



COPY

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

The Right Reverend Gregory Thompson
Bishop of Newcastle

20 May 2015

Mr Keith Allen

REDACTED

Dear Keith,

Further to your undated letter received at my office on 19 May, I include a copy of the Responsible Persons Ordinance 2015 and the Professional Standards Ordinance 2012. The ordinances include information about the date of assent. I am also including a copy of the Diocesan Council Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 2015.

As you will note from the Professional Standards Ordinance 2012 the Professional Standards Committee makes a determination about examinable conduct based on its assessment of information. It is not a complaints-based system.

I have provided you with the relevant component of the advice to me from the Professional Standards Committee.

For the sake of clarity, I advise

1. Your membership of the Trustees of Church Property concluded on 1 November 2014 in accordance with section 12 of the Church Trust Property Ordinance 2012.
2. Your membership of the Synod ceased when you ceased to be a Trustee on 1 November 2014.
3. When you ceased to be a member of Synod you ceased to be a member of the Board of Enquiry and the Panel of Triers in accordance with the Clergy Discipline Ordinance 1966.
4. The Diocesan Council Ordinance was silent as to when a vacancy in the membership of the Council occurred. The Diocesan Council Ordinance Amendment Ordinance assented to on 30 April 2015 confirms that this occurs when a member ceases to hold any qualification which was necessary for election to office. You were elected as a member of the Synod to the Diocesan Council. Your membership ceased on 30 April 2015 with the assent of the Ordinance.

There are effectively two diocesan bodies of which you are a member and from which you have stood down at my request; the Bishop Nomination Board and the Ordinance Interpretation Committee. You will recall that I made this request as a result of the disclosures you have made to me about your involvement in the handling of professional standards matters in the past and your failure to ensure that you have avoided conflicts of interest.

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I have formed the view that you are not a responsible person to hold office in the Diocese. In this regard I suspended you on 4 May 2015. Under the procedures of that Ordinance you had until 18 May to lodge a request for a review. However, as I did not stipulate this timeline I am prepared to grant you until 1 June 2015 to lodge an application for review in accordance with the Responsible Person Ordinance 2015.

Yours sincerely,

+ GREGORY N

Bishop Greg Thompson
BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE