

# ***Criminal Cases Review Commission***

**Newsletter #1 – March 2020**

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## **Kia Ora**

...and welcome to the first Criminal Cases Review Commission newsletter.

As you may have heard, I have been appointed as the Commission's Chief Commissioner for an 18-month term from 1 February. Work is already well underway to ensure the Commission is ready to take applications on 1 July 2020.

As an independent Crown entity, the Commission will investigate possible miscarriages of justice and refer cases back to the appeal court, where it is in the interests of justice to do so. It will partially replace the current function that is part of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy. The Commission's processes and procedures are currently being developed and will be made public in due course.

I am going to enjoy working in an area that I have long had an interest in. As good as our justice system is, it is not perfect, as I have observed over my many years as a barrister. I believe it is critical that victims of a miscarriage of justice are dealt with fairly and humanely, recognising too the interests of the victims of crime.

New Zealand is fortunate in being able to draw on the work of similar commissions in England, Scotland and Norway. We also have an Establishment Advisory Group, which I will explain below, and a small implementation team.

## **Establishment Advisory Group**

The members of our Establishment Advisory Group are Professor Tracey McIntosh, Professor Elisabeth McDonald, Dr Anna Sandiford, Associate Professor Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni, Tim McKinnel, and Nigel Hampton CNZM, OBE, QC. I am delighted to be working with such an accomplished and diverse group, each of whom brings a unique background and perspective to the group.

The purpose of the group is to provide advice on the Commission's establishment to ensure it gives effect to the Criminal Cases Review Commission Act 2019, and to communicate with the community. I am looking forward to working with them to ensure the Commission is ready to receive applications on 1 July.

You can find out more about our EAG members on the Ministry of Justice website [here](#).

## **Hamilton**

There will undoubtedly be some interest in the decision to locate the Commission in Hamilton. Those of you who were able to attend our announcement event on 21 February will have heard the Minister emphasise the importance of the Commission being independent from Government

in Wellington and the major judicial centres in Auckland and Wellington. Location in a university city was an important consideration too. The importance of the independence of the Commission cannot be overstated. You can read more about the Minister's announcement on the Beehive website [here](#).

## Commissioners

We have begun the recruitment process for our Commissioner roles and applications are open until 9 March. A position profile and expression of interest form can be found on the MoJ website [here](#).

I will stay in touch over the next few months as we progress towards our start-up date, but in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch with the implementation team if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi nui,

Colin Carruthers QC  
Chief Commissioner, Criminal Cases Review Commission

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**Questions?** Email us at [ccrcimplementation@justice.govt.nz](mailto:ccrcimplementation@justice.govt.nz) or write to us at

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