

C O R R S

C H A M B E R S

W E S T G A R T H

L A W Y E R S

9 April 1997

Office: Melbourne  
 Contact: Richard Leder  
 Direct Line: 9672 3489  
 Our Ref: ROMA5455-001/BDOC

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr Peter O'Callaghan  
 Commission into Sexual Abuse  
 Optus House  
 Level 25 Suite 36  
 367 Collins Street  
 MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Peter

**FATHER SEARSON**

We refer to our correspondence and discussions about this issue. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Vicar General's letter to us of 2 April 1997.

We refer also to your appointment by Archbishop Pell as an Independent Commissioner to enquire into and report upon "allegations of sexual misconduct by any priest of the Archdiocese and religious and lay persons working within the Archdiocese...."

We refer also to your appointment in accordance with Canon 1717 of the Code of Canon Law as the delegate of Archbishop Pell "to investigate matters pertaining to professional misconduct and sexual abuse alleged on the part of priests, religious and lay workers who at the time of the alleged offence were under the control of the Archbishop of Melbourne."

With respect to your enquiries into the conduct of Father Peter Searson, we are instructed by the Archbishop to advise you that to the extent necessary, your terms and conditions of appointment are expanded so as to require you to enquire into and advise the Archbishop in respect of any complaints of professional misconduct by Father Searson and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing:-

- (a) Any complaint of physical assault or verbal abuse by Father Searson;
- (b) Any complaint of conduct conducing to the loss of Father Searson's good name among upright and serious minded parishioners, or aversion to him;
- (c) Any complaint that may constitute criminal conduct.

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CORRS  
CHAMBERS  
WESTGARTH  
LAWYERS

9 April 1997  
Mr Peter O'Callaghan  
**FATHER SEARSON**

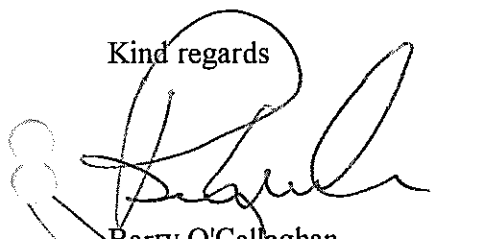
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We trust that this will assist in addressing the concerns raised by T.J. Mulvany & Co., and presume that you will inform them in due course of your expanded jurisdiction in this matter.

Please do not hesitate to telephone Richard if you have any queries.

Kind regards



Barry O'Callaghan  
Partner  
**CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH**  
M/87806/RLeder/S18

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