Minister of Justice

18 March 2004

Dear Mr

Thank you for your e-mail of 12 March 04. It appears that you still have not fully understood what I have said about the role of the Ministry of Justice in the Eichelbaum inquiry. I can only repeat that the process for selecting the experts including the question of who was consulted was a matter for Sir Thomas Eichelbaum and, not the Ministry of Justice.

Turning to your specific questions:

1. Dr Parsonson prepared at least seven reports relating to the Ellis case. Four of these formed part of the material presented to the Governor-General in support of Mr Ellis's application for the exercise of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. These related to the development of memory in children, the interviewing of children, contamination and retraction.

   A further three reports from Dr Parsonson were presented by Mr Ellis' s Counsel at the second Court of Appeal hearing. The Court of Appeal considered all seven reports in their entirety.
   These reports were also made available to Sir Thomas Eichelbaum for the purposes of his inquiry.

2. Ministry of Justice records do not indicate where tne name Dr Louise Sas originated from.

3. Sir Thomas Eichelbaum has described the process he followed relating to the selection of experts in Section 4.2 of his report

4. There are Court orders suppressing the name and identifying details of the creche children and their families.

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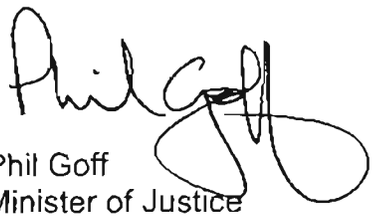
I do not know what (if any) arrangements were entered into between Mr Ellis's Counsel and Dr Parsonson about the confidentiality of his reports.

Yours sincerely



Phil Goff
Minister of Justice