



Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle  
 The Very Rev'd Stephen Williams  
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2 September 2016

Mr W Scott  
 38 The Terrace  
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Via Email: wjs@REDACTED

**Letters to Archbishop Davies & to Royal Commissioner (13.04.16)**

Dear Bill

I am extremely disturbed by the above mentioned letters to which you are a signatory which have come to my attention during the Royal Commission hearings. They call into question the integrity of Bishop Greg, and I regard this as intolerable.

I grieve for the Bishop as the subject of these letters and for the Cathedral Parish thrust once again into a crisis.

I communicate with you with deep anguish and with prayer for the Bishop and for us all as we seek to serve and honour Our Lord and care for his people, to face the past and build a healthy future.

The letters you have signed are divisive of the Cathedral Parish with implications for the unity and mission of the Diocese.

They have placed the Cathedral in an impossible position as being the Bishop's Seat, and have placed the Dean in an untenable position as the Bishop's representative/vicar at the Cathedral, undoing painstaking work to rebuild trust in the Cathedral as a pastorally safe place without rancour or division.

The letters were written and have come to light publicly at a time of extreme vulnerability and have helped push the Cathedral to a critical point in terms of public perception, relationship with the Bishop, Diocese and broader community, and in terms of our own inner integrity and unity and fulfilment of our vision and mission.

They have become public a few days following the wish expressed by Parish Council (at a meeting on 18.08.16) that our relationship with the Bishop should be healed as a vital prerequisite to a healthy future. None of the signatories on Parish Council mentioned that these letters had been written when these sentiments were expressed.

They show a lack of understanding about the impact of abuse on survivors and a lack of respect to Bishop Greg in this regard.

It is impossible for those who have signed these letters to continue in leadership roles within the Cathedral (where relevant). This includes those who serve as Cathedral Servers and I am instructing the Head Server to remove those to whom this applies from the Server's roster.

I have asked the Bishop to put in place an alternative form of governance to the Parish Council for the foreseeable future.

I do hope and pray that the Cathedral will come through this present time with a renewed capacity for mission and ministry, and that God will bless us in our life together.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Williams', with a flourish at the end.

**The Very Reverend Stephen Williams**  
**Dean of Newcastle**