



Office of Hon Judith Collins

MP for Papakura
Minister of Justice
Minister for ACC
Minister for Ethnic Affairs

04 JUL 2012

Mr Steve Taylor
24-7@maxnet.co.nz

Dear Mr Taylor

Fraud concerns

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2012 regarding fraud concerns relating to Grant Norman King.

I understand the Ministry of Economic Development has commenced proceedings in relation to a sleep out that was not constructed and that you are preparing a civil claim in relation to the same. As Minister of Justice, I am not able to intervene or even comment on the details of a specific case that is being or will be considered by the courts. It is a fundamental principle of our system of government that the courts operate independently of Ministers of the Crown. This is to ensure that there is no actual or implied political interference in decisions by the courts in individual cases.

You allege that Grant Norman King has also defrauded 60 other people. I assume that those affected have approached Police about these matters and that the decision has been made not to prosecute in those particular circumstances. The decision to prosecute a person is usually made by the Police or the Crown Solicitor in accordance with the Solicitor-General's Prosecution Guidelines. For a person to be prosecuted, the Police or the Crown Solicitor must be of the view that there is admissible, reliable and sufficiently strong evidence that the person has committed an offence, and that a prosecution should proceed in the public interest.

As a Minister of the Crown it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the exercise of this discretion, or indeed, on any Police operational matter given the constitutional separation of powers between the Government and the Police.

I suggest that you contact the Police directly should you require a more detailed response to your question, or if these matters have not been raised with the Police in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Hon Judith Collins
Minister of Justice