

MIN-3043 – Stan Semenoff Logging Ltd

29 March 2019

This Min query provides more information regarding the revocation notice of Stan Semenoff Logging Limited as discussed on Monday night.

Whangarei based company, Stan Semenoff Logging Ltd (SSL), had a revocation notice served on 15 March 2019. The notice revoked the SSL transport service licence (TSL) and required SSL to cease all TSL activity by midnight on 22 March 2019.

There was significant interest in the press release that the NZ Transport Agency (the Transport Agency) sent out on 19 March 2019. The feedback received by the Transport Agency was largely positive, including from First Union. A spokesman for First Union told journalists that some of his drivers were too scared to speak against SSL for fear they might be in trouble with the Transport Agency for excess driving time and speeding, even though they were strongly encouraged to behave that way by the SSL management.

Transport Agency spokesperson, Steve Hazard, was later asked about this in an interview with Lois Williams, a Radio NZ journalist, on 22 March 2019. Other media picked up on this story.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/385320/nzta-offers-northland-drivers-immunity-if-they-will-talk>

The Transport Agency recognises the complexities of the situation with SSL. It has been alleged (by journalists and First Union) that SSL manipulates migrant workers into breaching basic safety standard, due to their immigration status, and a concern that they (the drivers) might get in trouble with the Transport Agency, they are fearful to speak up. To date, we have not had any drivers come forward.

You will be aware that any employee is able to use the Protected Disclosure Act 2000, www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2000/0007/latest/DLM53466.html which provides for criminal and civil immunity to an employee for disclosing unlawful behaviour about an employer if it involves (amongst other things) a risk to public safety.

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