

## **Correspondence with the LCRO regarding the case against Karen Price**

**To the LCRO**

**May 13 2015**

Good morning,

Will a decision be released soon? It was indicated to me earlier that a decision on this extremely important case was due by June.

Yours sincerely

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Paul Stichbury

**Response**

**May 13**

Good Morning Mr Stichbury,

Thank you for your e-mail.

This matter is currently with the Review Officer to be determined. It remains difficult for me to give you any certainty as to when a decision will be issued. The Review Officer has a large number of Review files in the same position as yours- waiting to have a decision issued on the material.

I can see that you were told by this Office that it was unlikely for a decision to be released prior to June this year. This was an estimate only. Judging by the number of files ahead of yours in the queue the decision will not be released by this date, and it also seems unlikely that this matter will be determined this year.

This position may change, and if this is the case this Office will contact you.

Regards,

## **My response**

**May 13**

Thank you, Nicole,

The seriousness of my complaint lodged with the LCRO, 6/11/2014, against Price, a prominent figure, seems to be an impediment to a decision. In the meantime she continues in practice when she has abused due process and benefited financially.

The old adage applies that justice delayed is justice denied. That there are so many files, as you say, awaiting a decision, speaks volumes about the quality and practice of the legal profession in New Zealand.

I also note that Minister Nick Smith who forced the Turitea wind farm on Palmerston North through a deceptive and corrupt Call-In process in recent days has had to admit that a huge area of the lower North Island is of high seismic risk. The wind farm is literally right on top of two of the country's major fault lines. I raised this matter in submissions on Turitea and also on its neighbouring sister wind farm, Puketoi.

I sincerely hope political interference is not an added cause in the delay, to some now undetermined date in 2016, but from my perspective this can not now be ruled out. I am sure that had my complaint been able to be dispatched on some dubious technicality I would have had a decision long ago.

The role of the LCRO is not to cover for law practitioners' misdeeds.

Please relay my comments to whoever is handling this appalling case, a case which is simple and straightforward.

Yours sincerely

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## **LCRO responds**

**May 14**

Good Afternoon Mr Stichbury,

I have received your email. For your information I have included the link to the Legal Complaints Review Officer's Annual Report 2014:

<http://www.justice.govt.nz/tribunals/legal-complaints-review-officer/publications/annual-reports/annual-report-2014/view>

This outlines the lengthy delays this Office is experiencing.

Regards,

## **My response**

**May 14**

Thank you Nicole,

Certainly you have drawn my attention to the problem the LCRO faces and it requires a political solution, i.e. additional resources to expedite cases.

However I'm sure you can appreciate my reaction to the possibility that this case is not dealt with until next year. If that is what happens another 9 months or more could easily elapse.

Price offered no resistance to my complaint when first lodged with the Law Society. Clearly she relied on her unnamed colleagues to find a way to get her off the hook. They failed.

When I submitted this case for review the best Price could do was get QC Les Taylor (with a conflict of interest I might add) to chime in on her behalf. You may have read the 28 page demolition job I wrote shredding Taylor's 3 page rebuttal. If Price gets away with her misconduct then NZ legal practice will become an international laughingstock.

The problem may not really be at your end but begins when initial complaints are laid which are then glossed over and dismissed by practitioners who see their job as covering for their errant " mates".

This leads to interminable delays for any victim planning civil action.

## **Response**

**May 15**

Good Morning Mr Stichbury,

Your e-mail has been received and will be placed on file for the Legal Complaints Review Officer's information.

Regards,