

MEDIA RELEASE



Polding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

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TO DAN BOX; THE AUSTRALIAN

Fr Lucas was asked by Bishop Manning to convene a meeting with Fr F.

Mgr Usher attended the meeting in September 1992 at the invitation of Fr Lucas.

Mgr Peters was present at the request of his Bishop.

This meeting concerned a priest who was at all times the responsibility of the Bishop of Armidale.

Any official record of the meeting would be with the Armidale diocese, not with the Archdiocese of Sydney.

When raised by 4 Corners, Mgr Usher reviewed a copy of his own personal note of the meeting held by the Church's Professional Standards Office.

His note assisted Mgr Usher to confirm his recollection that Fr F made no admissions of actual criminal conduct. After speaking with Fr Lucas and Mgr Peters, Mgr Usher conveyed this advice to Cardinal Pell prior to his interview with ABC 4 Corners as the recollection of the three priests who were at the meeting, as the Archdiocese of Sydney has consistently maintained from the beginning.

We repeat the Archdiocese of Sydney will cooperate fully with the police and release any records they require.

To avoid pre-empting the work of the investigation announced by the Bishop of Armidale, any further inquiries should be directed to the diocese of Armidale.

For further information:

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