## **BARRINGTON LAW OFFICE**

A BRANCH OFFICE OF

## CAMERON COMPANY SOLICITORS

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3 May 2013

CJ Scaife 139 MacKenzie Avenue Woolston Christchurch

via email

Dear Mr Scaife

## **ESTATE QUERY**

We have now completed our perusal of the documents you provided us with and analysis of your position.

Our advice would be that we strongly urge you to cooperate in an application for probate of the 1998 will with your brother, Marc Scaife. If probate is awarded to your brother and yourself then you will have authority to carry out investigations regarding the assets of your mother's estate. In effect that is your gateway to then be able to address the issues of and disposition of your mother's assets prior to death.

In order to establish the existence of any gifts to your siblings, which may have been made by your mother during her life time with the intention of such gifts forming part of your sibling's legacies, a grant of probate will enable you and your solicitors to liaise on your behalf directly with financial institutions. By corresponding with your mother's bank as trustee you should be able to establish an accurate statement of estate assets, liabilities and gifts/loans processed within the last seven years.

If you refuse to join in the application for probate, then it is possible that your siblings may make an application for probate excluding you as a trustee of the estate which, if successful, could strongly prejudice your position and negate your ability to extensively investigate the existence of any gifts/loans made during your mother's lifetime.

If you do proceed with an application for probate, we will be able to independently advise you as a beneficiary and/or a trustee of the estate even if Cruickshank Pryde continue as the estate solicitors.

We want to be able to assist you achieve your goals in respect of this matter but the only way for you to sensibly progress it is to cooperate in the application for probate of the 1998 will. Whilst this may not be what you wish to hear, we are of the view that it will prove to be the best way forward for you. We look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours faithfully

**CAMERON & COMPANY** 

CWJ FOGARTY

Partner

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