

From: Natasha Mewing [nmewing@ombo.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: 04/07/2013 03:27 AM GMT
To: Emma Sullivan
Subject: Information requested from the Ombudsman's Office

Dear Emma,

Please find attached information requested by Jessica Wardle.

My letter makes mention of a former Ombudsman officer. That person is happy to be named and contacted by you if necessary.

Please let me know if I can assist further.

Regards,

Natasha Mewing
Principal Investigator | Employment Related Child Protection | NSW Ombudsman

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From: 23_COPIER@ombo.nsw.gov.au [mailto:23_COPIER@ombo.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2013 1:22 PM
To: Natasha Mewing

Subject: Attached Image

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Contact: Natasha Mewing
Tel: 9286 0957
Our ref: ADM/2012/962

The Crown Solicitor
Crown Solicitor's Office
GPO Box 25
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Ms Emma Sullivan
Senior Solicitor

Dear Ms Sullivan,

Information requested about Ombudsman's holdings

I refer to my recent telephone conversations with your colleague, Jessica Wardle.

On Tuesday 2 July 2013, Ms Wardle sought advice about a Police statement that Detective Peter Fox provided to the Ombudsman's Office in May 2003. I have attached a copy of the statement in question. Ms Wardle informed me that Detective Fox had given evidence that he had provided the Ombudsman's Office with an electronic version of this statement, by way of computer disk. I responded that our files did not contain a computer disk and the records made no mention of a computer disk having been received. I clarified that Detective Fox had provided the statement by facsimile, dated 29 May 2003. Ms Wardle subsequently requested that we state our position on this matter in writing.

Once Detective Fox's evidence about the computer disk had been made public, we contacted the former Ombudsman officer who had had carriage of the relevant matter in 2003. It should be noted that this person is a former police officer and a highly experienced investigator, who claimed to have a very good recollection of the matter. The former officer stated that she has no recollection of a computer disc having been provided; that the provision of a statement on computer disc would have been very unusual at that time – so unusual that she believes she would recall it if it had occurred; and that the Ombudsman's record keeping systems are such that any computer disc that was provided would certainly have been retained on the file.

In summary, we cannot state categorically that Detective Fox did not provide an electronic version of the attached statement to the Ombudsman's Office. However, we can say that we can find no evidence that he did and, on the contrary, the evidence suggests that he did not.

Should you wish to discuss any issues arising from this letter, please contact me as needed.

Yours sincerely

Signed

Natasha Mewing
Principal Investigator
for the Ombudsman