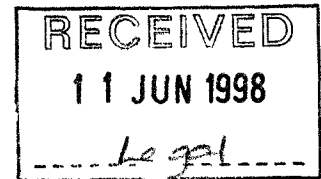




NEW ZEALAND

CROWN LAW OFFICE



11 June 1998

Ministry of Education
Private Box 1666
WELLINGTON

Attention: Jan Breakwell

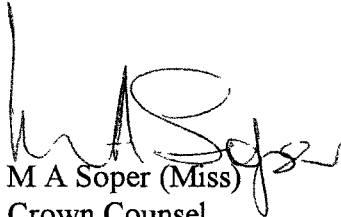
Dear Madam

Christchurch Civic Childcare Centre Case
Our Ref: PVT122/220

1. I write further to my letter of 2 June 1998 to advise that Lynley Hood has complained to the Ombudsman over the failure to supply her with the information that she seeks.
2. I have spoken to Quentin Ford from the Ombudsman's office and explained to him that after consulting with you there were issues of privacy effecting Bede Cooper. I explained the nature of the information that we hold and said that if Bede Cooper's privacy rights are to be protected we need to give him the opportunity to respond to the material in the letter from Buddle Findlay.
3. Mr Ford accepts our reasons for acting as we did but points out that we had no jurisdiction to extend the deadline a second time. I said that I was aware of that but did not see that we have much choice. Mr Ford said that he would not take any action until 20 June but needed a guarantee from me that we would be able to meet that deadline.
4. For my part I have said that the matter is in the hands of the Ministry and Mr Ford's response is that if the deadline is not met he will treat the complaint as a refusal to supply information on grounds of delay. I intimated that it would preferable to release the information together with Bede Cooper's response rather than to withhold it on grounds of personal privacy. The matter rested there but I do need to let you know that if the 20 June 1998 deadline is not met the Ombudsman's office will be formally addressing the complaint.

5. Please contact me if I can assist in anyway, otherwise I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully



M A Soper (Miss)
Crown Counsel