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**Amanda Zaicos**

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**From:** Amanda Zaicos  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 November 2010 2:19 PM  
**Subject:** EMAIL FROM THE BISHOP

(Emailed on Behalf of the Bishop to All Clergy)

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

There seems to be a misconception abroad that the Bishop has authority over the operation of the Professional Standards process.

I want to point out to you the emphatic separation of the Bishop from the Professional Standards procedures as detailed in the Protocol attached to the Professional Standards Ordinance 2005 that was adopted by the 2005 Synod of the Diocese.

This Protocol itself was the work of a committee established by the Diocesan Council prior to my arrival in the Diocese.

The relevant section of the Protocol is Section 61.

**Role of the Bishop and Reporting Requirements**

- 61.** The Diocesan Bishop is not involved in the operation of the Protocol. He is entitled to be kept informed of all matters that come before the Protocol, to be regularly updated as to the progress and to make reasonable enquiries regarding any matter which the Committee and the Director must answer. He must pass on to the Committee all complaints, allegations and information relevant to the Protocol of which he becomes aware. He must not interfere with or attempt to influence contact persons, the Committee, the Director, the Investigator or the Board in the exercise of their functions.

Any complaints about the Professional Standards procedures should be directed to the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, Mr Geoff Spring.

I have assiduously observed these requirements of the Protocol in order to ensure the integrity and transparency of the process.

Some historical professional standards matters prior to the 2005 Ordinance are the subject of media scrutiny because of the alleged lack of transparency and action. I have not wanted to create further difficulties for complainants or respondents in any matter before the Professional Standards Committee by my non-observance of the requirements of the Protocol.

I hope that you will appreciate the onus upon me to practice the Protocol given that at my Enthronement I swore a public oath to abide by the Ordinances of the Synod of the Diocese of Newcastle as indeed has each licensed clergy person of the Diocese of Newcastle.

Grace and peace,

+Brian

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