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Dear David and Kevin

Foster matters

Further to my discussions with Kevin, I know David is currently looking at these matters. I have a little further information on the 6th defendant, Father Guelen.

He is a priest, and he is in good standing. The relevant allegation against him appears to be that, according to the police statement of an O'Donnell victim REDACTED in 1962 REDA was called by O'Donnell into O'Donnell's bedroom. O'Donnell was in bed, and pulled back the covers. O'Donnell was wearing pyjamas and he pulled RED into the bed on top of him. The door opened and Father Guelen walked in. O'Donnell pushed RED away. Guelen left. I am informed of the foregoing by Peter O'Callaghan.

I have ascertained Guelen was the assistant PP to O'Donnell at the time. Guelen was at Dandenong from 31 January 1959 until 1965. He returned to Dandenong in 1986 as PP and is still there. O'Donnell was at Dandenong from 1956 to 1969.

Of itself none of this would seem to implicate Guelen, unless it could be said that he saw something, had a duty to report on his superior and breached that duty.

In particular, it should be noted that Guelen was not at Oakleigh at the time when the Fosters were allegedly abused by O'Donnell.

It is however interesting that Guelen was O'Donnell's executor.

Looking at the statements of claim, there is reference to a complaint in 1958. There is some evidence that this complaint was made, and I attach a letter from Guelen written in 1994 which is particularly interesting. I suspect that Guelen came to be involved in 1994 because he was back at Dandenong as PP but again, this is interesting. We have

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discussed the 1958 complaint before, but as a reminder, the allegations of this complaint first surfaced in 1994 (and presumably led to Guelen being asked by the then Vicar General to investigate). Monsignor Moran was dead but by then Bishop Fox was still alive. Tony Darvall interviewed him and he was adamant that there was no knowledge of any complaint about O'Donnell, and that if a complaint came to the attention of Moran as alleged, Moran kept it to himself and took his knowledge of it to the grave. Archbishop Little, who became Archbishop in 1974, has also denied any knowledge of the 1958 complaint.

In any event, assuming the 1958 date is correct, then it is to be noted that Guelen was not in Dandenong at that time; he did not go to Dandenong until 1959.

At this stage I have not sought to interview Guelen, either as to whether he had any contemporaneous knowledge of the 1958 visit to O'Donnell by Moran or as to **REDACTE** claims from 1962, but I will do this if you think I should.

Kind regards



Richard Leder
Partner