



Solicitor-General to investigate Crown's role in miscarriage of justice concerning Alan Hall

13 July 2022

On 9 June 2022 the Solicitor-General, Una Jagose QC, announced that she had instructed Nicolette Levy QC to carry out an investigation into the Crown's role in the miscarriage of justice concerning Alan Hall's 1986 convictions for murder and aggravated wounding [[press statement, 9 June 2022](#)]. The Crown's position on Mr Hall's recent appeal is that his 1986 trial was profoundly unfair and constituted a miscarriage of justice. The Supreme Court has confirmed that: [Hall v R \[2022\] NZSC 51](#).

The [Terms of Reference](#) for Ms Levy QC's inquiry have now been published on Crown Law's website. Ms Jagose QC says that: "The purpose of this inquiry is primarily a fact finding one so that, as Solicitor-General, I have a good understanding of the precise role played by relevant Crown lawyers in this matter. Ms Levy QC will be able to provide me with an independent expert report. This is important for ensuring public confidence in the inquiry."

The Terms of Reference confirm that the inquiry will cover from 1985 until 2022, when Crown Law received Mr Hall's application to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Solicitor-General in New Zealand is responsible for overseeing the conduct of Crown prosecutions. Her inquiry will extend to relevant acts or omissions of Crown lawyers involved in prosecuting Mr Hall, and in relation to anything a Crown lawyer may have done, or omitted to do, which contributed to the miscarriage or its delayed resolution. The inquiry may also identify any lessons for Crown lawyers from Mr Hall's case.

"Because other agencies also had a role to play in events concerning Mr Hall's case, the Terms of Reference provide that in investigating this matter Ms Levy may engage with Police and the Ministry of Justice, as she considers appropriate", says Ms Jagose.

ENDS

For further information contact media@crownlaw.govt.nz.