

15<sup>th</sup> April 2003

Mr & Mrs A Foster

REDACTED

OAKLEIGH VIC 3166

Dear Mr & Mrs Foster,

I refer to your letter to me of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003 and to my brief response of 11<sup>th</sup> April.

I understand that in 1998 Emma made an application for ex gratia compensation. Late in 1998 she wrote to the Archbishop's solicitors indicating that she wished to accept the compensation offer that was made to her. As she was then aged less than 18 years, it was proposed that the money be held for her on trust until she turned 18.

I am informed that a trust deed was sent to Emma in February 1999, but that nothing further was then heard either from Emma or from you in relation to the offer.

The offer remains open for Emma to accept if she wishes. The amount involved would quite clearly address the issues raised in your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003, as well as assisting Emma with some of the other issues that may need to be addressed.

I should clarify that notwithstanding the misleading media publicity in 2002, the ex gratia compensation payment is not accompanied by confidentiality requirements. It is only if the offer is not accepted that it is a confidential and without prejudice offer. However nothing in the compensation panel process prevents Emma from discussing publicly the abuse of which she complains, if that is her wish.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Christopher Prowse  
VICAR GENERAL