

# GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF SOUTH AFRICA

*Admitted at The Hague on 21 August 1948  
as a full member of the International Bar Association*

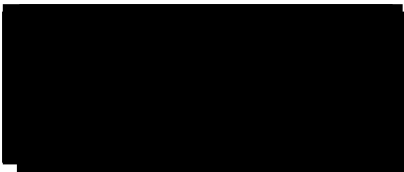
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18 March 2021

Mr. Tony Beamish



Dear Mr Beamish

While we are grateful that you brought the typographical error and exclusion of the police station on the Mtati review to the JSA's attention (and we have corrected them), we respectfully disagree with your opinion that there are "schoolboy errors" in the review, as well as your criticisms of the other reviews.

The reviews are prepared by the various bars affiliated to the General Council of the Bar (GCB) and are submitted to the JSC by the GCB. Contrary to your assertion, their preparation, submission and publication does not constitute the exercise of a public power or performance of a public duty in terms of the Constitution, a provincial constitution or any legislation, as envisaged in the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2 of 2000 ("PAIA"). As such, neither the JSA nor the GCB is a public body as defined in PAIA for the purposes of the preparation, submission and publication of the reviews.

In the circumstances (and apart from the fact that we consider that the identities of the authors are not relevant and indeed that their disclosure could be counterproductive given the nature and purpose of the reviews), we consider that we are not obliged to

furnish you or any other person with the names of the reviewers. The content of the reviews may be ascribed to the JSA and the GCB.

Given that neither the JSA nor the GCB is a public body, they do not have information officers.

Neither the JSA nor the GCB will be making any statement or public comment on the reviews.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Watt-Pringle SC  
Chair: General Council of the Bar of SA



Sesi Baloyi SC  
Chair: Johannesburg Society of Advocates