



Office of Hon Anne Tolley

Minister of Education
Minister for Tertiary Education

Minister Responsible for the
Education Review Office

4 December 2008

Office of the Auditor-General
PO Box 3928
Wellington 6011

Dear Mr Brady,

RE: Ministry of Education School Bus Transport Tendering Process

I write to you to request an inquiry into the Ministry of Education School Bus Transport Tendering Process.

I understand that you have already received information and allegations about this process and are currently considering whether an inquiry should be carried out.

I wish to add to this information my concern about these allegations. It is my view that the interests of justice and fairness mean that these allegations should be investigated by your office and if you believe one to be necessary, an inquiry into the tender process should be held.

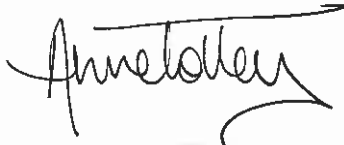
Many operators feel that the process was run in an unfair and illegal manner. They believe that they have evidence to back up these claims. I understand that you have been given this evidence. I have also had a chance to examine their concerns and believe that prima facie their concerns warrant an inquiry into the tender process.

I believe the concerns can only be allayed by having an independent body, that has had no involvement in the tender process, assess the allegations and evidence to test the validity of them.

An inquiry and report by your office would provide certainty for the Ministry of Education over the propriety of their running of the tender process. It would also allow the operators to have their concerns about the process tested by an impartial investigator.

Should you wish to discuss my request or seek any further information please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Tolley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the top that extends to the right.

Hon Anne Tolley
Minister of Education