



## *The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle*

7 January 2016

Mr Keith Allen

REDACTED

Dear Keith,

### **Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse**

As you are aware, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse has issued a summons to the Diocese including St John's College in Morpeth and St Albans Home in Aberdare. We are aware that you and/or your firm in the past has provided legal advice to the Diocese, the Bishop and clergy in some of the years covered by the Summons.

As you will be aware legal privilege does not attend to a summons from the Royal Commission and, in any case, the Diocese will not pursue an argument on privilege.

The Diocese has given a commitment to forward further material to the Royal Commission that is relevant to the summons that it becomes aware of.

Your letter to Bishop Greg Thompson of 20 May 2015 indicates that you have in your possession a file in relation to the Reverend George Parker.

In order that the Diocese is in a position to further respond to the summons, we request that you now forward to us an original or copy of any document or file that you have in your possession about the handling of any allegation of child abuse of which you may have been aware. This includes matters relating to the Reverend George Parker and other clergy you have represented as suggested in your letter. This might include any allegation, complaint against or incident involving child sexual abuse involving any individual. A document can be anything in hard copy or electronic form so you will need to not only carefully examine papers held by you but also thoroughly search your current and past electronic records to ensure that everything you have on this subject matter is forwarded to us. This should include any instructions you have received from the Diocese and any file notes you made. We would also be helped if you could forward to us any document you have in your possession which might be minutes of meetings, protocols, policies, procedures, rules, regulations or the like about the operation of the Diocese in relation to policies on child protection, professional standards, the resolution of conflict, the management of complaints and the discipline of clergy and laity (including theological students).

We will sift through the material and forward to the Commission documents that are relevant to its request.

I do need to be clear with you that now that you have informed us that you have documents in your possession you are required by law not to alter or destroy them. If you have material in your possession and decline to forward it to us it is possible that the Commission may issue you a personal summons.

**Diocesan Office:** Levels 1 & 3, 134 King Street, (PO Box 817), Newcastle NSW 2300 Australia  
**t:** (02) 4926 3733 | **f:** (02) 4926 1968 | **w:** [www.newcastleanglican.org.au](http://www.newcastleanglican.org.au) | ABN 66 773 701 473

I imagine that you may incur costs in forwarding this material. Please let us know and you will be fully reimbursed.

If you have any concerns or queries arising from these requests you should feel free to contact Mr Michael Elliott (our Professional Standards Director), Bishop Peter Stuart (our Assistant Bishop) or me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Cleary', with a wavy, horizontal line extending across the width of the signature.

John Cleary  
**Diocesan Business Manager**