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LETTER DRAFTED BY BISHOP PETER STUART for
BISHOP BRIAN FARRAN RE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
BOARD DETERMINATIONS
dated 22/8/12

Michael Elliott

From: Bishop Peter
Sent: Wednesday, 22 August 2012 1:50 PM
To: Bishop Brian
Subject: considering the psb
Attachments: considering the psb.doc; ATT00001.txt

Dear +Brian

To get my head around the material I have written this from 'your' perspective. You will see my conclusions.

DRAFT STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the perseverance that the primary informant has shown. It takes a great deal for a person to disclose their experiences and then to go through the processes of having their experiences examined closely.

The Professional Standards process is designed to ensure that only fit and proper people are involved in ministry in the Church. In providing guidance on clergy discipline the Church of England states, "By virtue of their office, great trust is placed in the clergy by members of the Church and by the wider community. Clergy are expected to be worthy of this trust, and are required to uphold Christian values in their pastoral ministry, in performing other duties, and in the conduct of their private lives. "The Professional Standards process is designed to examine the misconduct of church workers and to make recommendations to the Bishop. The Bishop has the responsibility to consider the recommendations and take action.

The Professional Standards Board has determined that the Reverend Andrew Duncan, the Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence, the Reverend Bruce Hoare and Mr Greg Goyette engaged in serious sexual misconduct. The misconduct related to a person who was at all times in their pastoral responsibility. The Professional Standards Board has determined that the Reverend Graeme Sturt engaged in serious misconduct and that conduct related to a person who was at all times in his pastoral responsibility. The Professional Standards Board further determined that each of the respondents failed to report the misconduct when they were obliged to do so.

The Professional Standards Board has recommended that none of the people be able to undertake Christian ministry again and recommended that the four clergy be deposed from Holy Orders and the lay person be permanently prohibited from ministry.

I accept the determination of the Board. Each of these people was in a position of trust and responsibility. They failed to live up to that trust and breached ministerial boundaries in a way that has had an enduring impact on the primary informant. On behalf of the Anglican Church, I apologise to him.

The Reverend Andrew Duncan is not a fit and proper person to engage in Christian ministry. The information before the Board indicated that two people provided information about significant misconduct. I have accepted the recommendation in full and will depose him from Holy Orders.

Mr Greg Goyette is not a fit and proper person to engage in Christian ministry. He has resigned from all positions and I have accepted his resignations. I have accepted the recommendation in full from the Board and will prohibit him for life from appointment to any office.

The Reverend Bruce Hoare is not a fit and proper person to engage in Christian ministry. This is the second time that he has been before the Board. I have accepted the recommendation in full from the Board and will depose him from Holy Orders.

The Reverend Graeme Sturt is not a fit and proper person to engage in Christian ministry at this time. The allegations against Fr Sturt were serious but less serious than against the others. It is possible that Fr Sturt might come to understand the seriousness of his actions and his inaction. I accepted but decided to suspend the recommendation to depose him provided that he is not the subject of a further adverse finding from the Professional Standards Board in the next five years and to prohibit him for seven years for exercising any Christian ministry and attached strict conditions to that prohibition. He would only be able to exercise ministry at the end of that time if a Bishop

granted him a licence for ministry. Fr Sturt's licence as the Rector of Cardiff has been revoked and thus his paid ministry has terminated.

The Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence is not a fit and proper person to engage in Christian ministry. I have accepted the recommendation of the Professional Standards Board but decided to suspend the recommendation to depose him from holy orders provided that he is not the subject of a further adverse finding from the Professional Standards Board in the next five years. However, Fr Lawrence is prohibited for life from exercising any ministerial function with the exception that by the written agreement of the Bishop for a specific occasion Fr Lawrence may hold himself out to be a priest.

These decisions represent a strong commitment by the Diocese of Newcastle to ensure that people associated with the church are safe. It has been an exhaustive process made more difficult by the fact that the respondents have not shown any remorse and by their decision not to participate in the process. I am grateful for the work of the various professional standards bodies of the Diocese.