

Terms of Reference for the Government Inquiry into Allegations regarding Hon Judith Collins and a former Director of the Serious Fraud Office

Background

The Cabinet Manual provides a Minister of the Crown is, at all times, expected to act lawfully and to behave in a way that upholds, and is seen to uphold, the highest ethical standards. Ultimately, Ministers are accountable to the Prime Minister for their behaviour (Cabinet Manual para 2.53).

There are recent allegations that, during her time as Minister of Police with responsibility for the Serious Fraud Office, Hon Judith Collins acted inappropriately to undermine the then Director of the Serious Fraud Office Mr Adam Feeley. The Prime Minister has determined that a government inquiry with full powers of inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2013 should be held into these allegations.

Appointment and Terms of Reference

The Prime Minister has appointed Hon Lester Chisholm to inquire into the matters set out below.

This Inquiry will inquire into and report upon allegations that Ms Collins was involved in efforts to undermine Mr Feeley during his tenure as Director of the Serious Fraud Office, including whether:

- (1) there is any evidence Ms Collins acted inconsistently with the conduct expected of a Minister by undermining or attempting to undermine Mr Feeley's tenure as Director of the Serious Fraud Office; and
- (2) Ms Collins provided information about Mr Feeley during his tenure as Director of the Serious Fraud Office to Mr Cameron Slater or any other party who did not have a proper entitlement to receive such information; and
- (3) Ms Collins inappropriately sought or received information about Mr Feeley from Mr Slater or any other party;
and will
- (4) identify and report on any other issues relevant to the above matters, to the extent necessary to provide a complete report on those matters.

Reporting Sequence

The Inquiry is to report findings and opinions to the Prime Minister in writing no later than 28 November 2014.

Consideration of Evidence

The Inquiry may begin considering evidence on **12 September 2014**.