7. Ms Watkins-Allen repeatedly sought a period of six months within which to effect transition of her patients.[6] It was determined by Mr Scott Natho, the senior psychologist in the Park Centre for Mental Health, that one month was sufficient.[7] The difference is one of clinical opinion and is not significant in the context of the Commission's task. In any event, the handover of patients on Ms Watkins-Allen's departure occurred.[8]

8. At paragraph 65 of her second statement,[9] Ms Watkin's Allen sets out the reasons provided to her by the patients as to why they sought treatment from her in her private practice. These statements are necessarily hearsay so far as they concern statements by the patients as to the availability of services to them after Ms Watkins-Allen left the BAC and the question of weight to be given to them is a matter for the Commission. Another use for the material though is that it provides an insight to the Commission into the minds of these young people and their perception of the state of affairs at the time.

9. No other witness has given evidence that is critical of Ms Watkins-Allen. Indeed, the tenor of the evidence is to the contrary; that is particularly so in the case of the parents and former patients.

Conclusion

10. We are conscious that the Commission will need to consider the (lengthy) submissions of other parties with leave to appear. In the circumstances as at this time,[10] we feel that it is unnecessary to say anything further unless it would assist the Commission.

Andrew O'Brien
Counsel

RBG Lawyers

23 March 2016

---

6 GWA.001.002.0001 at 0010 at para [33], at 0011 at paras [38] and [40], at 0012 at paras [43] to [46], at 0013 at para [48], at 0018 at para [61], at 0019 at para [62].

7 See GWA.001.002.0001 at 0061.

8 GWA.001.002.0001 at 0013 at para [49], at 0017 at para [58] and at 0018 at para [59]. The written handover reports are set out at GWA.001.002.0001 at 0014 at para [53].

9 GWA.001.002.0020.

10 That is, with no notice of an adverse finding, no critical position(s) recorded in the statements provided to the Commission or in Counsel Assisting's submissions and where Ms Watkins-Allen was not required for cross-examination.