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24th January 2011DR BRIAN FARRAN
Bishop of NewcastleMr Colin Elliott
President
Professional Standards Board

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Dear Colin

I recognize that the reference of current Professional Standard matters to the Supreme Court creates some anxiety for all involved from a Diocesan perspective, and I imagine that this has added to what you have carried as the President of the Professional Standards Board.

Now that we are at some distance from the December hearings of the Board, I raise with you my concern that the recommendations to me were made public at the Hearings.

Indeed, I learned of one such recommendation (December 15th) from two sources as I was travelling to Taree to attend the Manning Valley Anglican College's Speech Night. The first source was an ABC radio news bulletin and the second an agitated mobile call from a Cathedral parishioner who had attended the Hearing.

I understand that the Board Hearings are open. However, I remain concerned that the Determination was made public prior to my being officially informed. I think that with respect to me that Determination should be conveyed privately.

The issue with the publicizing of the Determination is that there is media awareness of this before I have had the opportunity to access the recommendations to me. I think this places me in an unnecessary and unfortunate pressured environment.

I would appreciate your reflection upon my concerns.

Grace and peace,

+ Brian Newcastle

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Bishop of Newcastle.

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