

Decision number: **17/CERT/020/2026**

IN THE MATTER of the Sale and Supply of
Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **Terry
William GARNETT** pursuant
to s224 of the Act for the
renewal of a manager's
certificate.

BEFORE THE SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

This is an application by **Terry William GARNETT** for the renewal of a manager's certificate.

The applicant holds the prescribed Licence Controller Qualification/s, has recently been working in licensed premises namely Putaruru Golf Club and has suitable experience in managing licensed premises.

A report in opposition from the Police has been received in relation to this application.

Mr Garnett is a sworn Police Officer who works as a Prosecutor in the Tokoroa District Court and is based in the Tokoroa Police Station.

He tells us that he has held a manager's certificate since 2003 and apparently it has been renewed, unopposed, 7 times since that date.

He advises that he has been open with his employers who have been aware of his role as a certificated manager at the Putaruru Golf Club for many years.

Sergeant Weston is absolutely correct; there is a clear conflict of interest that would be exposed should Mr. Garnett be required to act as the Duty manager at the Golf Club if other Police were attending an incident there.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The DLC is not going to become involved in an internal Police matter or their rules around secondary employment, although clearly those rules are there to protect the integrity of the organisation.

Neither the New Zealand Police, nor the Licensing Inspector, has questioned the suitability of the applicant to perform the role, or the way they have managed licensed premises.

The writer notes that he approved the last renewal that was unopposed by the Police and the Inspector.

Had I been aware that Mr. Garnett was a sworn Police Member I would have set the renewal down for a hearing to examine the circumstances around his appointment.

Sergeant Weston has taken advice from his superiors who apparently do not support the holding of a Managers Certificate by a sworn Police Officer.

As a way forward Mr. Garnett has voluntarily 'stood himself down' from using his certificate in the bar at the Golf Club. He advises that he intends to retire from the Police late in 2027, some 18 months away, and will not be the named duty manager during that period of time.

This would only work if there was another certificated manager available now and is able to be the named certificated manager for the Club and respond to incidents at the bar. We are advised that there is another certificated manager appointed to the Putaruru Golf Club.

To assist Sergeant Weston with his dilemma, we advised him that the DLC does regularly renewed managers certificates for holders who are not currently working in licensed premises as long as there is a clear intention that they intend to return to work in licensed premises during the term of the renewal.

Considering that this certificate has been renewed multiple times, unopposed by police, this would be a pragmatic way forward.

Mr Garnett's letter is sufficient to be considered as an Undertaking. If he was to breach this agreement that would put his ongoing suitability at risk.

DECISION

Subject to the above, the District Licensing Committee Chairman, acting pursuant to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 **approves** the application by **Terry William GARNETT** for a renewal of a Manager's Certificate.

The renewal is valid for three years from the expiry of the current certificate viz 10 May 2026.

By 10 November 2027 Mr Garnett must have exited the Police for this certificate to be able to be utilised in full at Putaruru Golf Club.

In the meantime, Mr. Garnett is not to act as a Duty Manager in any licensed premises between now and the end of his career as a sworn officer.

Once he is retired, he will be free to pursue his position as a certificated duty manager of licensed premises.

DATED at Tokoroa this 10th day of June 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Clearwater', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Murray Clearwater
Chairperson/Commissioner
South Waikato District Licensing Committee
