

Under the Employment Relations Act 2000

**BEFORE THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AUTHORITY
CHRISTCHURCH OFFICE**

BETWEEN Meredith Bell (Applicant)
AND L and B Investments Limited (Respondent)
REPRESENTATIVES Mary-Jane Thomas, Counsel for Applicant
Ann Lauder for the Respondent
MEMBER OF AUTHORITY Philip Cheyne
SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED 14 February 2005 from the applicant
None from the respondent
DATE OF DETERMINATION 1 April 2005

COSTS DETERMINATION OF THE AUTHORITY

[1] This determination deals with an application for costs by Meredith Bell following her successful personal grievance claim and claim for arrears of wages.

[2] Counsel for Mrs Bell sent a copy of the application to L and B Investments Limited at the time it was lodged with the Authority. The Authority wrote to L and B and asked for any response to be provided by no later than Monday 28 February 2005. Nothing has been received from L and B.

[3] I am told that Mrs Bell's legal costs total \$3,865.70 of which \$2,290.00 has or will be paid by the Legal Services Agency although the indication is that Mrs Bell will have to repay that as well as meet the remainder. In those circumstances, I am asked to make an award of \$2,000.00 costs against L & B as a reasonable contribution to Mrs Bell's costs.

[4] Mrs Bell, having been successful, is entitled to an award of costs as a reasonable contribution to her legal costs. I accept that \$2,000.00 is a reasonable contribution in the circumstances of this matter. Accordingly I order L and B Investments to pay Mrs Bell \$2,000.00 costs.

Philip Cheyne
Member of Employment Relations Authority