

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12th December 1990
TO: The Archbishop
FROM: Rev G Smith

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RE: Fr P Searson

This afternoon I received a telephone call from Mr Graham Sleeman, the former principal of Holy Family School, Doveton.

He said that some years ago he had approached Mons Connors, the VG, concerning allegations of Fr Searson's interference with children in the confessional, and misappropriation of funds.

He believes that no real action was ever taken, and that Fr Searson was protected by the Archdiocese. Mr Sleeman resigned from the position of principal in 1987, due to the stress of this situation.

Mr Sleeman will be interviewed by the child exploitation unit on Friday, and rang to speak with the Archbishop about "what my position is". When asked what he meant by this, he said "what do I say to them. I've been covering for you people in there for a long time." I said I believed he should co-operate with the police.

He requested the Archbishop return his call. I said I could not guarantee that the Archbishop would do this, but assured him that the message would be conveyed.

His number is **REDACTED**

G Smith

Fax^d to Peter Harris 5.10pm 12.12.90.