

ELLIS AND DUGGAN

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Date: Mon, 03 Feb 2003 16:11:01 +1100

Dear All,

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RE the matter of Ellis and Duggan

I have received several phone calls from John Ellis. You will recall that the last contact we had was with the letter sent by the Archbishop in which he indicated that there would not be a formal facilitated meeting arranged. While the letter did not explicitly address the issue, it was clear that Ellis was still able to arrange an informal meeting if he wished.

In the meantime Michael Salmon had been in contact with Mr Ellis to make preliminary arrangements for a facilitated meeting possibly with Bishop Cremin.

Last week Ellis rang me to find out what was to happen next. I explained that if there was no corroboration it would be difficult to go any further. He said that he was not as interested in meeting Duggan as he was in having a meeting with the Church authority. Towards the end of the discussion, however, he remarked that his mother had recently been to see Fr Duggan and found him most responsive and seemingly well aware of where he was and what was happening about him. When I pointed out that there was no reason why he could not visit Fr Duggan informally, he seemed to change tack a little and he remarked that if Fr Duggan was fit and well there was no reason why he could not participate in an assessment. He said [and he is a lawyer] that if he met Duggan informally and during that discussion Duggan admitted some or all of the subject of his complaint, this information might not be able to be used if Duggan later denied saying anything or reverted to his reduced perception of reality.

It is my recommendation that there not be a facilitated meeting if there is no corroboration of the complaint. The only way that such a corroboration can be obtained is either through the archives revealing that there were similar complaints received against Duggan [not so I understand] **or** Fr Duggan has made some fairly dramatic recovery or gone into a time limited remission and he can be interviewed.

Michael Salmon is at my request staying in contact with Ellis and will tell him that the matter is being pursued resolutely. I get the impression that Ellis may try to play off one person against another, and he may ring the 13th floor also.

I suggest that we seek to obtain a clear picture of Duggan's health, and decide where next to go after we have received it. I believe we need a professional assessment of his mental state. The nursing home can give us this, but may be reluctant to do so to anyone who is not seen by them as authorised to seek such information. I am happy for this office to pursue this matter if we can be given that authorisation and the nursing home is so advised.

John Davoren