



20 October 1999

Mrs Lesley Ellis
1/27 Dutton Street
CHRISTCHURCH 8002

Dear Mrs Ellis

Thank you for your letter of 23 September seeking support for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the investigation of allegations of sexual abuse at the Christchurch Civic Creche and the subsequent conviction of Peter Ellis on charges of abuse.

I acknowledge the widespread public unease about aspects of the investigation, trial and conviction which raise serious questions as to whether justice has been done.

Indeed I personally share this unease.

As a member of the Opposition, I have not been given access to the information and advice which the Minister of Justice has received in respect of the case for holding a Commission of Inquiry.

Once having access to that information as Minister, I hope at an early point to be in a position to make an informed decision regarding the request for an Inquiry.

An Inquiry would obviously focus on whether the convictions entered against Peter Ellis were safe. It would also, however, examine wider questions about how evidence of abuse should properly be acquired from children and the extent to which and the circumstances under which such evidence can be considered reliable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Goff', written in a cursive style.

Phil Goff MP
Labour Spokesperson on Justice