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**IN OTHER NEWS**

**REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**



Well that says it all. The Federation has been told by the Regulation Review Committee that the Committee does not intend to progress the Federation's complaint any further. This implies the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board are doing everything correctly and we got our ass kicked.

The Board's response to the complaint can be found on the Parliamentary website

[www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/?custom=reg\\_88035](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/?custom=reg_88035)

The following is the content of the Committee's letter to the Federation.

**CONSTANT RISK**



Ask anyone about compliance and they tell you the best type of compliance is voluntary, so why is so much money spent of FORCED compliance?

If compliance is fair and reasonable then people will abide by it, but when it is excessive they will attempt to avoid it whenever possible.

In regulated industries it seems that business owners are the front line of risk takers followed closely by their employees. Great risk for minimal gain and it seems accidents no longer happen. When was the last time you heard of an accident where no one was chased to be held accountable. Nothing is an accident in the eyes of regulators, it's all about accidents occurring because someone has been incompetent. No mistakes - just deemed not competent.

Now there will be the people that say that if you do the job right then there will be no issues and they would be right, but do you really believe that people go about their work with the intention of making mistakes or putting people at risk? Shit happens but that doesn't mean we can be laid back. We still have to meet our responsibilities.

In the case of tradespeople we are at risk more than others in that the regulators can say it is common work practice or as a tradeperson you should have known about the other legislation.

When something happens now most tradespeople don't say "I'll never do that" they simply say "some poor bugger is going to get screwed". The way the system is now everyone becomes a victim.

If the money spent on enforcement was spent on training, we would all be in a far better space.

Dear Mr Gordon

**Complaint about the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Notices 2016**

*Thank you for making a complaint and appearing on 19 June to make an oral submission to the committee regarding three Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board (Registration and Licencing) Notices.*

*The committee has considered all of your evidence, together with the response received from the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, which is attached to this letter.*

*After taking all of the evidence into account, the committee has unanimously agreed that the threshold to draw the notices to the special attention of the House have not been met in this case. The committee does not intend to progress your complaint further.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Alastair Scott*

*Chairperson Regulations Review Committee*

It would seem there is no right of response to the Board's submission which seems a bit odd, but so be it.

We are sure the Committee's decision will please a lot of people but we honestly believe the qualifications and numb

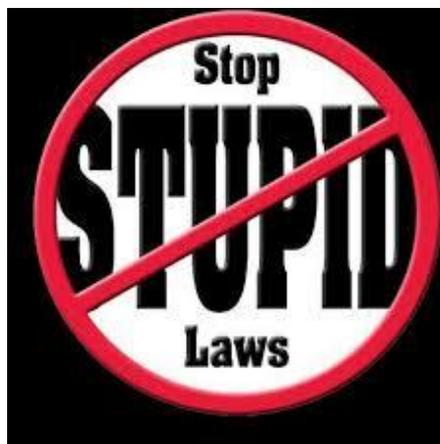
The Master Plumbers, Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and Skills Organisation cartel have got

If we really cut to the chase we know that the legislation is so complicated now that if a regulator really wants to get you then they will. If one bit of legislation can't get you then they will find another that can.

It seems we are rapidly approaching the American mindset and for businesses to be able to operate effectively they will need to have a lawyer on retainer all the time. This obviously will mean an increase in the prices charged to the public to cover the legal expense and the added risk.

The government seems to forget that even tradespeople are entitled to make a profit and live comfortably so if they want to introduce rules, regulations and legislation to regulate us at a constant risk then they are the ones who will need to justify the increase in costs to the public.

### IS THERE TOO MUCH LEGISLATION?



Stop a minute and think about all the laws, rules and regulations we must adhere to daily under the never ending threat of prosecution. Think about trade and business legislation that we must adhere to like the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006, Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Regulations 2010, the Gas

Act 1992, Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010, ASNZ Standards, OSH laws, Fair Trading Act, Consumer Guarantees Act and the list goes on but is it all necessary?

Above there is a sign saying "Stop Stupid Laws," well how about we take it a step further and imagine implementing a "Stupid Law." We don't mean start another stupid law but start a law against being stupid.

Here's an example to kick us off. To put a high pressure water blaster in your mouth to get a drink on a hot day is STUPID. You may laugh but it did happen and a company was fined over \$20,000 for not telling the person "don't put the high pressure water blaster in your mouth to get a drink."

Here's a few other examples for you:

- To drink alcohol and then drive is STUPID.
- To not follow manufacture's installation instructions is STUPID
- If you don't manage your finance and can't pay the tradesperson you are STUPID.

what they wanted, but in the future will it pan out the way they believe? Only time will tell.

For the Federation we will send a response to the Regulation Review Committee even though they didn't ask for it.

Next edition of the Fellow Practitioner will have that response because the Regulation Review Committee has closed the complaint.

- To have a Minister of Building and Construction that can only hire and fire a Statutory Board responsible to them is STUPID.
- To not pay your tax is STUPID.

Our definition of stupid would be ***having or showing a great lack of intelligence or common sense***. Just one level of stupid is required.

The list of stupid acts is limitless and it could all come under one law THE STUPID LAW. Easy to understand and no lawyers needed to interpret the legislation as stupid is stupid. Just though we would put it out there!

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