

 Email

From: [Gez Johns](#)
To: [Phil Kitchin](#)
Subject: Re:

Sent: 22/11/2015 2:33:11 PM



Thanks phil

Sent from my iPhone

On 22/11/2015, at 2:12 pm, Phil Kitchin <Phil.Kitchin@parliament.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Gez

FYI, this response to a Fairfax inquiry went this afternoon,

regards Phil

Hi Jack,

You can attribute the following to Social Housing Minister Paula Bennett.

Comment:

"This was a horrifying unprovoked attack on an innocent contractor helping detect a dangerous drug in a state house.

"Housing New Zealand takes sensible precautions when testing like this by employing security guards to assist and thankfully there was a guard on duty to end this despicable attack.

"I support the tougher line Housing New Zealand are taking on meth use in their homes and we won't tolerate vicious behaviour like this.

"Housing New Zealand staff and their contractors look after some societies most difficult people but it is a two way street. We will provide homes for the needy, not drug dens for criminals and their associates.

"Housing New Zealand has increased meth testing of its homes after a project showed contamination was better managed by testing whenever meth use is suspected. Previously testing was carried out when drug manufacturing was suspected."

Incident:

Officials have briefed me on an incident at a Mt Albert Housing New Zealand property on October 9 when a house was being tested for methamphetamine after returning an initial positive test.

A contractor testing the property was accompanied by a senior HNZ tenancy manager and a security guard.

The tenant agreed to the the test being carried out and while the tester was testing the house a relative approached the security guard and was refused access to the home.

Not long afterwards the partner of the tenant returned to the property and appears to have jumped a nearly two metre high fence, unchained two dogs confined to the yard and set them on the tester who was in the kitchen.

The man held the door closed while the dogs attacked the tester who suffered severe wounds to his hands, legs and forearms. He was hospitalised for several days.

While the attack was going on, hearing the tester screaming, the security guard intervened and managed to get into the kitchen and was rushed by the dogs. The tester managed to escape out a window.

Police, ambulance and animal control were called and the dogs were seized by animal control and have since been put down.

HNZ was in the process of ending the tenancy and the tenants have since been evicted under a fast track process because of the attack.

From: Jack van Beynen

Sent: Sunday, 22 November 2015 1:07:17 p.m.

To: Phil Kitchin

Subject: Media query: HNZ dog attack

Hi Phil,

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier. The story I was referring to is this one.

I'm just wondering if Minister Bennett would be able to tell us what she understands happened, what her response to the incident was, and whether she thinks HNZ does enough to protect the people working for it (I understand this man was a contractor, though).

Does that sound feasible? Let me know if not.

Thanks for your help!

Cheers,

Jack

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