, and for taking up weapons. There is the sustained targeting of Māori."

## **Demands as to Retraction and Costs**

5. We request that you issue a reasonable statement in the form of retraction and apology. The detail of this statement is to be agreed, but would contain words to the effect of:

On 5 August 2023 statements about Julian Batchelor were made by Sanjana Hattotuwa of The Disinformation Project were published. These statements were damaging and untrue.

Sanjana Hattotuwa and the Disinformation Project withdraw the statements made and apologises to Mr Batchelor.

6. As part of this settlement, we also ask for a contribution of \$1,000 to Mr Batchelor's legal costs incurred to date.

7. We are confident that Mr Batchelor will be successful in pursuing legal proceedings if that is necessary.
8. We ask that retraction and costs be agreed to by 28 August 2023, at which time Mr Batchelor intends on commencing proceedings.

Yours faithfully  
FRONTLINE LAW LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hague', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Matthew Hague, VRD**

**Director | Lawyer** | Frontline Law Ltd

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