

Maureen Fairbairn

From: Fr Brian Lucas [gensec@catholic.org.au]
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2012 4:32 PM
To: John Usher; w.j.peters; REDACTED
Subject: FW: 4 Corners, ABC [REDACTED]

Importance: High

Dear John and Wayne,

See ABC email below...

This is my proposed reply

John Farrell had been arrested and charged but the court dismissed the charge. There were rumours about his behaviour and his bishop wanted us to interview him to see if he should be allowed public ministry. We interviewed him and although he was not specific with respect to any admissions we formed a view that he should not be allowed public ministry. That advice was taken by his bishop and he was not given any ministry after that.

I welcome comments

Fr Brian Lucas
 General Secretary
 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
 G.P.O Box 368 Canberra ACT 2601

ph [REDACTED] f [REDACTED] m [REDACTED]

From: Mary Ann Jolley [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2012 2:58 PM
To: Fr Brian Lucas
Subject: RE: 4 Corners, ABC

Dear Fr Lucas

Thank you very much for your response to our request for an interview.

As you are no doubt aware, we have since interviewed Cardinal George Pell who was unable to clarify some points and he suggested others more intimately involved with the issues at hand - such as yourself - might better assist us.

Since you have stated you are not prepared to be interviewed for our program, we would very much appreciate it if you would respond to the following questions –

Why was John Farrell called to a meeting with you and others on 3 September 1992?

Were any admissions made during that meeting?

What action was taken as a result of those admissions?

Kind regards

Mary Ann

From: Fr Brian Lucas [mailto:gensec@catholic.org.au]
Sent: Saturday, 2 June 2012 1:24 PM
To: Mary Ann Jolley
Subject: RE: 4 Corners, ABC

Dear Mary Ann,

I apologise for being slow to reply but I have been interstate.

I would not be available for such an interview as I am aware that you have approached others in the Church more senior than me.

With every good wish,

Fr Brian Lucas
 General Secretary
 Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
 GPO Box 368 Canberra ACT 2601

ph [REDACTED] f [REDACTED] m [REDACTED]

From: Mary Ann Jolley [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, 31 May 2012 5:53 PM
To: Fr Brian Lucas
Subject: 4 Corners, ABC

Dear Rev Lucas

I'm a producer with the ABC's 4 Corners program and am writing to request an interview with you. Over the last couple of months we've been researching and filming a story that looks at the Catholic Church's handling of sexual abuse cases since the establishment of Towards Healing and the Melbourne Response in 1996.

We would very much like to talk with you about the broad issues - the complexities of dealing with both the abuse victims and the perpetrators, and also more specifically about the case of John Farrell who we believe you, Rev Jocher and Rev Peters met with on 3 September 1992 to discuss complaints made against him. We would like to understand what happened at the meeting and what action was taken.

We would be looking at filming an interview with you in the week of 11 June. Should you agree to an interview, we'd be happy to provide more detail re line of questioning.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Mary Ann

Mary Ann Jolley
 4 Corners
 ABC
 [REDACTED]