



NEW ZEALAND

CROWN LAW OFFICE

2 June 1998

Ministry of Education
Private Box 1666
WELLINGTON

Attention: Jan Breakwell

Dear Madam

Christchurch Civil Childcare Centre Case
Our Ref: PVT122/220

I write further to my letter of 4 May 1998, our subsequent conversations and your letter of 21 May 1998.

The Solicitor-General has come to the view that we have no grounds under the Official Information Act to withhold the correspondence between him and Buddle Findlay and that it should be released. He has however noted your concerns that Bede Cooper has not been given an opportunity to refute or correct the accuracy of the information. The Solicitor-General is therefore inviting Mr Cooper to write to him and respond to the criticisms that were made. The Solicitor-General regrets not having contacted Mr Cooper but the telephone conversation that the Solicitor-General had with Mr Weston made it plain to him that Buddle Findlay were complaining about Neil McAteer only and that is how he saw the letter.

As you know we extended the time for replying to this official information request until Friday 22 May and that time has now passed. We need to respond as quickly as we can bearing in mind that Mr Cooper is recently out of hospital and may wish to take his own legal advice. We suggested 20 June and I look forward to hearing from you in time to reply to Lynley Hood before then.

Obviously if I can assist in any way please let me know.

Yours faithfully

M A Soper (Miss)
Crown Counsel