

Audit Office



Mr Paul Wilkinson Secretary John Curtin House Limited PO Box E1 KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dear Mr Wilkinson

## CENTENARY HOUSE LEASE - AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE (ANAO)

You may be aware of the continuing Parliamentary interest in the Centenary House lease. In particular, you will be aware of the disparity between market lease rates and the ANAO's current lease obligations. You will also be aware that this disparity continues to accrue and it is reasonable to assume that it will progressively increase until the end of the lease in September 2008.

While noting the Directors' previously stated position, it is again requested that you draw to the attention of the Directors of John Curtin House Limited, the ANAO's concern regarding the existing lease rate and the ANAO's firm request for a review at their earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Russell Coleman Executive Director

Corporate Management Branch

## John Curtin House Limited

(Incorporated in the ACT) ACN 008 515 222

PO Box 6222 Kingston, ACT 2604 Centenary House 19 National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 Telephone (02) 6120 0800 Facsimile (02) 6120 0801

21 May 2004

Corporate Manageriani Rec: 24/5/2004 No: 4-7

Mr Russell Coleman Executive Director Australian National Audit Office GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Coleman

The directors have considered your request that the rent under the lease be reviewed. As you are aware, there is no doubt as to the legal validity of the lease, and the propriety of it was confirmed by a Royal Commission. In reliance upon the lease, John Curtin House Limited entered into financial commitments, which it would breach if it were to accede to your request. The directors may also be in breach of their fiduciary duties to the company and their obligations under the *Corporations Act*.

In the circumstances, we regret that we are unable to assist you at this point in time.

Contrell

Yours sincerely

Tim Gartrell Secretary