

**Complaint:** OMSA 16/017  
**Complainant:** T. Watkin  
**Media:** Whale Oil Beef Hooked  
**Publication:** Tim Watkins joins the cast of 'The Lifeboat'  
**Publication date:** 31 May 2016  
**Link:** <http://www.whaleoil.co.nz/2016/05/tim-watkin-joins-cast-lifeboat/#more-253079>  
**Ruling Date:** 22 June 2016  
**Outcome:** Declined to Adjudicate

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**Complaint from T. Watkins said, in part:** the article, of which he was the subject, inferred he was not on good terms with his previous employers and was forced to leave his job by a previous employer. The Complainant said the Publisher repeated defamatory information, without providing him with a right to reply to the allegations and the content was harmful to his reputation.

**The relevant provisions of the OMSA Code of Standards appeared to be Part A Standard 1 Accuracy and Part B Standard 3 Fairness**

**The Chairman** noted that since receipt of the complaint, the Publisher had confirmed its resignation as a member of the Online Media Standards Authority. As the Publisher was no longer a member and had advised the Secretariat it would not engage further with the complaints process, the Chairman reviewed the options available within the complaints process.

At the core of the OMSA complaints process is the voluntary engagement of the Publisher to respond to complaints, robust consideration by the Complaints Committee and the publication of the Committee's decision. The Chairman said as this process was not able to be applied, he determined the appropriate course of action was to decline to adjudicate on the complaint.

**Chairman's Ruling: Declined to Adjudicate.**

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**Content subject to complaint:**

<http://www.whaleoil.co.nz/2016/05/tim-watkin-joins-cast-lifeboat/#more-253079>

TIM WATKIN JOINS THE CAST OF 'THE LIFEBOAT'  
by Cameron Slater on May 31, 2016 at 5:30pm

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So, I'm joining RNZ to be EP of podcasts & series. Hard as it is to leave [@TheNationTV3](#), this offers huge scope to create radio in a new way

[10:20 AM - 31 May 2016](#)

And with that tweet Tim Watkin announces he is off to join the cast of the 'The Lifeboat'. Sad to have to point out to Tim Watkin that podcasts are hardly a new way of creating radio. According to Wikipedia the word was first coined some time between 2001 and 2003. It is at least 13 years old in terms of the concept and idea, so hardly new an innovative.

Radio New Zealand meanwhile has become somewhat of a real life metaphor of a life boat for failed or sacked journalists.



Left to right: Wallace Chapman, Pip Keane, John Campbell, Mihi Forbes, Tim Watkin, David Slack, Carol Hirschfeld, Guyon Espiner

What I want to know, though, is was Watkin pushed or did he leave before his past at TVNZ caught up with him? Or the fact he is currently under active Police investigation? Meanwhile a good case could be made for a NZ on Air funded comedy called 'The Lifeboat'.

– Twitter