

File Note on Conversation with John Cleary, August 27th 2012.

This conversation took place in my office at 2pm on Monday August 27th 2012. I arranged the meeting with John in response to the appended email exchange.

I indicated to John my extreme disappointment in his response to my request. I indicated to him that I was facing implementing possibly the most difficult decisions of my episcopate in the Diocese of Newcastle, that he was my senior administrative operative and that he was refusing to offer me the administrative support in arranging the communication of my decisions.

He replied indicating his reluctance in responding as he had but that he was convinced of the correctness of the Professional Standards Board decisions and process and that any decision by me that did not accord with the Board's recommendations would reflect poorly on the Board. John indicated that he would feel compromised if he were to participate in the implementation of decisions I made if they do not fully concur with the Board's recommendations.

I indicated to John that I would not compel him to act in this way that might be a violation of his conscience.

I also indicated to John that I thought that he and Michael Elliott (the DPS) were too closely allied and that they were using a pincer movement to try to influence me. I reminded John of the conflict I had with Michael Elliott regarding the Cooks Hill meeting and Michael Elliott's ignoring my advice and the advice of Bishop Peter, Archdeacon Pullin and himself.

John indicated his stress at being both the DBM and the Secretary to the Professional Standards Board. I informed John that I was of the view that he should not be the secretary of the PSB as this was a potential conflict of duties as I was now experiencing.

We parted cordially with my assurance to John that his decision would not affect our relationship.

I do, however, note that John (and Bishop Peter concurs with this observation) does behave at times with passive resistance if he does not really wish to implement a particular decision.

I then went to a meeting of the Diocesan Sub-committee of Bishop Peter, Archdeacon Copeman, Mrs Judy Walsh and Michael Elliott who were reviewing the amendments accepted by the Diocesan Council and briefing the DPS and indicated that I wanted a further amendment proposed that the DBM not be the secretary to the PSB and that we follow the national model Professional standards Ordinance in this regard.

+Brian Newcastle
August 27th 2012.