



Supreme Court of New Zealand | Te Kōti Mana Nui o Aotearoa

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16 MARCH 2021

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PETER HUGH MCGREGOR ELLIS v THE QUEEN

(SC 49/2019)

**CASE HISTORY SYNOPSIS**

This synopsis is provided to assist in understanding the history of the case and the issues to be heard by the Court. It does not represent the views of the panel that will hear the appeal in the Supreme Court. The synopsis does not comprise part of the reasons for the judgment of the Court of Appeal.

**Suppression**

Please note that the publication of the names or identifying particulars of the complainants and of child witnesses under the age of 17 is prohibited by ss 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1985 respectively. The publication of the names and identifying particulars of the proposed witness in the present hearing, her family members and her boyfriend is also prohibited by order of the Court.

**Background**

Mr Ellis was convicted on 16 charges of sexual offending against seven children in 1993. The complainants attended the childcare centre where Mr Ellis was employed.

Mr Ellis appealed twice to the Court of Appeal, the second time after a referral by the Governor-General. The first appeal quashed three of the counts of sexual offending against one complainant. The second appeal against the remaining 13 convictions was dismissed in 1999.

In mid-2019, Mr Ellis successfully applied to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal against his convictions and an extension of time to make the application for leave to appeal. Although Mr Ellis died in September 2019, the Supreme Court subsequently decided that the appeal could continue.

**Hearing on 25 March 2021**

The Supreme Court is hearing the Crown's application to admit additional evidence on appeal. The proposed evidence is that of a witness who details alleged offending by Mr Ellis against



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her which is said to be of a similar nature, but earlier in time, to the conduct that formed the basis of Mr Ellis' convictions. There will be no oral evidence from, or cross-examination of, this proposed witness at this hearing.

The Court will also address counsel for the appellant's application to adduce further evidence in response to the evidence of the Crown's proposed witness.

The Supreme Court will hear the substantive appeal against Mr Ellis' convictions in October 2021.

### **Remote viewing of hearing**

Provision will be made for members of the media to observe the hearing remotely if they cannot attend the hearing in person. Those who wish to do so should apply to the Supreme Court Registry by Friday 19 March 2021 for information about how to access the hearing and the terms and conditions of access.

Contact person:

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Supreme Court leave decision in *Ellis v R*: [\[2019\] NZSC 83](#) (31 July 2019)

Supreme Court continuation decision in *Ellis v R*: [\[2020\] NZSC 89](#) (1 September 2020)