

1

**DRAFT      FOR VAL SIM, SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL****MEMORANDUM for:****30 August 2000**

Ms Judith Ablett-Kerr QC  
Ms Kristy McDonald QC  
Commissioner for Children  
Crown Law Office (attention Mr France)

1. This is to inform you of progress.
2. Two factors have delayed the Inquiry. First, finalising the arrangements for representation of the parents of the children took much longer than expected. Immediately the arrangements were finalised, I wrote to all parties for submissions, but this was not until 10 May 2000, 2 months after my appointment.
3. Second, it proved longer and more difficult than anticipated to check out, appoint and make the arrangements with the International Experts, as required by the Terms of Reference. Despite constant attention, it was only possible to engage the second expert this week.
4. The experts appointed are Professor Graeme Davies, University of Leicester, UK, and Dr Louise Sas, of London, Ontario, Canada. Their projected reporting dates are November 2000/early January 2001.
5. My own work is well advanced, but in view of timetable for the experts' reports it was inevitable that I had to request the Minister an extension of time for completing my Report. Yesterday I was advised the Minister had agreed to extend the time to 28 February 2001.