



SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND | TE KŌTI MANA NUI O AOTEAROA

1 September 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

This media release and the judgment were embargoed until 10.00 am on Wednesday 2 September 2020

PETER HUGH McGREGOR ELLIS v THE QUEEN

(SC 49/2019) [2020] NZSC 89

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 Judicial Decisions of Public Interest: www.courtsofnz.govt.nz.

Suppression

Please note that the publication of the names or identifying particulars of the complainants and child witnesses under the age of 17 is prohibited by ss 139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1985.

Introduction

Mr Ellis was convicted on 16 charges of sexual offending against seven children in 1993. He appealed twice to the Court of Appeal, the second time after a referral by the Governor-General. The first appeal quashed three of the convictions. The second appeal against the remaining 13 convictions was dismissed in 1999.

Mr Ellis was granted leave to appeal against those remaining convictions by the Supreme Court on 31 July 2019.

Mr Ellis passed away on 4 September 2019. The issue arose as to whether the appeal should continue, despite his death.

The Supreme Court has decided that the appeal should continue.

Reasons for this decision will be provided at the same time as the decision on the substantive appeal is released.

Contact person:

Kieron McCarron, Supreme Court Registrar (04) 471 6921