

Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q C

Optus House
Level 25 Suite 36
367 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000

30 April 1997

Tel 9221 6190
Fax 9221 6191

Rev Fr Philip O'Donnell
REDACTED
Belgrave 3160

Fax No. 9754 4118

Dear Fr. O'Donnell,

Re: Father W.J. Baker

In the course of my enquiring into matters relating to the abovenamed I have perused files kept in relation to him and have seen your letter to Monsignor Cudmore of 12 June 1996.

In that letter you state inter alia,

"In January of 1978 a parishioner came to me with a specific complaint about Fr. Baker in relation to his teenage son... As part of the process of investigating the complaint the parents asked me to speak to their child.

In an effort to protect the child it was decided to tape the interview. This was done with the explicit permission of both the child and the parents. During this interview there were, at least, two specific allegations mentioned. Again, the first was more general but the second was specific and explicit. At that stage, I chose not to continue the interview because

the matter was already of grave substance and I thought it unnecessary to delve further into such personal matters with a young boy.”

Whilst I have some understanding of this matter from other sources I would ask you to provide me with answers to the following questions.

- (a) The name and address of the parents and the teenage son respectively.
- (b) Whether any of them are still living and if so do you know where.
- (c) Have you at any stage discussed these complaints with Fr. Baker? If so would you give me details of those conversations.

I refer to my previous letters in which I enclosed my Terms and Conditions of appointment and appointment as a Delegate of the Archbishop pursuant to Canon 1717.

Yours most sincerely,


Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner