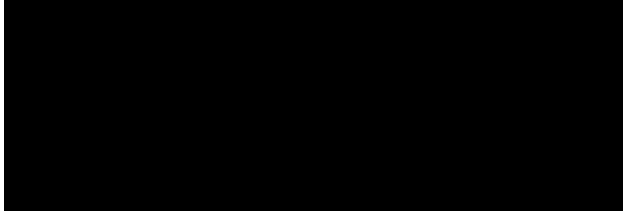


13 February 2019



Official Information Act Request #18.159 – Rustic Country Hotel

1. We refer to your request received on 7 February 2019 where you asked the Commerce Commission (Commission) for the following information, arising from a Stuff news article dated 23 December 2018:¹
 - 1.1 is Rendezvous Country Castle a registered business;
 - 1.2 under resource consent, and any/all other consents, what activities are approved for operation at this business premise;
 - 1.3 is the income/revenue from the sex business being declared to Inland Revenue;
 - 1.4 have all public health regulations been met [sic] to operate a sex club and a family friendly restaurant out of the same venue;
 - 1.5 are regular inspections being undertaken by a third party to ensure hygiene/cleanliness standards, are being met;
 - 1.6 is there a standard for ensuring the safety of the general public who unknowingly eat there, unaware of its secondary use;
 - 1.7 which organisation is responsible for these inspections;
 - 1.8 are all fire and public safety regulations being met in regards to the undisclosed use of the venue, specifically the dungeon and the crucifixion room;
 - 1.8.1 is there a fire safety plan in place for anyone tied or chained up in these areas;
 - 1.9 for indoor-outdoor shows that take place especially those between the hours of 12 noon and 4pm, what legal requirements exist to ensure the safety of

¹ https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/109470305/alleged-pub-sex-business-sparks-ire-among-small-town-residents?fbclid=IwAR1pGbuTZUf0q8nN_QO9K9mK7L9TqGwsmhH1e63PZ23G84-8XZvO1koQtk0


any member of the public walking etc in the street surrounding the Rustic Country building;

- 1.10 what health and safety checks are being done to ensure all equipment used for these evenings is hygienic and has been properly sterilized between events; and
 - 1.11 there are cameras recording both inside and outside the facility - what measures are taken to ensure this footage is not being used in an illegal/inappropriate manner.
2. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Our Response

- 3. We have decided to decline your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, on the basis that the information you have requested is not held by the Commission.
- 4. We note that the Commission has not received any complaints about the "Rustic Country Hotel" or "Rendezvous Country Castle".
- 5. We have transferred paragraph [1.3] of your request to Inland Revenue.
- 6. We note that you have copied your request to the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Waimakariri District Council, the Parliamentary Counsel Office, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Companies Office, DB Breweries, Aviva Family Violence Services, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Office of Matt Doocey (MP for Waimakariri), Avon Insurance, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, WorkSafe and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. On that basis, we have not transferred any other part of your request to any other agency.
- 7. If you are not satisfied with the Commission's response to your OIA request, section 28(3) of the OIA provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.
- 8. Please note the Commission may publish this response to your request on its website. Personal details will be redacted from the published response.
- 9. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us at ويا@comcom.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,



Rosie Brown
OIA Coordinator