



October 23, 2006

### **Petition for mercy on behalf of Colin Campbell Ross**

The Attorney-General, Mr Hulls, has written to the Supreme Court indicating that he desires the Court's assistance to deal with a petition for mercy for Colin Campbell Ross, who was hanged for murder in 1922.

Section 584 of the Crimes Act deals with references by the Attorney-General for petitions for mercy. The section says:

“Nothing in this Part shall affect the prerogative of mercy, but the Attorney-General on the consideration of any petition for the exercise of Her Majesty's mercy, having reference to the conviction of a person on indictment or to the sentence passed on a person convicted, may, if he thinks fit, at any time either –

(a) refer the whole case to the Court of Appeal .... Or

(b) if he desires the assistance of the judges of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court on any point arising in the case with a view to the determination of the petition, refer that point to such judges for their opinion thereon, and such judges or any three of them shall consider the point so referred and furnish the Attorney-General with their opinion accordingly.”

The court is now considering how the matter will be handled. It will be heard by the court as soon as the current workload permits. But given the court's present commitments, it is highly unlikely to be heard this year.

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