

RC41

Our ref: SJH:ALF:526420

23 July 2007

Mr Richard Campion

REDACTED

Dear Richard

### **Church of England North Coast Childrens Home**

We refer to previous correspondence in this matter.

There are a number of matters that we will address in this letter.

1. In terms of limitation periods, we have advised you of the difficulties you, in particular, would have in respect of limitation issues.
2. In relation to Daniel Sutherland, Daniel recalls speaking to the witness but does not recall using derogatory words about you and we are sorry that any conversation should be construed in that manner. Daniel has worked extremely hard in relation to these matters and has committed himself 100% on behalf of the group in an effort to achieve a just result for all concerned. He has been relentless in that regard.
3. We can enquire as to whether or not the Diocese would reconsider re-opening the matter through a mediation process, however even if you proceed through such a process there is still the possibility that you may end up with the same offer as that which has been put to you already.
4. In terms of what happens next, you of course have, in principle, the option of proceeding with this matter through the Courts. We would not advise you to do this for the reasons we have previously discussed with you. Nevertheless and in that regard you can either:
  - (a) instruct us to do so on your behalf subject to payment of our costs;
  - (b) instruct other solicitors to act for you. In those circumstances we would of course require our costs to be paid before releasing your file;
  - (c) proceed with your claim without legal representation through the Courts. We can of course explain what steps you will need to take in that regard. We would however still require our costs to be paid.
5. If you were unsuccessful with any court action then the Church would be entitled to recover its own costs from you.



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Mr Richard Campion

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6. In respect of the offer to settle and upon your request we recently attempted to secure a further increase by contacting the Primate's office but as we advised they confirmed that they are still not willing to intervene.
7. As far as our continued involvement there are really only three options:
  - (a) you instruct us to accept the offer and we recover our costs from the settlement funds as previously outlined to you;
  - (b) you pay monies to us on account of our costs to enable us to proceed on your behalf. We do not advise that you adopt that course as the risks we have set out previously are significant;
  - (c) you withdraw instructions from this practice. We would then require that our costs and outlays are paid.
8. In respect of your letter dated 12 April 2007:
  - (a) in relation to the Reverend Comben "...telling lies, further offending the victims" there is nothing that we can do in that regard from a legal perspective. If he was to libel or slander persons then they could of course consider legal action, the costs would be significant however.
  - (b) The omission of the Church of England has merely been a shorthand approach and nothing should be read into that.
9. We attach the original of the Director of Professional Standards letter to you dated 20 June 2007 and yours to that office dated 25 June 2007.

We look forward to hearing from you with your advices.

Yours faithfully draft  
NICOL ROBINSON HALLETTS  
per:

**SIMON HARRISON**  
Partner

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