



Supreme Court of New Zealand

15 May 2009

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Shane Edward Williams v The Queen
(SC 61/2008) [2009] NZSC 41

PRESS SUMMARY

This summary is provided to assist in the understanding of the Court's judgment. It does not comprise part of the reasons for that judgment. The full judgment with reasons is the only authoritative document. The full text of the judgment and reasons can be found at www.courtsofnz.govt.nz.

The Supreme Court has unanimously dismissed an appeal brought by Mr Williams against his conviction on a charge of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Mr Williams argued that he suffered a breach of s 25(b) of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 which guarantees the right to be tried without undue delay, that his trial should have been stayed and that his conviction should therefore be set aside. The Court has held that there was undue delay in bringing Mr Williams to trial, but that delay did not justify a stay of proceedings. The Court found that the delay was more than adequately recognised by the reduction in the sentence which would otherwise have been imposed on Mr Williams.

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