

# Open Letter from Foodstuffs South Island Grocers

Dear Prime Minister and Minister Willis,

The proposal to break up the Foodstuffs co-op says local grocers will still have the scale and support they need to make groceries cheaper.

As the owners of the South Island co-op and the stores, we know our business well, we know what's required to make it work, and we think this proposal fundamentally misses the point.

We each own our respective stores and, together, the Foodstuffs South Island co-op.

Our co-op isn't separate from our stores – it is our business.

It gives us the scale to buy competitively, invest for the future and keep products moving into communities across the South Island.

It's the sum of the parts of the co-op that allow us to deliver value for customers every day.

Across the South Island, many communities rely on locally owned grocers like us, supported by a co-operative model that enables us to share buying power, logistics, technology and infrastructure. Those arrangements have been built up over nearly 100 years and help ensure smaller communities can access the same products and services at the same price as larger centres.

It is not clear what the cost would be of duplicating all the efficient parts of our co-op – distribution centres, transport networks, support services – all of which are fundamental to keeping prices down.

The heart of our co-op is built on South Island values – supporting enterprise, valuing hard work and honesty, and backing strong families and communities.

Yet National's proposal would take apart the very thing that allows us to build successful businesses and provide for our communities.

Generations of local grocers have built this co-op together. It's helped create local businesses, local jobs and opportunities for generations of New Zealanders.

What worries us most are the risks and uncertainty, especially for regional and rural communities. Prices could rise; small stores could close without the support of the co-op to make those businesses viable.

We know what the co-op delivers, and our customers benefit from it every day.

We know it helps keep products on shelves and supports communities throughout the South Island.

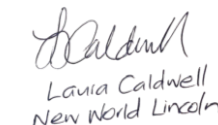
When you're talking about the systems that help feed New Zealand families, certainty and resilience matter. This proposal also raises broader questions about the confidence businesses can have in investing, building, and growing for the future.

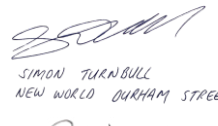
That's why we urge you to think very carefully before doing this. This would dismantle a proven and cost-effective way of getting groceries to South Islanders, built over nearly 100 years, and can only lead to increased costs and greater uncertainty.

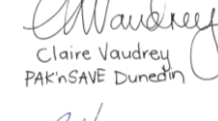
Sincerely,

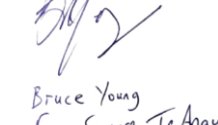
**South Island New World, PAK'nSAVE, and Four Square Owner Operators**

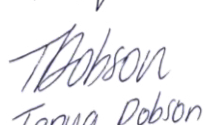
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South Island

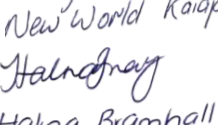
  
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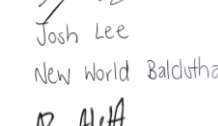
  
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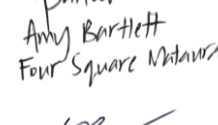
  
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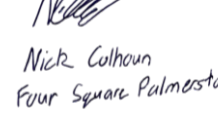
  
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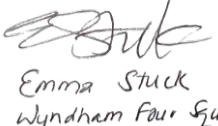
  
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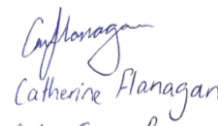
  
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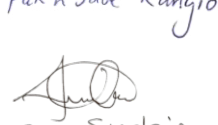
  
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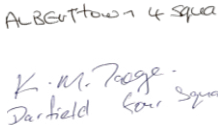
  
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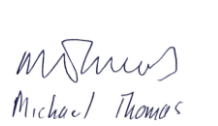
  
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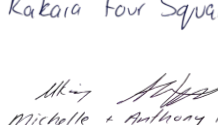
  
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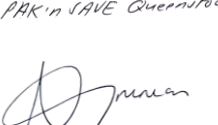
  
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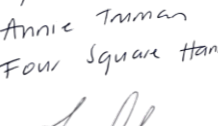
  
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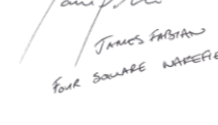
  
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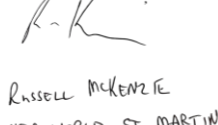
  
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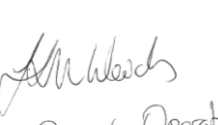
  
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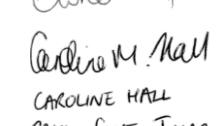
  
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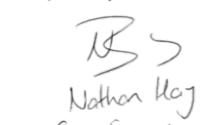
  
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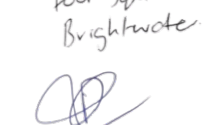
  
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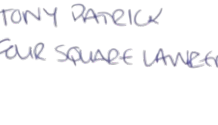
  
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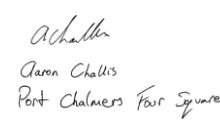
  
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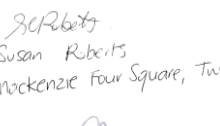
  
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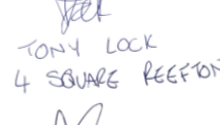
  
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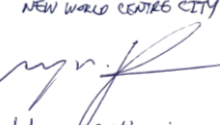
  
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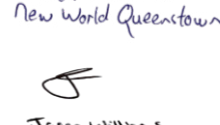
  
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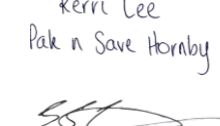
  
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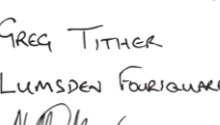
  
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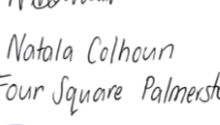
  
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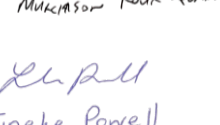
  
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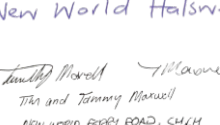
  
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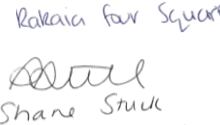
  
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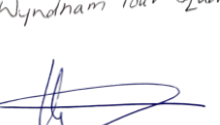
  
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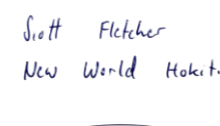
  
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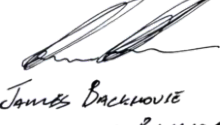
  
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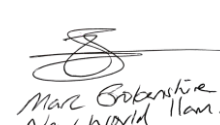
  
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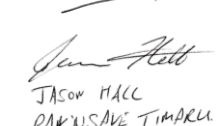
  
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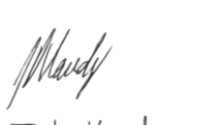
  
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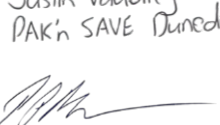
  
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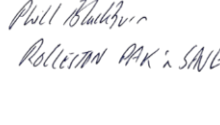
  
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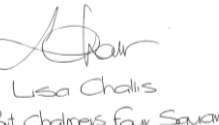
  
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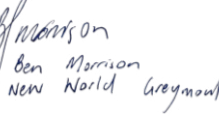
  
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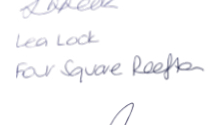
  
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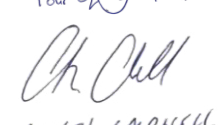
  
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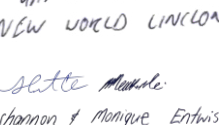
  
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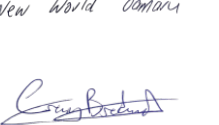
  
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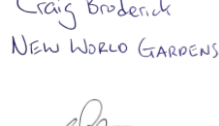
  
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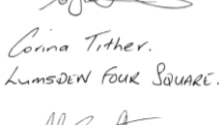
  
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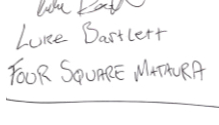
  
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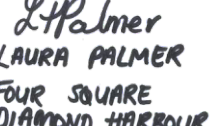
  
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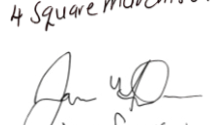
  
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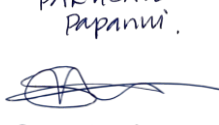
  
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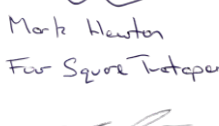
  
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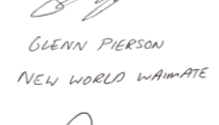
  
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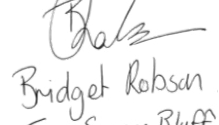
  
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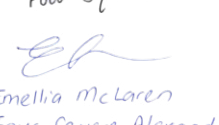
  
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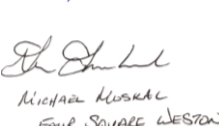
  
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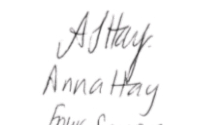
  
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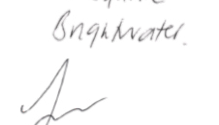
  
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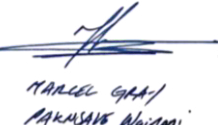
  
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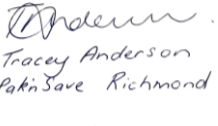
  
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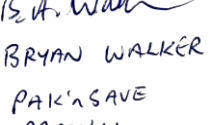
  
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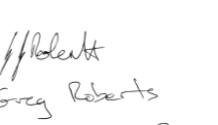
  
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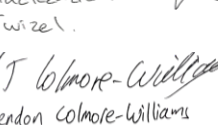
  
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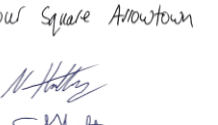
  
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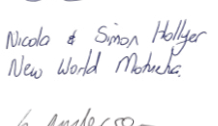
  
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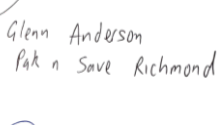
  
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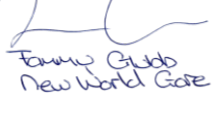
  
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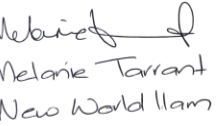
  
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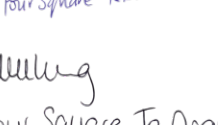
  
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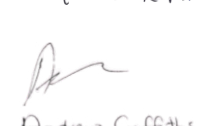
  
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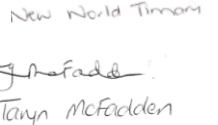
  
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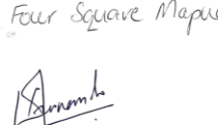
  
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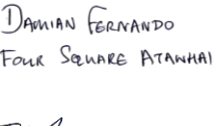
  
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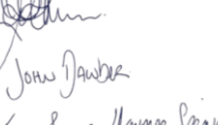
  
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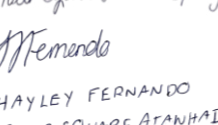
  
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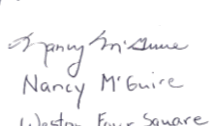
  
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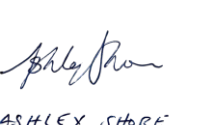
  
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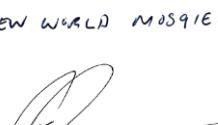
  
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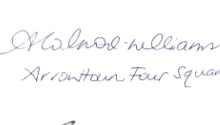
  
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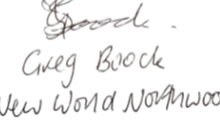
  
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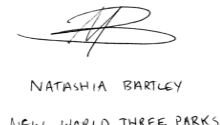
  
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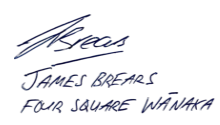
  
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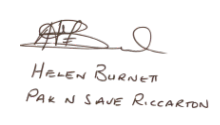
  
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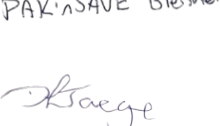
  
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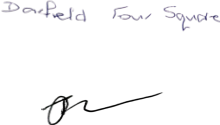
  
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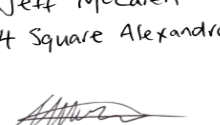
  
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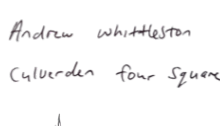
  
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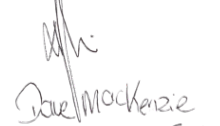
  
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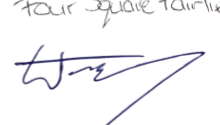
  
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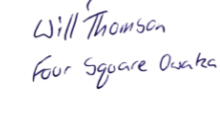
  
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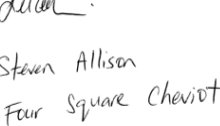
  
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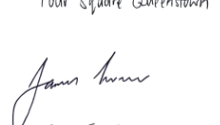
  
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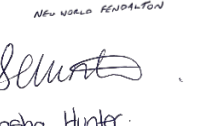
  
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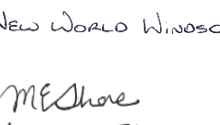
  
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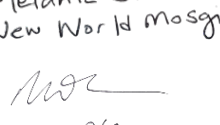
  
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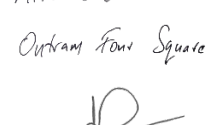
  
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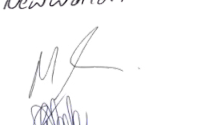
  
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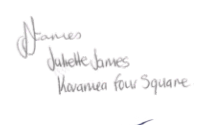
  
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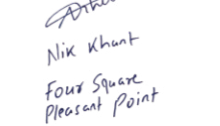
  
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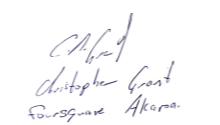
  
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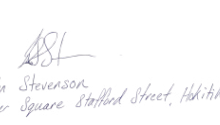
  
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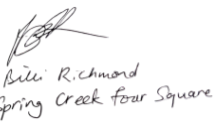
  
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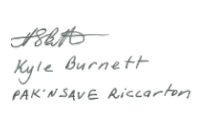
  
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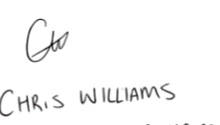
  
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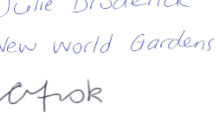
  
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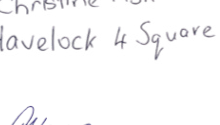
  
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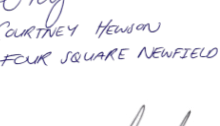
  
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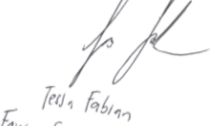
  
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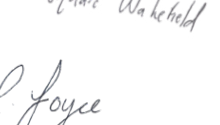
  
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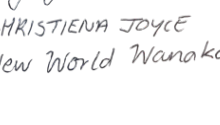
  
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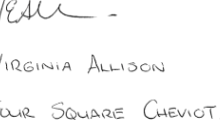
  
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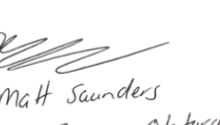
  
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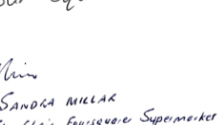
  
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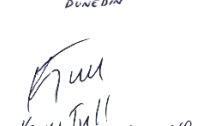
  
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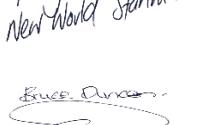
  
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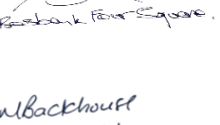
  
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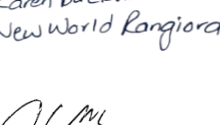
  
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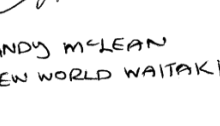
  
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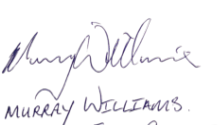
  
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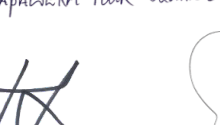
  
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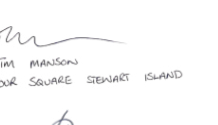
  
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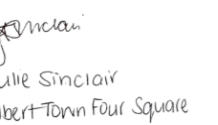
  
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