

Mr Andrew Little MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

16 July 2015

Dear Mr Little

I bought a house through Barfoot and Thompson.

I am stunned to find that my house purchase was one of those leaked to MP Phil Twyford as part of a campaign against Chinese investment.

I am even more stunned to find that I am included in Mr Twyford's list of Chinese foreign investors because the house was not purchased using my surname, Te Pou. (Details of the house purchase and the name used are withheld from publication to avoid compounding the wrong.) I am Maori. My wife is of Chinese descent.

Mr Twyford commented publicly when he publicly released his list: "People of Chinese descent bought 39.5% of houses sold by major Akl real estate firm. This is foreign money."

My money is not foreign.

Privacy Principle 4 of the Privacy Act 1993 states that Personal Information shall not be collected or used in a way that is unlawful, unfair or intrudes unreasonably on the personal affairs of the individual concerned.

Barfoot and Thompson have publicly announced the information was taken and passed on wrongfully by an employee, and therefore the collection was certainly unlawful. The use of it to describe Maori New Zealanders as Chinese, 'foreign money', and the cause of a housing problem is certainly unfair.

The use of our family's data to make a political point is not what the information was collected for and therefore unreasonably intrudes on our family's affairs. We are required to provide data when we buy a house. It is therefore reasonable for us to assume that the data we are compelled to provide will be used responsibly, not to falsely name us as foreigners.

Today one of our children asked me, "Daddy, why are people angry at Chinese?" This demonstrates that actual harm has been caused to our family.

Mr Little, the Privacy Act requires that in the first place I raise my complaint with you before I seek redress through statutory channels. I seek a formal written apology. In addition, please immediately remove my family's name from your alleged Chinese investor list.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Te Pou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.