



## Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Building and Housing

15-M-01132

Paul Stichbury  
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**12 AUG 2015**

Dear Paul Stichbury

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2015 and attachments regarding the Turitea wind farm.

As you are aware the Turitea wind farm proposal was considered as a proposal of national significance under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Section 149J of the RMA states that the Minister must appoint one member as the Chairperson, who must be a current, former or retired Environment Judge or retired High Court Judge. The fact that Environment Court Judge Kenderdine no longer held an active warrant as a judge at the end of the Board of Inquiry would not have precluded her from continuing to Chair the Board of Inquiry, being paid as the Chair or signing the release of the draft and final decision.

You have referred to a secret contract between Palmerston North City Council and Mighty River Power concerning ratepayers directly affected by the wind farm and this matter should be discussed directly with the Council and Mighty River Power.

The concern you raise over catastrophic earthquake risk for both Turitea and Puketoi relate to decisions made by the Board of Inquiry and Council respectively. I understand you made submissions on these matters and they were considered by the decision makers. The Board of Inquiry and Council are independent bodies and it would not be appropriate for me to comment on how they reached their decisions.

You have raised a number of concerns regarding the conduct of Karen Price and lodged a complaint with the Legal Complaints Review Office. As this matter is now before the Legal Complaints Review Office, it is not appropriate for me to comment on matters before this Office.

You have asked if I or anyone known to me has applied political pressure regarding these matters, I can assure you that I have not influenced any of the matters you have referred to.

Yours sincerely

Hon Dr Nick Smith  
**Minister for the Environment**