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File note Bishop Stuart to Bishop Thompson
5/3/15

MEMORANDUM

To: The Bishop
From: The Assistant Bishop
Re: **Past Practices in handling Professional Standards Matters**
Date: 5 March 2015

Since returning from the United States and Canada on 18 February you have advised me that Mr Keith Allen met with you to outline some of the previous practices of the Diocese in relation to managing people around which there might be what we now call professional standards matters.

On 29 January 2013 while I was the Administrator and following a meeting of the Trustees of Church Property Mr Allen asked to see me and outlined for me (without any notice) some of the previous practices. This included the placing of information in brown envelopes which were reviewed periodically. As I recall the conversation, the review included the Bishop, Mr Allen and some others which I believe included Bishop Richard Appleby (the Auxiliary Bishop), Mr Peter Mitchell (the Registrar) and Fr Graeme Lawrence (the Dean) . I think Mr Robert Caddies who worked with one of the Diocesan Solicitors Nathan and Rankin may have provided advice from time to time.

Immediately following the meeting I asked the Director of Professional Standards (PSD) to come and see me and I outlined to him in detail the conversation I had with Mr Allen. The PSD did confirm the existence of the Brown Envelopes.

After consultation with the PSD and the Diocesan Business Manager I wrote to Mr Allen on 6 February asking him to meet with Mr Scott Puxty as our solicitor to go through in detail his understanding of past practices of the Diocese. I received a brief response and so repeated this request some time later but to no avail. A similar request was made to Mr Robert Caddies who some time later did meet with Mr Puxty. Archbishop Roger Herft was asked if he had any diocesan material in his possession and he assured us that all records remained in the Diocese. I do not think any enquiry has been made of him in relation to the processes in place during his episcopate. No enquiries were made of the others.

During the course of searching the Diocesan records for material that may have been subject to a Royal Commission summons we came across a folder in which there was a record of the custody of Brown Envelopes being transferred to the PSD in 2009, as I recall. My understanding is that the PSD has never been confident that the Brown Envelopes he received were complete.

In terms of current practice I was and am confident that the collection and maintenance of information by the PSD is a robust and defensible system subject to the Professional Standards Ordinance and Protocols.

I am confident that whatever information which was in the PSD's possession from the Brown Envelopes has been turned over to the Royal Commission and if there were matters which should be reported to the Police I am assured that the PSD will have done so.

Mr Allen's action at the time troubled me. He gave some information but then did not provide further assistance in a transparent manner even when he was aware, through his membership of the DC, of the summons from the Royal Commission.

I briefed the DC from time to time on matters relating to the Royal Commission but did not give specific details of information requests as I was not certain they would be kept confidential. There was some brief mention of past practices such as the brown envelopes at one meeting but not at any level of detail.

Given Mr Allen's approach to you I think we should be renewing our request to Mr Allen to provide whatever information he has in his possession to the PSD or if he declines to work with the PSD, our solicitor. I think we should be renewing our request to Mr Allen to assist us with his recollections in conversation with the PSD or solicitor. I remain concerned that any review of our past practices will identify some concerns with the practice.