

23 March 1992

Detective Inspector Carson  
New Zealand Police  
District Headquarters  
P O Box 2109  
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Sir

re: Peter Hugh McGregor Ellis - Request for Official Information

I refer to my fax request for official information of the 10th of March last and to our subsequent telephone conversation. I note that no response other than a formal acknowledgement has yet been received from you concerning the request.

Commencing on Friday afternoon (20th of March) this matter has received major publicity in all media. Publicity has included statements from police representatives.

This publicity now appears to have reached hysterical proportions. Media coverage has focused on the alleged scale of the enquiry, the number of the children allegedly involved, the "terror" of parents, steps to be taken by parents as to how or how not to handle the matter with their children etc. Media coverage and advice being given to parents appears to be inflammatory, suggestive, misleading and contradictory.

The matter appears to have got well out of control.

In the context of the above your continuing refusal to provide my client with any information whatever is a scandal. Whatever the outcome of the enquiries his reputation is now shattered beyond any hope of repair.

In addition to the information that was previously sought you are now asked to disclose:-

a) Reasons why no police statement issued to the media has pointed out the the childcare worker concerned was pronounced innocent by the police of any molestation as recently as December last.

b) What steps are being taken to ensure that any evidence now received will be fair, impartial, objective and free from any influence whatever from the inaccurate, incomplete and distorted media coverage.

I advise that unless all required information is disclosed by 12.00 midday Tuesday 24th of March the matter will forthwith referred to the ombudsman.

Yours faithfully

Chris Knight