



Media statement on behalf of Solicitor-General

SOLICITOR-GENERAL COMMISSIONS INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

Solicitor-General Una Jagose KC has commissioned an independent investigation into anonymous allegations about the conduct of a senior lawyer holding a Crown Solicitor warrant.

Maria Dew KC is conducting the investigation.

“The allegations are best summarised as workplace conduct matters. They do not relate to the Crown Solicitor’s performance as a senior prosecutor for the Crown,” says Ms Jagose.

Crown Law has authority to review the actions of a Crown Solicitor. The Deputy Solicitor-General (Criminal) received an anonymous complaint, not fully detailed. Crown Law responded promptly to the request that the Solicitor-General investigate the matter. The Solicitor-General needs to know the facts before reaching any conclusion on the case and that is why an investigation has been commissioned.

“The Crown Solicitor in question is aware of the anonymous complaint and is cooperating in the investigation. The Crown Solicitor, however, has not yet been informed of the details of what is alleged or been interviewed by Ms Dew KC. Plainly no findings have been made yet.”

In the interests of an impartial and fair process no further details will be released until the investigation is complete and the Solicitor-General has considered the findings of Ms Dew KC.

“Confidentiality is essential to enable a fair hearing for both the complainants and the person complained about.”

This is in line with the Law Society’s complaints process.

While Crown Law isn’t the employer of Crown Solicitors, Crown Law’s maintenance of confidentiality is in line with the Privacy Commissioner’s guidelines for employers, which state that the employer should, where possible during the investigation process, protect the complainant’s privacy, as well as the privacy of the employee under investigation.

The Solicitor-General asks that media and the public respect the fair and impartial process that is underway and do not publish the name of the person complained about.

The Broadcasting Standards Authority Standards and the Media Council Principles set expectations that people will be dealt with justly and fairly.

The investigation is underway and is due to be completed in a matter of weeks rather than months. The Solicitor-General considers it appropriate that the Crown Solicitor continues in the role during the investigation.

The Crown Law Office will provide further information at an appropriate time.