

June 2015

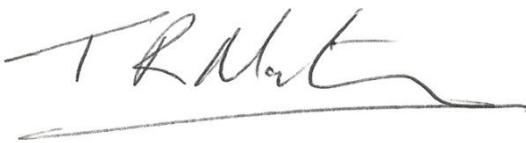
Dear Sirs,

1. I write in support of Peter Garden's application as someone who has employed him periodically over the past 6 years, has worked alongside him in the field, and who knows his skills and personality. I direct a large-scale habitat restoration project on the island of South Georgia, an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, situated in the Southern Ocean.

2. This project required the flying of three helicopters in hazardous conditions, spreading rodenticide bait. The flying had to be meticulous, involving the pilot following a very precise course at a certain height over extremely challenging, mountainous terrain, usually in turbulent wind conditions. Multiple parallel lines had to be flown, and very sharp turns made between them. This would be difficult in any circumstances, but rendered greatly more challenging by there being a sowing bucket weighing over 1000 lb swinging like a pendulum below the aircraft.

At the outset of the project I realised that the entire \$12m operation crucially depended on finding people with the right skills and experience to be able to accomplish this flying successfully and safely. I scoured the world, and discovered that such expertise was simply absent from Europe, Asia or the Americas. The pool of pilots capable of this type of work was tiny, and they were all resident in New Zealand. Subsequent experience of pilots of other nationalities has merely confirmed this initial realisation.

3. Peter Garden was appointed Chief Pilot of my project at the outset in 2010, and I reappointed him for both of the subsequent aerial operations without hesitation. Peter is supremely skilled and experienced, calm in a crisis and very responsible and measured in everything he does. He possesses extraordinary ability, and is at the very summit of his field internationally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T R Martin', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Anthony R Martin, PhD

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