

POSTED 28.5.99

Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q.C.

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28 May 1999

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Ms Tania Smith
Albert Road Centre for Health
60 Albert Road,
2nd Floor
South Melbourne. Vic. 3205

Dear Ms Smith

I refer to our meeting in June 1998 when I interviewed you and Katie Foster, and to our recent conversation. You will recall that at that meeting Katie was not desirous of discussing the facts of the abuse with me, but agreed that I would have a discussion with you which I did. In that discussion you expressed the firm opinion that Katie had suffered sexual abuse, and rejected any suggestion that her complaints were the product of suggestibility etc. following on from the fact that her sister Emma had been abused and had been the subject of much attention and concern.

Naturally, in my capacity as an Independent Commissioner I am charged to investigate complaints of sexual abuse and to obtain the best evidence, before finally making a decision and referring the victim to the Compensation Panel.

I would accordingly appreciate your advising me as to the following matters.

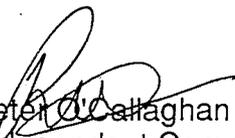
- (i) Do you maintain your opinion expressed to me in June last, and indeed I think confirmed when I had a telephone conversation with you in February of this year.
- (ii) Has Katie become more expansive in her description of what occurred than was the position when I last saw you.
- (iii) If so can you provide me with details of this expanded account.
- (iv) In any event, what is your opinion as to Katie's prognosis, and in particular the nature of and the extent of treatment which you consider she will be required to have.

In the context of the latter, you are no doubt aware that the fees for Katie's treatment are being borne by Carelink as is the case with the treatment of Emma. Carelink must of course account for the expenditure of very substantial moneys, and in the case of persons who are not being treated directly by Carelink but by other professionals it is necessary for Carelink to review the treatment position of patients at least annually. I would also appreciate your dealing with this aspect in your report.

I should add that I recently visited the Foster home, but I did not see Katie. However, Emma came and talked at some length, though not about the detail of abuse. She spoke of her despair, and how she "hated life" etc.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours most sincerely,



Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner