

SEXUAL ABUSE ISSUES

Notes taken at a meeting on Wednesday, 4 June 2003 at 8.30am
at the Anglican Church Office

Present: The Archbishop (Chair), The Ven John Collas, The Very Revd Steven Ogden, Mr Peter Casson, Mr John Harley, Dr Ken Pidgeon, The Hon Justice Bleby, Mr Peter Jones, Mr Nicholas Iles, Mr Mark Pickhaver, The Revd Graeme Kaines, Mr Leo Fogarty, Mr David Williams

1. Helen Carrig has agreed to be Professional Standards Director.
2. The first meeting of the Synod group was held yesterday. The terms of reference of the Inquiry, and the composition of the Committee were explored. She will also prepare terms of reference for the Director's position. Various people are being approached for the role of Inquiry Board member.
3. Trevor Olsson is prepared to undertake the role on a concessional payment basis. Anne Prior is also available. Others are also under consideration. Other issues for the inquiry include premises, clerical support, 'counsel assisting the Inquiry', computers, premises at a neutral ground, indemnity for those participating. Conflict with police inquiry may occur: To whom does the Board relate? Helen Carrig. What is the role now of the Working Committee?
4. Meeting with Police and Yarrow Place and +Ian and JPC
Cooperation etc
Police need to have information for Investigation

Police have set up a five person task group to investigate paedophile ring. JMh was asked to contact the police about the possibility of delaying our Inquiry to September, because of a suggested conflict of interest.

Our Inquiry is about the effectiveness of our processes dealing with complaints and the police inquiry will test the allegations against individuals.
5. Other Issues
 1. Archdeacon Emeritus Brian Smith has been stood down until the Inquiry has been concluded. His emoluments will continue until the end of June.
 2. REDACTED appears to have been harassing staff at Pedare Christian College because of alleged exposures to her RE by Christian fundamentalism. She wants to meet with the Archbishop. The school has tried to manage the issue, but with little success.
 3. REDACTED - ex chaplain SPSC (1992) - a second boy has now come forward.
 4. Plympton - police anticipate an arrest.

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6. Managing the gap
 - .1 Revision of existing management and communication processes (an internal audit?) needs to occur.
 - .2 A debriefing about recent events is needed.
7. PDJS email:
 - .1 Need Diocesan Council approval for Professional Standards Committee implementation strategies.
 - .2 Child Protection guidelines
8.
 - .1 PDJS/JH have begun work on DRG review.
 - .2 We need to develop a schematic view of what needs to be done on all fronts. Could Gaiters or Team do this? Next Team, Tuesday, 10 June, 2.30pm.
9. Debriefing
 - DW - favourable media comment about their involvement
 - we learnt to be more focussed, consistent
 - requests about communication from the Inquiry to the media – we need to manage/plan this.
 - we are in a ‘good’ period now.
 - JH - MDC could be asked to prepare pastoral support for parishes affected by claims.
 - We need a parish support strategy and a media strategy.
 - KP - There are 17 people who are potential issues.
 - There will be other calls in the future – we need to identify parishes.
 - We need to continue to emphasise protection for children.
 - JH - Some Anglicare assistance could be available; also ITIM, and Lutherans have offered help.
 - MP - When we admitted the Brandenburg problem was a Church problem, this was well received. Announcement of Inquiry was good. Archbishop’s statements in media were clear. Archbishop’s involvement of police was well received.
 - Others - Reconciliation Committee is in a quandary – need to clarify respective roles of various committees.
 - Legal difficulties with Claims
 - Before Synod we began work on terms of reference for Claims Committee – is it now relevant?
 - Claimants will not be interviewed by Inquiry.
 - PJ - No report from AMP. Anglican Alliance through Minter Ellison not yet granted indemnity
 - they want material, may be searching for an ‘out.’
 - Mark Young will be appointed as Loss Adjustor to begin investigations.

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- Susan Litchfield will now be informed about action taken, and Peter Jones will enquire whether her clients will insist on common law processes, or will consider mediation.

- LF - Our brokers rather than lawyers should be talking to insurers. We should move prudently.

- Abp - He wants to meet with Reconciliation Committee.

- KP - Some people are still in disbelief mode.

- JMH - Those involved at Synod negotiating did an excellent job.

- DBB - Some Synod members felt relief that the matter moved towards resolution.

- PNC - A good team effort leading up to the Synod; John Harley and Peter Jones were readily available.

- Abp - thanked the group for their various inputs.