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 **QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

www.qldc.govt.nz

30 April 2020

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Naell Crosby-Roe
 Communications and Governance Manager
 Queenstown Lakes District Council

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Naell,

Your email of 24 April regarding "returns allegations" refers.

At the outset I can assure you that I well underspent the budget of \$20,000 and in fact ended up having to return some of the money donated to me.

For the record, my campaign included donations from a number of parties. [REDACTED] took the role of arranging the donations and [REDACTED] took responsibility for banking these and for disbursement of funds for campaign expenses. I had no part in this whatsoever.

[REDACTED] has provided evidence (attached) relating to items 1,3,4,5,6 & 7.

In relation to item 2 I approached [REDACTED] to provide PR advice at the outset. She declined. Instead she referred me to [REDACTED] who performed that task for me. You will see that payments to [REDACTED] have been declared. Police are welcome to request an affidavit from [REDACTED] who will confirm the above. In addition, should Police decide that they wish to see it, I am very happy to supply my telephone records which will show one or two calls to [REDACTED] over the period [REDACTED]. If she was my PR person there would obviously be frequent calls, as there is to [REDACTED].

In relation to item 8, the allegation of using a professional campaign manager to do "significant campaign work" for me is simply untrue. I invited a number of friends, including [REDACTED] to join a group of friends who met with me three times over the course of the campaign at my house to discuss local issues which may affect the campaign. Those involved were [REDACTED].

Anyone of the above will be happy provide an affidavit attesting the fact that [REDACTED] was not employed by me in any shape or fashion, nor was he playing any greater role than any of the others mentioned.

I note that this also apparently constitutes, according to the complainant, a conflict of interest. It is clearly not.

I note your comment regarding advice to Councillors or beyond. I have now had the chance to take informal legal advice on this and am informed that there is no such a requirement to do so. This is an unfounded wild allegation with no basis in fact. Should Council consider that further notification is a requirement, I will be taking formal legal advice and challenging any further disclosure.