**POLICE**

*Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa*

Ref:

Our Reference

20 December 1991

Mr R Dalley
Christchurch City Council
Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir

## RE: CIVIC CHILD CARE CENTRE

Further to my conversation with you, I can advise that the enquiries into the Child Care Centre are complete. The concerns expressed by some parents who either have or have had children at the Centre are reasonable in the circumstances.

The procedure that we adopted in this investigation was to have parents with any concerns contact Ms Susan Sidey at the Specialist Services Unit of the Department of Social Welfare. Where she felt there was real cause for concern she interviewed these children.

To date there have been no disclosures of any sort of indecent touching by any person employed at the Child Care Centre.

The reasons the parents, Ms Sidey and myself were so concerned at the start of this enquiry, were that the children were displaying some behaviour that we often attribute to sexual abuse.

What has come out of these interviews very clearly is that the children had a general fear of Peter Ellis. It is possible that this fear may affect their behaviour for some time to come. It also appears that he has handled some of these children roughly.

It is clear to me that Peter Ellis should not be involved in any way in the supervision or care of children. I believe that we were very lucky to have this brought to our attention at this stage. If he had continued on at the Centre, things could have got worse.

It is possible that Ms Sidey will be contacted by other parents in the future but it is unlikely that these children will disclose sexual abuse.

The interviews conducted of these children are stored on video tape and are kept in the custody of the Christchurch Police. They will not be available for any person to view.

The investigation is complete as far as the Police are concerned. If anything further develops in 1992 I will advise you.

Yours faithfully

C K Eade