

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

Matter for determination	Decision dated 18 April 2024
Applicant	Mr Steven Gregory Board
Internal review decision date	21 May 2024
Internal review decision by	Mr Matthew Tutt, Director Legal & Policy
Internal review decision summary	Confirm decision of the Application Assessment Panel made 18 April 2024 to refuse Mr Board's Application for registration as a Greyhound Attendant

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Set out below are the reasons for my decision in relation to the application by Mr Steven Gregory Board ("**Mr Board**") 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 Board's application for registration as a greyhound 'Attendant'.
3. This is a reviewable decision within the meaning of section 91(1) of the Act. As I was not substantially 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

5. On 21 December 2023, the Commission received Mr Board's application for registration as a 'Greyhound Attendant'.
6. On 15 January 2024, the Commission sent Mr Board an email acknowledging receipt of his application and provided instructions and a link for obtaining a National Police Criminal History Check ("**NPC**") as part of his application determination process.
7. On 29 February 2024, the Commission received the NPC outcome for Mr Board.
8. The NPC outlined Mr Board's criminal history, which is not insignificant, and includes matters finalised as recently as January and July 2023.
9. The offences that were finalised in 2023 resulted in Mr Board being given:

- a Community Corrections Order for 3 years concluding on 17 January 2026; and
 - an Intensive Correction Order for 15 months concluding on 12 October 2024.
10. On 18 April 2024, the Panel considered Mr Board's application for registration as a Greyhound Attendant.
11. When considering Mr Board'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).”
12. On the following day, Mr Board was notified of the Panel's decision to refuse Mr Board's application for registration as a Greyhound Attendant based on the following grounds:
- Under the 'fit and proper person' framework, **Criteria 6** – Applicant has convictions for repeated criminal offences of any nature.
 - Under the 'fit and proper person' framework, **Criteria 7** – Applicant is serving an Intensive Corrections Order.
13. Mr Board was advised of this decision through email correspondence. The correspondence also advised Mr Board that a new application would be considered following the conclusion of his Community Corrections Order in January 2026.

The internal review application

14. On 9 May 2024, Mr Board lodged an application requesting an internal review of the decision made by the Panel on 18 April 2024.
15. In support of his internal review application, Mr Board provided the following documents:
- Certificate of Attendance at Anger Management Program;
 - Certificate of Attendance at Relapse Prevention Programs; and
 - Certificate of successful completion of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Rehabilitation Program.

Decision

16. In considering whether the refusal of Mr Board's registration as a Greyhound Attendant was appropriate, I have had regard to the following:
- Mr Steven Board's initial application for registration; and Mr Board's National Police Criminal History Check.

- The original written decision of the Panel including the Panel's reasoning, which was sent to Mr Board via email on 19 April 2024.
 - Mr Board's application for an internal review and any supporting evidence, dated 9 May 2024; and
 - The *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* and Commission's Fit and Proper Person Framework.
17. The Framework clearly states that applications for registration will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The fitness of persons who have a criminal history/any conviction will be carefully considered when making a decision regarding their registration in the industry.
18. In the context of Mr Board, he is currently serving an Intensive Correction Order concluding on 12 October 2024. The Framework clearly outlines at Criterion 7 that an applicants with a current Intensive Corrections Order will be refused a registration.
19. The Panel also referred to Criterion 6 of the Framework in the original decision, which states that the Panel may refuse an application where the Applicant has had convictions for repeated criminal offences of any nature.
20. In Mr Board's situation, his NPC depicts repeated criminal offending between 2007 and 2023, across a range of offences. Most recently, Mr Board was convicted of attempting to stalk/intimidate with intention to cause fear of harm, which escalated to an actual stalking/intimidating with intention to cause fear of harm offence within only a number of months, all while serving a Community Correction Order. Mr Board's criminal history shows repeated criminal offences and therefore, his application warranted a close examination.
21. The decision of the Panel to reject Mr Board's application for the reasons outlined above were, in my opinion, correct and 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.
22. Mr Board may apply for registration once he satisfies both of the following, and the Panel can consider this and any other matters which might be relevant to Mr Board's application at that time:
- Conclusion of his Community Corrections Order in January 2026; and
 - Mr Board can demonstrate a period of at least 5 years of no offending.

Matthew Tutt
Director Legal & Policy

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