

MEMO

To: The Registrar, Anne Hywood
From Archbishop Jeffrey
Date 11-11-05

I met on Wednesday afternoon with Mr Mark King. Mr Geoffrey Barber was with me. The Rev. Andrew King accompanied Mr Mark King.

Mark King informed me that he had been a victim of sexual abuse by a person in church ministry, Mr Brandenburg. He said he had been abused also as an infant. He said he had brought concerns about sexual abuse within the Anglican Church to a diocesan leader in 1992 and had been "warned off". Repeated attempts to address the issue in subsequent years, he said, had been frustrated by obfuscation and self-interest within the Church.

I acknowledged to Mr King that I believed that he had informed the diocese of his concerns in 1992.

He was highly critical of recent attempts by the diocese to resolve outstanding claims in regard to Mr Brandenburg. He said he believed the diocesan lawyers were aggressive and unhelpful. He felt the diocese was seeking to pay the minimum amount to get victims to "go away". He said he had been excluded from the process.

He asserted that the Church did know about sexual abuse (at least in a general sense) since the 1960's and had done little by way of taking steps to protect children in its care over many years. He said he believed that this made the church morally culpable for abuse that has occurred in this time.

He put what he regarded as a proposal for an "ethical settlement":

1. Church accepts responsibility for not protecting its children and for compounding abuse (secondary abuse) by not facing up to this fact.
2. Victims are discriminated between (if at all) by assessed damages and these damages are acknowledged as legitimate.
3. The damages form the basis of negotiations which take into account the shared benefits of not going to court.
4. Legal costs of claimants should be paid as they only exist because of the Church's refusal to deal with this issue.
5. Some victims that may wish to have their claims tested in court should be given assistance (financial) to do this.

I undertook to get back to Mr King by the end of the month.



Note from Archbishop:

Following inquiries made in regard to matters raised in this interview, my intention is to advise Mr King that the diocese does not regard him as excluded from the present negotiations (although we shall, of course, respect his decision to participate or not) Also to offer Mr King the possibility of a separate individual mediation.