

Complaint: OMSA 16/018
Complainant: J. Hunter
Media: RNZ
Publication: RNZ website “Israel cuts off water during Ramadan”.
Publication date: 24 June 2016
Ruling Date: 27 June 2016
Outcome: Settled

The Complainant, J. Hunter said, said, in part: “The title of the story is a lie Israel did NOT cut off water supply, the issue was simply a burst pipe. Not intentional on the part of Israel... delete the story, or amend it to tell the truth.”

The Chairman was satisfied that the relevant provisions of the OMSA Code of Standards were Part A Standard 1 Accuracy and Part C Standard 5 Responsible Content.

Preliminary comment from the Publisher, RNZ, said: “Radio New Zealand agrees that this headline could have been better worded and we have in fact reworded it now read:

‘Tens of thousands of Palestinians left without water’.

We appreciate the matter being drawn to our attention and suggest that as the issue has now been resolved, there are no grounds for the complaint to proceed.”

The Chairman noted the concerns of the Complainant that the headline was inaccurate as the issue related to a burst pipe.

The Chairman noted the Publisher accepted the title could have been better worded and on learning of the complaint, amended it to be clearer.

Noting the self-regulatory actions of the Publisher to amend the title of the content, the Chairman considered it would serve no further purpose to place the matter before the OMSA Committee Members for consideration and ruled the matter was settled.

Chairman’s Ruling: Settled

Content: The RNZ website (www.radionz.co.nz) included a link to listen to a broadcast piece which was titled “Israel cutes off water during Ramadan”.