

Aspinall, Archbishop Phillip

To: Case, Gilbert
Subject: RE: Confidential message

Dear Gilbert

Thank you for your letter by email this morning.

I am aware of the two Courier Mail articles. I sympathise greatly with you and your wife as the St Paul's matters come under close public scrutiny. You are both in my prayers and thoughts.

I am concerned at the effect of Dr Coman's statements as reported in the articles. I had already resolved to be in touch with Dr Coman to indicate that I believe the best way for any concerns about how allegations of sexual abuse have been handled in the past is through the inquiry I have announced.

Clearly any change contemplated in your employment situation has not forestalled public scrutiny of the St Paul's issues. However, I believe we must still address your situation as a matter of urgency and I look forward to our meeting on Tuesday 12 March.

Thank you for raising with me the matter of DC members still to obtain blue cards and for following that up. If you are in a position to advise me further on Tuesday morning I would be most grateful.

With best wishes,

Phillip Aspinall

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilbert Case [mailto:GCase@aso.qld.edu.au]
 Sent: Sunday, 10 March 2002 10:39
 To: Archbishop ASPINALL (E-mail)
 Cc: Bernard YORKE (E-mail)
 Subject: Confidential message

Dear Phillip,

I am sorry that we have not yet been able to continue the conversation we began on 21 February. I hope these comments will assist to give you an idea of my position in the meantime.

I have generally relied upon Robert Cunningham for advice in relation to all matters associated with my employment. On this occasion it is not appropriate for him to advise both me and the Diocese. I have spoken to a lawyer, but he has now gone overseas for a period. Robert Cunningham has kindly provided me with another name, and although this person and I have spoken briefly, my first briefing with him cannot take place until after the appointment which you and I currently have for 9.00 am on Tuesday next, 12 March.

In the meantime I (and my family) have been extremely distressed (and that's putting it very mildly!) by the two articles in The Courier-Mail on 2 March, and the two on 9 March. The ones which appeared yesterday are on page 25 (by Jim Soorley) and on page 32 (by Anna Reynolds). I will be interested to learn if any of the material published is defamatory. If it is, I must consider taking action.

The one positive outcome has been the many expressions of support and encouragement which I have received following these articles appearing.

In the articles which appeared on 2 March, no outsider could possibly have worked out from what was printed that Peter Coman had been the General Manager's representative on the St Paul's School Council throughout the period in question, and privy to all discussions and documents. (Peter attended 27 of the 33 Council meetings held between Lynch's death and his own retirement. If he felt he was not being allowed to play a full and appropriate role, he did not raise the question at the time.)

If there had been any hope that a change in my employment position might forestall adverse public comment, it is now clearly too late for that. I believe it was already too late when you raised the question with me. Volunteering to stand down would have been interpreted as an admission of

some sort.

Neither Bernard nor I have approached Peter Coman since his material was published. I do not know whether you wish to speak to him yourself. Bishop Appleby and I have discussed this issue. [Peter is currently Chairman of the Company which operates two of our schools (Forest Lake College and The Springfield College, both operated in conjunction with the Uniting Church), and director of a third (Canterbury College).]

There is one other issue of which you should be aware, not related to the above. Despite my best entreaties since late last year, The Rev Carolyn Payne, The Rev Michael Donaldson and Mr Ray Anderson are the members of the Diocesan Council who have not yet obtained their blue cards. The Non-State Schools Accreditation legislation requires that the Accreditation Board MUST de-register a school if ALL the members of the Governing Body do not hold blue cards. The deadline was 1 February 2002.

The DC is regarded as the Governing Body for the ten Diocesan-owned schools*. Late on Friday I was warned that Education Queensland would be chasing up this matter during the coming week.

*These schools are Churchie, The Southport School, St Hilda's, Glennie, Coomera, Fraser Coast, St Luke's Bundaberg, St Paul's, Toowoomba Prep and West Moreton. St Andrew's Peregian Springs will also fall into this category.

As Fr Donaldson is overseas, I think we may be able simply to delete him as an active member, but Carolyn's and Ray's position needs to be clarified promptly. I will be in touch with them again on Monday. The consequences of de-registration are serious.

I should know more by the time we meet on Tuesday morning.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Gilbert

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