

11 September 2018

Martin Jenkins
P O Box 5256
WELLINGTON 6140

By email to Sarah Baddeley Sarah.Baddeley@martinjenkins.co.nz

Dear Sarah

State Services Commission inquiry into the use of external security consultants

Further to our telephone conversation this morning Crown Law has identified a matter where a security consultant assisted with the gathering of legal briefs. This consultant was missed from the original submission as the name provided by Counsel was the full name while the preferred name was used in our correspondence. The issue was also confused by the preferred name being the same as a police officer witness on another unrelated matter.

Further to Doug Martin's letter dated 23 July 2018, to State Sector Agency Chief Executives regarding the above inquiry, this letter sets out Crown Law's formal response.

Crown Law has reviewed its use of external security consultants and we are satisfied that our limited use of them is appropriate, well managed and there are no matters to be brought to the attention of the inquiry. In undertaking this review we have searched our email and document management systems, and our financial management system for transactions involving external security consultants or similar entities in the past ten years.

We have not identified any relationship between Crown Law and Thomson and Clark Investigations Limited and its associated companies listed in Appendix 2 of the Martin Jenkins letter dated 23 July 2018. In addition, Crown Law does not have or use platforms such as Wordpress or Slack.

Crown Law has used and continues to utilise the services of external security consultants in limited circumstances:

- In one case a prosecution conducted by a Queens Counsel (QC) lawyer utilised the services of Peter Ward and Associates (PWA). The QC instructed and managed the work of PWA which was limited to briefing witnesses, contacting witnesses to sign Briefs of Evidence and to serve summonses on the witnesses. PWA provided all e-mails and text communications with the witnesses to the QC for disclosure to Defence Counsel.

- In another case Nicholas Perry an external security consultant assisted with the interviewing of witnesses and preparation of their briefs of evidence. The work was managed by Crown Law with the assistance of external counsel who was also acting on the matter. The witness briefs were disclosed to Counsel acting for the plaintiff. Subsequently the plaintiff's counsel advised that the matter had been discontinued.
- In all other cases the use of external security consultants is limited to the service of documents (subpoenas) to individuals in relation to legal matters before the Courts.

If you require any further information please contact me directly by telephone on 04 494 5558 or via email aaron.crookston@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully



Aaron Crookston
Chief Financial Officer

Copy to:
State Services Commission
By email to commission@ssc.govt.nz