

4 corners

Kaithlyn Taschner


From: Jennifer Cook
Sent: Tuesday, 3 July 2012 3:40 PM
To: Michael Casey; Danny Casey; Katrina Lee; John Usher
Subject: Re: first draft response to SMH:privileged and confidential

Dear all

My recommendation is to avoid providing a statement at this stage unless we really have to. I have been discussing this with Mgr John today and he is firm in his recollection that no admissions were made at the 1 meeting he attended. Paul Davis told me a few moments ago that Mgr Peters said that he had 3 meeting with Fr F. Mgr John said Fr Lucas says he also only attended 1 meeting. It would be good to ascertain more facts before issuing a statement.

I understand a meeting with Mgr Peters may be arranged tomorrow.

If you consider a statement should issue, I suggest not saying that 4 Corners cast doubt on what Cardinal Pell was told or that we are seeking to clarify what happened at the meeting. All we should say in my view is that certain allegations have been raised in the 4 Corners program and these are being investigated.

 we are planning to issue a statement I suggest passing it by Parramatta--I just spoke to Paul Davis who agrees that we should communicate before issuing statements.

Regards

Jennifer Cook
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 Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
 Direct line: **REDACTED**

From: Michael Casey
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2012 03:26 PM
To: Danny Casey; Katrina Lee; John Usher; Jennifer Cook
Subject: first draft response to SMH:

HE rang and I briefed him on developments today. Have sent him the Peters letter. Ran though the draft statment with him and he is happy with the text below. Any thoughts?

 C

DRAFT

Church agencies and officials in NSW have to follow the law, including the law on reporting crimes to the police. The former Armidale priest who was the subject of 4 Corners on Monday night was removed from public ministry twenty years ago in 1992 by his then-bishop and laicised in 2005. Cardinal Pell was advised that this priest made no admissions at a meeting in Sydney in 1992, which involved two Sydney priests who attended as members of a national panel. This has been cast in doubt by the 4 Corners report. Whatever the truth of the matter, it must be recognised and acknowledged, and the Archdiocese is seeking to clarify what happened at that meeting.

Allegations against Salesian priests were also raised by 4 Corners. As Cardinal Pell said in the program, he does not know the facts of the case but if there is credible evidence against a church figure who is overseas, "that person should return to face the music". All church agencies should follow this principle.

As Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal Pell does not have authority over other Catholic dioceses or any religious orders.

ENDS