



19 November 2007

Hon Trevor Mallard
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister,

On Thursday 15th November the Ministry for the Environment, at your request, provided advice to you about the short term contract arrangements for Clare Curran. Ms Curran is a communications specialist with particular expertise in the area of climate change who provided advice and support to the Ministry from May to July in 2006.

I am writing to inform you that advice my staff provided to you, in my presence, was inaccurate.

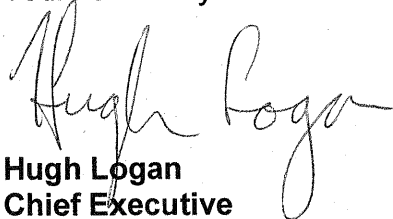
In this case hourly rates for communications consultants had been previously sought from recruitment agencies. Ms Curran's rates were compared with those of other suitably qualified consultants and were found to be acceptable. However, the Ministry did not specifically seek quotes for this contract work.

I apologise on behalf of the Ministry for providing information that was inaccurate and that may have caused embarrassment.

In this instance the Ministry's standards were not met and I can assure you I am taking steps to ensure what happened does not reoccur.

Finally, I would like to put the record straight as I note that media are incorrectly reporting that Ms Curran replaced Madeline Setchell at the Ministry. Ms Curran worked as a contractor from May 22 to July 28, 2006. Ms Setchell was employed as Communications Manager in May and June 2007.

Yours sincerely



Hugh Logan
Chief Executive