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13 July 1998

Dear Ms Ablett-Kerr

Re: Mr P Ellis

I have read all the documents you sent to me. I have read with great care the papers authored by Dr. Parsonson (i.e. (i) "The interviewing of children: Effects of question form, props, question repetition and repeated interviews on the accuracy of children's reports. A review and commentary in respect of the Christchurch Civic Creche interviewing and interviewers", (ii) "Children's memory: A brief review of development", (iii) "Retractions of allegations of abuse by children", and (iv) "comment on the probability of contamination in 'disclosures' obtained from children in the case of R v Ellis").

In my opinion these documents are well informed, well expressed and demonstrate Dr. Parsonson's good understanding of the relevant literature. I have no criticisms of them.

Dr. Parsonson seems very up-to-date with the published literature. In the last five years the number of papers appearing in research journals and of books on relevant topics is much larger than in the years prior to 1993. This substantial increase in published work has enabled a better understanding of relevant topics, especially how to conduct investigative interviews with children.

Yours sincerely



Professor R. H. C. Bull
B.Sc., M.Sc., D.Sc., C.Psychol., F.B.Ps.S.