



O F F I C E O F T H E

MINISTER OF POLICE

W E L L I N G T O N

- 1 JUL 1993

Ms Gaye Davidson
Box 0100
Riccarton
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Ms Davidson

I write in reply to your letter of 24 May 1993 relating to the investigation and prosecutions pertaining to persons employed at the Christchurch Civic Child Care Centre.

From my knowledge of the circumstances and the decisions of the courts, I am of the opinion that there is no requirement or justification for an official inquiry.

You will be well aware that police practices, including the role and professionalism of the specialist services interviewers, were vigorously tested by defence counsel during the depositions and lengthy pre-trial hearings. This means that, with the conclusion of the Ellis trial, three separate judicial inquiries have meticulously examined much of the material you raised - without making any significant criticism concerning the conduct or procedures of the police investigators or specialist services interviewers.

You appear to misrepresent the facts with respect to the discharge by Mr Justice Williamson of the three women defendants. The judgment indicates that the discharge resulted from an amalgam of three reasons which included the weight of the evidence. The Judge was careful to make very clear that not one of those reasons, in itself, would have been sufficient to warrant a discharge.

The contents of the recently released Christchurch City Council report into the operation of the Centre is strongly adverse and the retention of the "option 2" letter, regardless of the reason, is a poor reflection on the professionalism of those concerned with the conduct of the Centre.

I cannot for the life of me understand why you and your friends continue to support this convicted child molester.

I was not impressed with your submission. I was more impressed with what the sentencing Judge had to say than responding to pleas in mitigation from people who have little or no community support.

I simply do not believe that this five year reign of terror by one of your co-workers continued by instalment almost daily without being noticed by others. I am highly critical of the decision taken to give this individual such work when he openly and often spoke of his perversions.

I have no intention of seeking or supporting an inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Hon. John Banks
Minister of Police