

John Collas

From: Don Owers [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2002 12:34
To: jcollas; [REDACTED]
Cc: Peter Casson; Peter Stuart; Bob George
Subject: Most Urgent - DC response

Dear John,

I received the DC papers in this morning's mail.

I am writing to say that the response to the matters I raised at the June meeting of DC is totally unacceptable to me. I am extremely angry and disappointed.

For three years now I have tried to elicit a caring and responsible response from the Archbishop and the former Assistant Bishop and have been asked to wait while discussions took place to formulate appropriate responses. I have put before the bishops, time and time again, both the evidence for the extent and grossness of Brandenburg's abuse, the now well accepted research findings about the destructiveness of such abuse (especially where it is denied, avoided and minimised by churches) and the evidence for the involvement of people in other Dioceses, and particularly through CEBs. For that three years victims of Brandenburg's abuse and their families (who in most cases do not know what has happened to their sons or why, in many cases, their sons have taken up various destructive behaviours) have continued to suffer alone or in ignorance.

I have lived with this tension for long enough and I am no longer prepared to contemplate further delays on the basis of promises which, I'm afraid, no longer carry any assurance for me. I cannot see that anything further will be achieved by the formation of yet another group to formulate further policies.

The Diocesan Response Group has had three weeks to formulate proposals to address the aftermath of this abuse (it has actually had five weeks if you take into account my letter of 30/5/02 to the Contact Person). The contact person faxed me to say she had passed on my letter to the DRG and 'would do what she could to remind people of the issue in the future.'

I have not had a single enquiry from the DRG or any other Diocesan body asking what I or survivors of abuse might think helpful.

I will be taking some advice over the weekend about possible alternative actions which might be brought to secure some care and justice for survivors and about my own future in the ministry in this Diocese.

Sincerely,

Don Owers