

Our Ref: 390440  
Contact: Janis Adair - Chris Littlewood

2 October 2015

Mr Paul Gee  
PO Box 249 Takaka  
Golden Bay  
Tasman 7142

By email: [gasnsolarservices@gmail.com](mailto:gasnsolarservices@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Gee

**Ombudsmen Act investigation  
Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board  
Gas Fitters Certificate 345138**

In your email of 15 October 2014 in response to Deputy Ombudsman Leo Donnelly's letter of 14 October 2014, you asked this Office to enquire of the Board –

*“where the certificate for the ‘pizza’ cert (sic) went, number 345138 ... Explain how a certificate could be on the Board's register, but not be received by the Board.”*

In his letter, Mr Donnelly stated:

*“On the face of it, ... no useful purpose would be achieved by further investigating this complaint.”*

I agree with Mr Donnelly's comments.

In its report to this Office, the Board stated:

*“In terms of gas certificate 345138:*

- a. This certificate was one of two certificates for Milton Street. Mr Gee and Mr Darnley were investigated by the Board in relation to Milton Street and the certificates associated with this property.*
- b. On 11 May 2011, Mr Gee emailed the Board requesting a colour copy of gas certificate 345138. The Board replied saying that:
  - i The Board never received a pink copy of certificate 345138.**

- ii *The Board only has a photocopy of the certifier's copy of certificate 345138, which was produced as exhibit PG007 together with a copy of the gas supplier's copy for the disciplinary hearing against him and Mr Darnley.*
- iii *The Board records say that the Board's copy of the certifier's certificate 345138 was received after the explosion at Milton Street, Nelson in 2009 from the Department of Labour.*

*As part of this review, a search of FoxPro found that certificate 345138 was entered into the Board's electronic database on 8 April 2005. Other than the electronic copy available on the Board's online database, and the data on FoxPro, there is no other evidence that certificate 345138 was received by the Board."*

I am satisfied that the Board was entitled to refuse your official information request on the basis that, in terms of section 18(e) of the OIA, certificate number 345138 cannot be found. The Board's only record of that certificate is its database electronic record. Further, I am satisfied that the Board has made reasonable efforts to find the original copy. For those reasons, I have decided not to investigate your complaint any further.

In my letter of 13 June 2014 to you, I stated:

*"I have reviewed the information provided by both the Board and you concerning your allegations against Mr Darnley that he tampered with gasfitters' certificates in your name. I am satisfied that the Board has thoroughly investigated your concerns. Further, I consider that the Board's decision not to further investigate your complaints about Mr Darnley's gas installations was reasonably open to it. On that basis, I have discontinued my investigation into these matters."*

As previously indicated, I will not investigate any complaints by you relating to Mr Darnley and the disciplinary proceedings brought against you.

I have closed this Office's file on this complaint.

Yours sincerely



Professor Ron Paterson  
Ombudsman