

Dear Colleagues

On 22nd August 2003 the Archbishop made a statement to the media regarding certain allegations that were circulating about him. The Archbishop strongly rejected the allegations as false.

In his letter to you of 29 August 2003, the Archbishop advised that prior to and after making the statement, he consulted with the Commissary, Bishop Richard Appleby, and the Chancellor.

With the Archbishop's full support, the Commissary and Chancellor engaged retired Supreme Court judge the Honourable Tom Shepherdson QC to consider the relevant circumstances and provide independent advice.

Mr Shepherdson advised that there is no complaint or allegation against the Archbishop in terms of the Diocesan Protocol and that the circumstances do not warrant the Archbishop standing down.

Bishop Appleby convened a special meeting of the Diocesan Council on 18 September 2003 from which the Archbishop absented himself. The Council received Mr Shepherdson's report and concurred with the advice provided. The decision was unanimous and without abstention. The meeting went on to express support to the Archbishop and his family.

The Council asked that I inform you of this outcome as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

Peter Read
General Manager