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To Whom It May Concern

If calling, please ask for: Robert Carr
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Our Ref: RC/per/sr
Your Ref:

Date: 24 June 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

I am the Chairman of Anderson Strathern. I am a partner in the firm's Dispute Resolution Department. I am a Solicitor-Advocate.

I have known Neil Fraser Smith who presently resides at 27 Clark Avenue, Edinburgh from the time he joined Anderson Strathern in October 1997. Mr Smith qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate with extended rights of audience in Scotland's highest civil courts in 1998. He was assumed as a partner at Anderson Strathern on 1st January 1999. He became Head of our Construction and Projects team in November 2001.

Mr Smith is trustworthy and diligent and is entirely happy to work such hours as are necessary to complete the projects in hand. He is well recognised as a leading construction lawyer with the highest technical abilities. He has a high level of skill across a wide range of legal practice areas including contentious and non-contentious construction law. Having worked primarily in the field of contentious construction law he has in recent years developed the non-contentious practice at Anderson Strathern. He has secured the firm's first PFI projects and has often been involved in highly skilled drafting of bespoke documents.

He has considerable skills as a court lawyer. He is well able to marshal evidence and to present that evidence in a clear and straightforward manner to the court. He is highly skilled at cross-examining witnesses and in making submissions. He has a particular talent for designing solutions to resolve disputes. He has used his rights of audience in the Court of Session to oppose motions and to deal with various interlocutory hearings. He prepared for and settled a case scheduled for Proof at the Court of Session with a very material value.

Mr Smith is well regarded by his professional colleagues, his clients and his staff. He has been instrumental in building the Construction and Projects team at Anderson Strathern. He has headed up a team comprising one other partner, two associates, a senior solicitor, three qualified assistants and a trainee. He has a strong management style focused on performance.



Mr Smith is interested in the law and in the legal profession and keeps himself abreast of changes relevant to his practice area. He has excellent technology skills. He has enthusiasm for the task in hand, a sense of urgency and staying power. He expresses himself excellently both orally and in writing. As a team leader he has the ability to work with others and to set and support the objectives of his team. He manages his client relationships very well and strikes a bond of confidence, trust and respect with his clients. He has commercial judgement and awareness. I will be delighted to provide any further information which you consider necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Carr
Chairman