

CAVE CREEK

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Father continues **Cave Creek** fight

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A Christchurch man whose daughter died in the **Cave Creek** tragedy in 1995 has taken his fight for accountability to the Police Complaints Authority (PCA).

Judge Ian Borrin, of the PCA, confirmed yesterday that a complaint had been lodged by Gary Reid this week.

Mr Reid's daughter, DeAnne, was one of 14 young people who fell to their deaths when the **Cave Creek** viewing platform in Westland collapsed.

It is understood Mr Reid has complained about the lack of a prosecution against any Department of Conservation workers responsible for building and maintaining the platform.

He claimed earlier that the decision not to hold the department, rather than individuals, responsible for the tragedy was politically motivated.

A commission of inquiry into the platform collapse by Christchurch District Court judge Graeme Noble found no single person was to blame for the accident.

The tragedy resulted from combined systematic failure against a background of an under-funded department, Judge Noble found.

However an earlier report by the policeman who investigated the tragedy, Christchurch's Detective Inspector Kevin Burrowes, recommended that criminal charges be laid against those individuals responsible for the platform.

Mr Burrowes, who now works as a private investigator, did not want to comment on Mr Reid's action yesterday.

The report submitted by Mr Burrowes is now listed as officially missing by police, although police national headquarters say that is irrelevant because Mr Burrowes' findings were part of the larger file on the case.

Christchurch lawyer **Grant Cameron** has battled on behalf of families of the **Cave Creek** victims, but would not comment on Mr Reid's complaint.

Previously, Mr Cameron told The Press: "It's my personal view that there was a wealth of evidence for prosecution (against DOC individuals) and it's inconceivable the Crown Law Office and police could come to a different opinion."

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