

12 July 2019

Ross Francis

By Email: fyi-request-10539-af4e6824@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Francis

Official Information Request dated 14 June 2019

I refer to your request for information to the Ministry of Justice (**Ministry**) under the Official Information Act 1982 (**Act**) on 14 June 2019. Your request was as follows:

What consultation(s), if any, did the Justice Ministry and or Justice Minister undertake about the appointment of the chair to the Ministerial Inquiry into the Peter Ellis case? Did officials follow State Services Commission Guidelines and or Cabinet Guidelines during the appointment process? If so, what guidelines were followed? Please send me a copy of all records of consultations and communications about these matters dated 1 January 2000 to 15 March 2000.

In April 1999, following the completion of Sir Thomas Thorp's review into the Ellis case, a review which recommended that the Ministry of Justice obtain Professor Stephen Ceci's formal opinion of the complainants' evidence, the Justice Ministry advised that it probably would have sought Prof Ceci's opinion if the second Court of Appeal had not been seized of the case. What action (if any) has been taken by the Ministry to fulfil Thorp's recommendation?

Since 1 January 2008, has Val Sim - or anyone acting for her - requested information from the Ministry about the Peter Ellis case? If so please send me copies of all such information.

We have divided your request into several parts, set out below:

1. *What consultation(s), if any, did the Justice Ministry and or Justice Minister undertake about the appointment of the chair to the Ministerial Inquiry into the Peter Ellis case? Did officials follow State Services Commission Guidelines and or Cabinet Guidelines during the appointment process? If so, what guidelines were followed? Please send me a copy of all records of consultations and communications about these matters dated 1 January 2000 to 15 March 2000.*

You have been repeatedly advised that all information relating to the Ministerial Inquiry has already been provided to you. In relation to this request, we provided you with this information on 14 June 2007 as part of our response to your request of 17 March 2006. Your further request is refused accordingly.

2. *In April 1999, following the completion of Sir Thomas Thorp's review into the Ellis case, a review which recommended that the Ministry of Justice obtain Professor Stephen Ceci's formal opinion of the complainants' evidence, the Justice Ministry advised that it probably would have sought Prof Ceci's opinion if the second Court of Appeal had not been seized of the case. What action (if any) has been taken by the Ministry to fulfil Thorp's recommendation?*

You most recently requested this information on 20 September 2016, to which we responded on 12 December 2016. Your further request is refused accordingly.

3. *Since 1 January 2008, has Val Sim - or anyone acting for her - requested information from the Ministry about the Peter Ellis case? If so please send me copies of all such information.*

The Ministry has no records of any such request.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman regarding this response.

Yours sincerely



Jeff Orr
Chief Legal Counsel

