

10 September 1999

To all Chief Executives

Dear Colleague

Reappointment of Chief Executives

You may have received by now from the Controller and Auditor-General, a Crown Law opinion relating to the reappointment of Chief Executives.

Essentially, the opinion concludes that it is not permissible to extend a local authority Chief Executive's contract beyond 5 years without advertising the position.

The SOLGM Executive Committee considers this opinion has serious implications for the local government sector. Accordingly, I asked the Minister of Local Government when he addressed our Conference earlier this week, whether he would consider an alignment of the Local Government Chief Executive reappointment provisions with those in the State Sector Act relating to public sector Chief Executives, particularly those in the tertiary area.

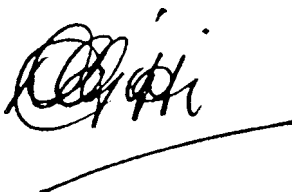
The Minister was receptive to such an alignment particularly if the approach was supported by *Local Government New Zealand*.

I am delighted to advise you that at today's meeting of *Local Government New Zealand's* National Council, which I attended, they advised of their agreement to:

- request the Minister of Local Government to amend, with urgency, the appropriate statutes to allow local authorities to renew Chief Executive contracts without readvertising on completion of satisfactory five years service; and
- Carol Stigley providing the Minister of Local Government with draft legislative changes of the necessary amendments.

This is great news and SOLGM will advise the Minister of its support for *Local Government New Zealand's* request and that it will work with *Local Government New Zealand* to hopefully resolve this issue quickly.

Kind regards



Darryl Griffin
President
SOLGM