

Jeffery Gleeson

From: REDACTED REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 8:09 PM
To: Jeffery Gleeson
Cc: Andrew Woods
Subject: From REDACTED

Dear Mr Gleeson,

It's been a year since my case in the Independent Commission Vs Father REDACTED

I wanted to write to you about my experience as I know the Independent Commission gets a lot of poor press. In my case, I would say that the experience was positive and that the Independent Commission worked for me.

I always believed that I would get a positive outcome because I knew that I had told the truth and had no reason not to.

Personally, the pain, guilt, anxiety etc will probably never go away but I am glad that I took the step to do something about it and that is why the Independent Commission was good for me.

Initially, I was extremely apprehensive about doing anything. I had done nothing for 30-years but it was haunting me so badly. I was lucky to be advised by a family friend, Fr REDACTED to do something about it and he explained the Independent Commission to me.

Even after our initial meeting and meeting with Andrew Woods, I was unsure whether I had done the right thing in coming forward, but I had so much guilt about waiting so long.

The Independent Commission was the best option in my situation. I wouldn't have been able to go through a court case with a jury for many reasons. I got the desired outcome with REDAC being taken away from his duties.

I think the Independent Commission is of great value because it gives the opportunity for victims to come forward in a private and respected way where everything gets laid out and both sides get to put their case forward before an Independent Commissioner. The fact that the Commission is set up by the Catholic Church is a good thing because every case is taken out of their hands and only when the Commissioner has reached his decision does the Catholic Church know the result and recommendation. There is no influence on the outcome.

I was afforded the utmost respect and compassion from Barrister, Andrew Woods. He went over and above what he needed to do considering his job is to gather the facts and information to present to the Commissioner. He doesn't actually work for me, but for the Commission. He was very kind to myself and my wife, met me sometimes in his own home and explained things thoroughly and answered all of my questions. He was transparent and compassionate.

In my opinion, I can say I went into the hearing with Andrew backing me and believing in me.

The process itself was ok. It certainly wasn't enjoyable and there were times when I needed a hell of a lot of self control during the hearing. Being cross-examined for over 2 hours by Mr Sexton was awful and the things he challenged me about based on lies told to him by Father REDAC were completely wrong.

However, I do believe that the Independent Commission was a good option for me. I am sure that there are some things that could be improved but I do whole-heartedly support the ongoing hard work that yourself as Commissioner and Andrew Woods are doing.

I would like to offer my assistance to you. If anyone going through the Independent Commission could do with having a chat to someone like myself who has been through the process, then I would like to help. I wouldn't want to know the details about their individual case, but more to help them understand what will happen on the day/s in court. Even though it's not a court case, it does feel like it.

I couldn't do it on a daily basis, but would do it when advised by yourself or Andrew Woods when you think it could be of assistance.

Also, if you require someone to speak positively and in favour of the Independent Commission, I would be pleased to do so.

Yours Sincerely,

REDACTED

