



# Government Legal Department

Nicholas Brown and Cheryl Fletcher  
BDB Pitmans  
One Bartholomew Close  
London  
EC1A 7BL

Litigation Group  
102 Petty France  
Westminster  
London  
SW1H 9GL

T 020 7210 3000

DX 123243, Westminster 12 [www.gov.uk/gld](http://www.gov.uk/gld)

Your ref: 104312.0002  
Our ref: Z2404158/CYY/JD5

24 April 2024

Dear Sirs

## Rene WEIS v CCRC & SSJ

1. We are instructed by the Secretary of State for Justice (“SSJ”) in this matter. We write in response to your letter of 3 April 2024 sent pursuant to the pre-action protocol for judicial review. On consideration of your representations, the SSJ has requested the Criminal Cases Review Commission to conduct a second reference. This second reference would take into consideration those representations. The SSJ has therefore taken the action requested at §11.1 of your letter and therefore further proceedings are unnecessary. It is hoped this deals satisfactorily with your pre-action letter.

### (1) The Claimant

2. The proposed Claimant is Professor René Weis who has been requested to represent the estate of Edith Thompson, who was convicted on 11 December 1922 of the murder of Percy Thompson. She was executed on 9 January 1923.

### (2) The Defendant

3. The proposed defendants are:
  - i. The Criminal Cases Review Commission (“CCRC”);
  - ii. The Secretary of State for Justice.
4. As stated above, this letter is written on behalf of the SSJ.

### (3) Reference details

5. Our reference is Z2404158/CYY/JD5

### (4) The details of the matter being challenged

Gary Howard - Head of Division  
Emma Parker / Lisa Vincent - Deputy Directors, Team Leaders MOJ, Public Law



6. The Claimant challenges the following decisions:
  - i. The decision of the SSJ, set out in a letter dated 13 February 2024, not to recommend the exercise of the Royal Prerogative of Mercy (“RPM”) in respect of Edith Thompson;
  - ii. The statement made by the CCRC dated 8 December 2023 setting out its response to the reference made by the SSJ.
7. At §11.1 you request that the SSJ either:
  - i. Agree to consider the matter afresh;
  - ii. Submit a fresh reference to the CCRC.

**(5) Response to the proposed claim**

8. As stated at the beginning of this letter, the SSJ has agreed to submit a fresh reference to the CCRC, and in fact has already done so, with a request that your representations dated 3 April 2024 are taken into consideration. Unfortunately, we cannot provide a timescale in which the reference will be considered. The SSJ has, therefore, provided the relief sought and no further proceedings are required.

**(6) Details of any other Interested Parties**

9. There are no other Interested Parties identified.

**(7) ADR proposals**

10. Considering the above, ADR is unnecessary.

**(8) Response to requests for information and documents**

11. Disclosure is unnecessary at this stage because a further reference to the CCRC has been submitted.

**9 Address for further correspondence and service of court documents**

12. The address for further correspondence and service of court documents is at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

*Christopher Yong*

**Christopher Yong**  
**For the Treasury Solicitor**

**D +44 (0)20 7210 3465**  
**F +44 (0)20 7210 3410**  
**E christopher.yong@governmentlegal.gov.uk**