

Office of Professional Standards
Anglican Church Southern Qld
GPO Box 421
Brisbane 4001

COPY

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr John Elliot

REDACTED

Dear John

I write to confirm our discussions from the meeting on Wednesday 5 November 2014 attended by Bishop Cameron Venables, the Revd Adam Lowe, you and me [on behalf of Professional Standards] regarding the agreement in place between you and the Parish of St Bartholomew's.

First, for the sake of completeness, I wish to place the meeting within its context.

As I stated at the meeting, the purpose was to review the agreement which has been in place since December 2008 and was originally signed by you and the Revd Richard Harris.

Since then, there has been a significant change in the policy regarding agreements. These changes were endorsed by Synod in 2012 and affect all current and future agreements.

The policy changes reflect the learning the Diocese has had since the policy was first developed, the increasing awareness in the community of issues surrounding child sexual abuse, and the increasing expectation in the community that the Church remains vigilant regarding these matters. In addition, there has been significant growth in the numbers of children attending the parish which increases the potential risks which need to be managed by the parish and the Diocese. Also, there are, potentially, members of the parish who themselves may have been harmed as children and these members would rightly expect to be safe and protected in the parish.

Consequently, it was decided that you are no longer able to attend the parish to worship. As you would appreciate, this decision was not taken lightly and was made after careful prayer and discussion.

The decision takes effect as from the date of the meeting. Your membership of the home group and of any other groups in the parish which you may attend is to be terminated.

You are welcome to attend worship in REDACTED. You may also consider attending another parish but, if you do wish to do this, there will need to be discussion with the priest and, if he or she supports your attendance, a fresh agreement will need to be negotiated. In addition, the revised policy requires that an announcement is made to the parish that you will be attending worship and an accountability and support group is established. If you do wish to approach another parish, please contact me so that initial discussion with the parish can occur.

It is important to state that we are aware that there has been no breach of the agreement by you.

I appreciate that this decision may be distressing to you. As stated in the meeting, both Bishop Cameron and Adam wish to provide you and your wife with pastoral care through this period.

Please contact me if there are any issues which you have from this letter.

Yours faithfully

Rod McLary
for the Office of Professional Standards

9 November 2014

cc: Bishop Cameron Venables
The Revd Adam Lowe
Mr Greg Milles – Director of Professional Standards