

**DECISION ON AN INTERNAL REVIEW APPLICATION UNDER  
SECTION 91 OF THE *GREYHOUND RACING ACT 2017***

Matter for determination	Decision dated 18 April 2024 of the Application Assessment Panel
Applicant	Mr Chris Teritaiti
Internal review decision date	17 June 2024
Internal review decision by	Mr Brenton (Alby) Taylor, Chief Commissioner
Internal review decision summary	Confirm decision of 18 April 2024 to refuse Mr Teritaiti's Application for registration as a greyhound Owner/Trainer

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

1. Set out below are the reasons for my decision in relation to the application by Mr Chris Teritaiti (**Mr Teritaiti**) for internal review under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* ("**Act**") of a decision made by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission ("**Commission**" or "**GWIC**") on 18 April 2024.
2. The decision of the Commission was made by the Application Assessment Panel ("**Panel**") which determined to refuse Mr Teritaiti's application for registration as a greyhound 'Owner/Trainer'.
3. This is a reviewable decision within the meaning of section 91(1) of the Act. As I was not involved in making the reviewable decision, I have dealt with this application.
4. Under section 91(7) of the Act, an internal reviewer is empowered to:
  - Confirm the reviewable decision the subject of the application; or
  - Vary the reviewable decision; or
  - Revoke the reviewable decision.

**Background**

1. Mr Teritaiti was a previously registered participant, having first registered as a greyhound 'Owner' in August 2022. As part of his first application, the Commission obtained a National Police Check of disclosable Court outcomes for Mr Teritaiti.
2. On 3 April 2022, in his first application to be registered as a greyhound 'Owner', Mr Teritaiti responded that he had **no** criminal convictions or charges.
3. On 8 April 2022, Mr Teritaiti telephoned the Commission and amended his response, indicating that he had previously been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and with common assault some years ago.

4. Mr Teritaiti has held his license as a greyhound Owner since 10 August 2022. This licence is due to expire in 2025.
5. On 13 April 2024, Mr Teritaiti applied for an 'Owner/Trainer' registration with the Commission, and in his application, Mr Teritaiti indicated that he had 'no' criminal convictions.
6. On 18 April 2024, the Panel considered Mr Teritaiti's application for registration as a Greyhound 'Owner/Trainer'.
7. When considering Mr Teritaiti's application, the Panel had reference to the Commission's Fit and Proper Person Framework, which provides guidance to both applicants and decision makers regarding the Commission's administration of the requirement of section 47 (1) of the Act. Section 47(1) outlines that the Commission is to:
 

“...exercise its registration functions under this Division so as to ensure that any person registered by the Commission is a person who, in the opinion of the Commission, is a fit and proper person to be registered (having regard in particular to the need to protect the public interest as it relates to the greyhound racing industry).”
8. On the following day, Mr Teritaiti was notified of the Panel's decision to refuse his application for registration as a Greyhound 'Owner/Trainer' based on the following grounds:
  - Under the 'fit and proper person' framework, **Criteria 12– the Applicant** has previously been charged or convicted of any criminal offence but did not disclose this on their application.
9. Mr Teritaiti was advised of this decision through email correspondence.

### The internal review application

10. On 16 May 2024, Mr Teritaiti lodged an application requesting an internal review of the decision made by the Panel on 18 April 2024.
11. In his internal review application, Mr Teritaiti provided the following information in support of his application:
  - That he chose not to disclose his criminal conviction history in his first application in August 2022, to avoid any confusions, as the convictions were from the years 2014 to 2015; and
  - That in his current application in April 2024, he did not respond to the criminal conviction history question at all.

### Decision

12. In considering whether the refusal of Mr Teritaiti's registration as a Greyhound 'Owner/Trainer' was appropriate, I have had regard to the following:

- Mr Teritaiti's application for registration as an 'Owner/Trainer'; and Mr Teritaiti's National Police Criminal History Check.
  - The original written decision of the Panel including the Panel's reasoning, which was sent to Mr Teritaiti via email on 19 April 2024.
  - Mr Teritaiti's application for an internal review and any supporting evidence, dated 16 May 2024; and the Fit and Proper Person Framework.
13. The Framework clearly states the importance of applicants to provide full and accurate information in their application, and how failing to provide relevant information is a matter that is directly relevant to an applicant's fitness to be part of the greyhound racing industry.
  14. In the context of Mr Teritaiti, in his application for registration as a greyhound 'Owner/Trainer' from April 2024, he has responded that he has no criminal charges, when in fact he has a history of offences between the years 1999 and 2015, including common assault, stalking/intimidating with intention to cause fear of physical harm, destroy or damage property, and assaulting officer in execution of duty charges.
  15. Mr Teritaiti states in his internal review application that in this current application from April 2024, he did not answer the question related to his criminal convictions when in fact he has provided an answer to the question, which states that he has 'no' criminal charges and convictions.
  16. Similarly, in his application from August 2022, Mr Teritaiti answered 'no' to having any criminal convictions at first instance but then corrected his response via phone call to the Commission, stating that he did have some criminal charges, including drink driving and common assault charges.
  17. However, this was not a holistic or accurate representation of his criminal charges and conviction history, as detailed above in paragraphs [14].
  18. In both the present application and during his previous registration, Mr Teritaiti has voluntarily failed to disclose to the Commission, either partly or wholly, information detailing his criminal convictions and charges.
  19. Mr Teritaiti tries to reason that his convictions and charges were from a long time ago and that he wanted to avoid confusion. However, it is imperative for applicants to disclose all relevant and accurate information in their application to the Commission, in order for the Commission make an appropriate and informed decision when considering an application for registration.
  20. When considering Mr Teritaiti's current registration status as an Owner, and this application, in which he would take on further responsibilities in the industry as an Owner Trainer, regard must also be had to this failure to be honest and accurate in dealings with the Commission. It is my view that Mr Teritaiti's inability to be honest and accurate with the Commission in

respect of his criminal history is a significant factor against him when considering whether he ought to be granted an Owner Trainer registration.

21. As outlined above in [20], an Owner Trainer registration brings with it additional responsibilities and should be treated as a registration with a higher ranking than that of an Owner registration. For this reason, a different and more inspective assessment can be applied to such applications, which is what I believe the Panel have done in this instance. I consider the Panel's decision to regard an Owner Trainer registration as one that carries more status within the industry as appropriate.

22. Accordingly, having reviewed all the material, I confirm the original decision made by the Panel on 18 April 2024, in accordance with section 91(7)(a) of the Act. Mr Teritaiti's application for an Owner Trainer registration is refused.



**Brenton (Alby) Taylor**, MPPA, Dip Law (LPAB), GDLP, GCAM, GAICD  
**Chief Commissioner**

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