ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

AT NEWCASTLE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Royal Commissions Act 1902

NEW SOUTH WALES

Royal Commissions Act 1923

PUBLIC HEARING INTO

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

CASE STUDY 42

STATEMENT OF GARTH OWEN BLAKE

Introduction

1. I, Garth Owen Blake, make this statement for the purposes of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) in response to a request contained in its letter dated 29 June 2016. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

My association with the Anglican Church and the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

2. I have been a member of the Anglican Church of Australia (which prior to 24 August 1981 had the name of the Church of England in Australia) (ACA) since 1978.


4. Since 2004 I have been a member of the Standing Committee of the General Synod (GSSC) which generally meets twice, and sometimes three times, a year.
5. Between the 2004 General Synod and the 2014 General Synod I was a member of the Executive Committee of the GSSC which generally met three times, and sometimes four times, a year.

6. Since the 2007 General Synod I have been a member of the Board of Electors of the Primate.

7. I have held the following roles in the ACA at a national level in relation to professional standards matters:

   (a) from 1988 to 2001 I was the chair of the Clergy Discipline Working Group (CDWG) which considered the confidentiality of confessions of child abuse and reported to the 2001 General Synod;

   (b) from 2001 to 2004 I was the chair of the Child Protection Committee (CPC) which considered the issue of child protection and reported to the 2004 General Synod;

   (c) from 2002 to 2003 I was a member of the Sexual Abuse Working Group (SAWG) which considered the issue of sexual abuse and reported to the GSSC in 2003;

   (d) from 2004 to 2008 I was the chair of the National Register Working Group which was established to assist with the initial development of the National Register;

   (e) since 2005 I have been the chair of the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) which has the following functions set out in s 12A of the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon 1998:

   "(a) to examine questions of professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry, referred to it by the Primate, the Standing Committee or the General Synod, and to report thereon to the referring party and the Standing Committee;

   (b) to make recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters relating to professional standards, safe ministry practices and training, and care and support for ordained and authorised lay ministry."
(f) from 2011 to 2014 I was a member of the Episcopal Ministry Task Force which considered the discipline of bishops and reported to the 2014 General Synod;

(g) since 2012 I have been the convenor of the Royal Commission Working Group which has been coordinating a response on behalf of the GSSC to the Royal Commission;

(h) since 2014 I have been a member of the Confessions Working Group which has been considering the confidentiality of confessions, including of child abuse.

8. I have not held any role in the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle (Newcastle Diocese).

Policies and practices at a national level

Overview 1998-2001

9. The 1998 General Synod passed a resolution dealing with the confidentiality of confessions of child abuse (32/98), and passed the Offences Canon Amendment Canon 1998, each of which I had initiated.

10. In response to the Report of the CDWG, the 2001 General Synod passed resolutions dealing with the establishment of the CPC, child protection screening and child protection training (20/01, 21/01 and 22/01).

Overview 2002-2004

11. In response to the Report of the CPC, the 2004 General Synod passed resolutions dealing with child protection (33/04, 34/04, 35/04 and 36/04) including the adoption of the Safe Ministry Policy Statement, Faithfulness in Service (the national code for personal behaviour and the practice of pastoral ministry by clergy and lay church workers), and the Safe Ministry Check (the national applicant and referee questionnaires for the selection of ordination candidates and for the screening of clergy and church workers who have contact with children in their ministry) and
passed the Strategic Issues, Commissions, Task Forces and Networks Canon Amendment Canon 2004 which provided for the establishment of the PSC.

**Overview 2005-2007**

12. In the period between the 2004 and the 2007 General Synods in response to the recommendations of the PSC, the GSSC passed resolutions revising Faithfulness in Service and the Safe Ministry Check (SC2005/2/040), affirming that the effective implementation of the Safe Ministry Policy Statement adopted by the General Synod requires that there is as far as practicable uniform safe ministry policies and procedures throughout the ACA (SC2005/3/063), revising Faithfulness in Service (SC2006/1/030), and recommending that each diocese should introduce a diocesan policy for the selection and accreditation of lay parish church workers (SC2006/2/063b). The PSC also initiated the Study into Child Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church by Emeritus Professor Kim Oates AM of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sydney and Professor Patrick Parkinson of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney, and released the resource Model Guidelines for the Pastoral Supervision and Support of Known and Suspected Sexual Abusers in Parishes.

13. In response to the Report of the PSC, the 2007 General Synod passed resolutions dealing with child protection (52/07, 65/07, 66/07, 67/07, 68/07, 69/07, 70/07, 71/07, 95/07, 118/07 and 119/07), and passed the National Register Canon 2007 which repealed the National Register Canon 2004 and provided for the establishment of the National Register.

**Overview 2008-2010**

14. In the period between the 2007 and the 2010 General Synods in response to the recommendations of the PSC, the GSSC passed resolutions recommending that each diocese has a diocesan policy for undertaking risk assessments arising from information obtained from a Safe Ministry Check or equivalent and commending the Guidelines for Dioceses Undertaking Risk Assessments relating to Sexual Abuse as a resource for dioceses (SC2009/1/040), revising the Protocol for Provision of Information for Inclusion in the National Register 2007 (SC2009/1/041), making a series of recommendations in response to the Study
into Child Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church (SC2009/2/039), requiring checks of the National Register before the appointment or election of persons by the GSSC to any office or position involving specified child protection responsibilities and revising the Protocol for access to and disclosure of Information in the National Register 2007 (SC2009/3/036), recommending Pastoral Care and Assistance Principles as a resource for dioceses (SC2009/3/037), recommending Guidelines for Parish Safety where there is a Risk of Sexual Abuse by a Person of Concern as a resource for dioceses (SC2009/3/039), and recommending Guidelines for the Restoration to Licensed Ministry of Clergy and Church Workers who have Engaged in Sexual Abuse or Misconduct and Issues to Explore during the Restoration Process as a resource for Diocesan Bishops (SC2010/1/53).

15. In response to the Report of the PSC, the 2010 General Synod passed resolutions dealing with child protection (24/10 and 95/10), and passed the National Register Canon 2007 Amendment Canon 2010, the Constitution Amendment (Sentences of Tribunals) Canon 2010 and A Rule to amend Rule III – Rules for the Conduct of Elections ordered to be made by the General Synod (National Register Checks).

Overview 2011-2014

16. In the period between the 2010 and the 2014 General Synods in response to the recommendations of the PSC, the GSSC passed resolutions revising Faithfulness in Service (SC2011/1/48), approving Safe Ministry Training Benchmarks and recommending that each diocese and the Australian Defence Force review and if appropriate revise their safe training material to ensure that it complies with the benchmarks (SC2011/2/32), recommending Reporting historical child sexual abuse to the Police as a resource for dioceses for their consideration (SC2012/1/37), recommending A Process for the Comprehensive Psychological Assessment as a resource for dioceses (SC2012/2/29), recommending revised Guidelines for Dioceses Undertaking Risk Assessments relating to Sexual Abuse as a resource for dioceses (SC2013/1/23), recommending Developing a policy for the use of technology in pastoral communications as a resource for dioceses and revising the Safe Ministry Check (SC2013/2/30), and recommending revised Reporting historical child sexual abuse to the Police as a resource for dioceses (SC2014/3/29).
17. In response to the Report of the PSC, the 2014 General Synod passed resolutions dealing with child protection (22/14, 23/14, 37A/14, 39/14, 41/14, 45/14 and 46/14), and passed the National Register Canon 2007 (Amendment) Canon 2014 and the Canon Concerning Confessions 1989 Amendment Canon 2014.

Overview 2015-2016

18. Since the 2014 General Synod in response to the recommendations of the PSC, the GSSC passed resolutions recommending Faithfulness in Service DVD Discussion Guide as a resource for dioceses (SC2015/2/18), approving Statement of Principles for the Sharing of Information between the Directors of Professional Standards (SC2016/1/32), and revising Faithfulness in Service (SC2016/1/33).

Key challenges

19. The aim of the CPC was, and of the PSC has been, the development of a comprehensive and, as far as practicable, uniform system for child protection in the ACA which implements standards of best practice. The key challenge to the fulfilment of this aim that I have experienced is diocesan autonomy which is a feature of the distribution of powers between the General Synod and diocesan synods under the Constitution of the ACA. This challenge of diocesan autonomy arises from the fact that most canons which affect the order and good government of the ACA within a diocese passed by the General Synod, and all resolutions containing recommendations made by the General Synod and the GSSC, require diocesan adoption or approval before they have force or can be implemented in a diocese. There has been no mechanism for the General Synod, the GSSC and the PSC to be informed of whether, and if so to what extent, its recommendations in relation to child protection have been implemented in each diocese, and to receive feedback on those recommendations except where a diocese chooses to provide feedback. I am unaware to what extent this aim of a comprehensive and, as far as practicable, uniform system for child protection in the ACA which implements standards of best practice is being achieved.
Sexual Abuse Working Group

20. I have no personal knowledge of how the SAWG was formed by the GSSC, including the circumstances in which Graeme Lawrence and Philip Gerber were appointed as members. I have read the Report dated March 2003 of the SAWG (SAWG Report) (ANG.9320.01800.1900-ANG.9320.01800.1941). Since becoming a member of the GSSC in 2004 I have observed that the GSSC when appointing the membership of bodies has followed the practice of selecting persons with relevant expertise and attempting, as far as practicable, to have a balance of clergy and laity as well as gender together with a representation of different Dioceses of the ACA and from different geographical parts of Australia. The membership of the SAWG consisted of persons with the following characteristics: David Bleby – law, male, lay person, Diocese of Adelaide, Adelaide; Bill Anderssen – law, male, lay person, Diocese of Brisbane, Brisbane; Garth Blake – law, male, lay person, Diocese of Sydney, Sydney; Susan Gribben – counselling and dispute resolution, female, lay person, Diocese of Melbourne, Melbourne; Graeme Lawrence – pastoral care, male, clergy, Newcastle Diocese, Newcastle; Philip Gerber - professional standards, male, lay person, Diocese of Sydney, Sydney. Having regard to paragraph 1.7 of the SAWG Report (ANG.9320.01800.1900-ANG.9320.01800.1941) I believe that it is likely that the GSSC followed this practice in appointing the members of the SAWG and accordingly appointed:

(a) Graeme Lawrence because of his expertise in pastoral care, his status as a member of the clergy, his ministry experience in a regional diocese, and his residence in a non-metropolitan part of Australia;

(b) Philip Gerber because of his expertise in professional standards and his membership of the CPC, with the intention that his dual membership of the SAWG and the CPC would facilitate the consultation which the GSSC was encouraging to occur between these bodies.

21. In my capacity as a member of the SAWG I received the following documents:

(a) email sent on 26 March 2002 by Philip Gerber DOCUMENT REFERENCES
(b) notes of meeting of the SAWG held on 10 and 11 May 2002

(c) email sent on 13 June 2002 by Philip Gerber and the attached document entitled “Draft Definition of Misconduct”

(d) email sent on 25 June 2002 by Philip Gerber and the attached notes of meeting of the SAWG held on 13 and 14 June 2002

(e) email sent on 8 November 2002 by Philip Gerber and the attached document entitled “Procedures for dealing with misconduct by clergy and church workers”

(f) email sent at 2:08 pm on 11 March 2003 by Philip Gerber

(g) email sent at 2:21 pm on 11 March 2003 by Philip Gerber

(h) email sent at 9:02 am on 12 March 2003 by Philip Gerber

(i) email sent at 9:05 am on 12 March 2003 by Philip Gerber

I have read these documents and the SAWG Report and have no independent recollection of the involvement of Graeme Lawrence and Philip Gerber in the SAWG.

My knowledge of, and involvement in responding to, allegations of child sexual abuse

Graeme Lawrence

22. I have never had any personal relationship with Graeme Lawrence. The minutes of the 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007 General Synods record that Graeme Lawrence
was a member of the General Synod, and that he was elected as a member of the GSSC at the 1998, 2001 and 2004 General Synods, and the Board of Electors of the Primate at the 2007 General Synod. I have had no professional relationship with Graeme Lawrence other than through having attended the 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007 General Synods, and in my capacity as a member of the SAWG between 15 March 2002 and 1 October 2002, the GSSC between the 2004 and 2007 General Synods, and the Board of Electors of the Primate which met on 17 October 2008 (if Graeme Lawrence attended that meeting).

23. Except in his capacity as a member of the General Synod at the 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007 General Synods, the SAWG between 15 March and 1 October 2002, the GSSC between the 2004 and 2007 General Synods, and the Board of Electors of the Primate (if Graeme Lawrence attended its meeting on 17 October 2008), I have had no experience of Graeme Lawrence having had any influence on decision-making at the national level in the ACA. I have no record of Graeme Lawrence making any contribution to the SAWG between 15 March 2002 and 1 October 2002 other than the notes of the meeting held on 13 and 14 June 2002 which record his attendance on 14 June 2002, and I cannot recall him having done so. I cannot recall Graeme Lawrence speaking on professional standards matters at the 1998, 2001, 2004 and 2007 General Synods, or at the meetings of the GSSC held between the 2004 and 2007 General Synods.

24. I am unaware of the influence of Graeme Lawrence on decision-making in Newcastle Diocese including in relation to professional standards matters.

Bruce Hoare

25. I have never had any personal relationship with Bruce Hoare. The minutes of the 1998 and 2001 General Synods record that Bruce Hoare was a member of the General Synod. I have had no professional relationship with Bruce Hoare other than through having attended the sessions of the General Synod held in 1998 and 2001.

26. Except in his capacity as a member of the General Synod at the 1998 and 2001 General Synods, I have had no experience of Bruce Hoare having had any influence on decision-making at the national level in the ACA. I cannot recall Bruce
Hoare speaking on professional standards matters at the 1998 and 2001 General Synods.

27. I am unaware of the influence of Bruce Hoare on decision-making in Newcastle Diocese, including in relation to professional standards matters.

Andrew Duncan

28. I have had no personal or professional relationship with Andrew Duncan.

29. I have had no experience of Andrew Duncan having had any influence on decision-making at the national level in the ACA, including in relation to professional standards matters.

30. I am unaware of the influence of Andrew Duncan on decision-making in Newcastle Diocese, including in relation to professional standards matters.

Graeme Sturt

31. I have had no personal or professional relationship with Graeme Sturt.

32. I have had no experience of Graeme Sturt having had any influence on decision-making at the national level in the ACA, including in relation to professional standards matters.

33. I am unaware of the influence of Graeme Sturt on decision-making in Newcastle Diocese, including in relation to professional standards matters.

Gregory Goyette

34. I have had no personal or professional relationship with Gregory Goyette.

35. I have had no experience of Gregory Goyette having had any influence on decision-making at the national level in the ACA, including in relation to professional standards matters.

36. I am unaware of the influence of Gregory Goyette on decision-making in Newcastle Diocese, including in relation to professional standards matters.
The position prior to 31 August 2010

37. I was informed of allegations of sexual abuse of a male person under the age of 18 at the time in 1983 by four priests and one lay person by Bishop Brian Farran (Bishop Farran) and John Cleary (Mr Cleary), who were respectively the Bishop and the Business Manager, of Newcastle Diocese, and provided legal advice to Bishop Farran in relation to the exercise of the power of suspension of licensed priests in connection with a complaint made under the Professional Standards Ordinance 2005 of Newcastle Diocese (Newcastle Ordinance) in a telephone conversation on 1 February 2010 (1 February 2010 Conversation). I made a note of the 1 February 2010 Conversation which contain the following acronyms: "DPS" and "PSD" - Director of Professional Standards; "PSC" - Professional Standards Committee (PS Committee); "PTO" - Permission to Officiate.

38. I provided legal advice to Mr Cleary on behalf of Bishop Farran in relation to his involvement in the disciplinary proceedings against the four priests and one lay person in a telephone conversation on 25 August 2010 (25 August 2010 Conversation). I made a note of the 25 August 2010 Conversation.

The Disciplinary Proceedings

39. I was informed that the four priests and one lay person against whom the allegations of abuse had been made were Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan, Graeme Sturt and Gregory Goyette by Michael Elliott (Mr Elliott) and Phillip Lloyd (Mr Lloyd), who were respectively the Director of Professional Standards and the person appointed to prosecute complaints before the Professional Standards Board (PSB), of Newcastle Diocese in a conference on 31 August 2010 (31 August 2010 Conference). The nature of abuse that I was informed of in the 31 August 2010 Conference is set out in my Opinion dated 19 October 2010 (NSW.0030.005.0156-NSW.0030.005.0214) (19 October 2010 Opinion). I cannot recall whether I was informed of the allegations of abuse against Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan, Graeme Sturt and...
Gregory Goyette and the nature of abuse by Mr Cleary in the 25 August 2010 Conversation

40. I provided legal advice to Mr Elliott regarding the disciplinary proceedings against Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan, Graeme Sturt and Gregory Goyette (Disciplinary Proceedings) in the 19 October 2010 Opinion (NSW 0030.005.0156-NSW 0030.005.0214), my letters dated 15 October 2010 and draft references to the PSB prepared on 3 November 2010 relating to Graeme Lawrence and Andrew Duncan and draft references to the PSB prepared on 3 November 2010 relating to Graeme Lawrence and Gregory Goyette.

The Newcastle Proceedings

41. William Edwards (Mr Edwards) and I represented the First to Tenth Defendants, who were respectively Bishop Farran and the members of the PSB and the PS Committee of Newcastle Diocese, in the proceedings with the file number 2011/6125 in the Supreme Court of New South Wales in which Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence were the First and Second Plaintiffs and Phillip Aspinall, the Primate of the ACA, was the Eleventh Defendant (Newcastle Proceedings).

42. In the course of representing the First to Tenth Defendants in the Newcastle Proceedings between 16 December 2010 and 17 May 2012 Mr Edwards and I provided legal advice in relation to the claims of Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence.

The position since the conclusion of the Newcastle Proceedings

43. I provided legal advice to Mr Elliott in relation to his concern that Bishop Farran had conflict of interest in relation to the Disciplinary Proceedings in my telephone conversation with him on 29 August 2012 (29 August 2012 Conversation). I made a note of the 29 August 2012 Conversation which contains the following
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acronyms: "ME" - Mr Elliott; "BF" - Brian Farran; "GB" - Garth Blake (IND.0473.001.0047).

The significance of the decision in the Newcastle Proceedings

44. The decision in the Newcastle Proceedings (Sturt & Anor v Bishop Brian Farran & Ors [2012] NSWSC 400) (NSW.0030.005.0004-NSW.0030.005.0139) was significant in relation to professional standards in Newcastle Diocese and the ACA more broadly as it determined in relation to the Newcastle Ordinance (which was in the same or substantially similar terms to the model Professional Standards Ordinance in respect of which the General Synod at its session held in 2004 had passed a resolution urging all diocesan synods which had not done so to pass (36/04) and which was in force in many other dioceses of the ACA):

(a) that Parts 9 and 10 (dealing with references to the PSB) are not ultra vires by reason of being inconsistent with Chapter IX of the Constitution of the ACA;

(b) that s 34 (empowering the PS Committee may by notice in writing to require a the respondent to provide a detailed report to the PS Committee and imposing an the obligation upon a respondent to truthfully to answer any question put by or on behalf of the PS Committee, not to mislead the PS Committee or a member or delegate of the PS Committee, and not unreasonably to delay or obstruct the PS Committee or a member or delegate of the PS Committee, in the exercise of powers conferred by the Newcastle Ordinance) is valid.

Conflicts of interest

45. On 14 September 2010 I received the following emails from Mr Elliott (Elliott Emails):

(a) email sent at 1.06pm DOCUMENT REFERENCES and the attached documents entitled "Draft Ordinance to amend the Professional Standards Ordinance 2005" DOCUMENT REFERENCES REDACTED and "PS Amendment 2010" DOCUMENT REFERENCES REDACTED
46. I believe that I read the Elliott Emails shortly after they were received. I have no record of having spoken to Mr Elliott or anybody else about the Elliott Emails on or about 14 September 2010, and do not recall having done so.

47. A defence of the First to Tenth Defendants in the Newcastle Proceedings was that Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence should be denied relief by reason of their failure to have applied for a review under Part 12 of the Newcastle Ordinance which had been added by the Professional Standards (Amendment) Ordinance 2010 which had been passed by the Diocesan Council of Newcastle Diocese on 30 September 2010. To establish this defence it was necessary for the First to Tenth Defendants to establish that Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence were aware of this right of review.

48. I believe that shortly prior to 19 May 2011 I requested my instructing solicitor Indran Sinnadurai (Mr Sinnadurai) to seek instructions as to the awareness of Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence of the Newcastle Ordinance in the form that it took after 30 September 2010.

49. On 19 May 2011 I received the following emails from Mr Cleary (Cleary Emails):

(a) email sent at 4.57 pm and the attached Tax Invoices dated 26 February 2010, 27 August 2010, 26 November 2010, 14 December 2010, and 30 December 2010, of Turnbull Hill

(b) email sent at 5:01 pm
I believe that Mr Cleary sent the first two of the Cleary Emails to Mr Sinnadurai and myself, and the third of the Cleary Emails to Messrs Sinnadurai and Edwards and myself in response to the request for instructions received from Mr Sinnadurai as to the awareness of Graeme Sturt and Graeme Lawrence of the Newcastle Ordinance in the form that it took after 30 September 2010.

50. I was informed that Paul Rosser QC (Mr Rosser) resigned as the Chancellor of Newcastle Diocese, but cannot now recall when and from whom I received that information.

51. I had a conversation with Geoffrey Spring (Mr Spring), who was a member of the PS Committee, in which he informed me about a meeting of the Diocesan Council of Newcastle Diocese he attended at which he criticised Mr Rosser for his actions supporting one or more of Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan, Graeme Sturt and Gregory Goyette in the Disciplinary Proceedings, and that at or shortly after this meeting Mr Rosser resigned as the Chancellor of Newcastle Diocese (Spring Conversation). I cannot now recall when I had the Spring Conversation.

52. I formed the opinion that Mr Rosser may have had a between his interest in supporting one or more of Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan, Graeme Sturt and Gregory Goyette in the Disciplinary Proceedings and his duty to Bishop Farran, and that any such conflict of interest and duty would have inhibited him from fulfilling any role as Chancellor of Newcastle Diocese in relation to the Disciplinary Proceedings. I formed this opinion for the following reasons:

(a) that Mr Rosser, as expressed in s 2(1) and (2) of the Chancellors Canon 2001 (which the minutes of the 2004 General Synod record had been adopted by Newcastle Diocese in 2002), as the Chancellor of Newcastle Diocese was the principal confidential adviser to Bishop Farran in legal and related matters, and that his power to provide advice to the Synod and other agencies of Newcastle Diocese was subject to his overriding duty to Bishop Farran;
that if the PSB recommended to Bishop Farran that a prohibition order be made against Gregory Goyette, that one or more of Graeme Lawrence, Bruce Hoare, Andrew Duncan and Graeme Sturt should be deposed from Holy Orders, or some other action pursuant to s 74 of the Newcastle Ordinance, then pursuant to s 76 of the Newcastle Ordinance Bishop Farran would have had to make a decision whether to give effect to any such recommendation of the PSB;

that Bishop Farran in deciding whether to give effect to any such recommendation of the PSB might seek legal advice from Mr Rosser.

I expressed this opinion to someone, but cannot recall when and to whom I expressed this opinion.

53. Other than the conversation I had with Mr Spring in the Spring Conversation, the conversation I had with Mr Elliott in the 29 August 2012 Conversation (IND.0473.001.0047), and conversation in paragraph 52 above if it was with an office holder of Newcastle Diocese, I do not recall having any conversation or engaging in any correspondence with any office holder of Newcastle Diocese regarding any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest by any person involved in responding to child sexual abuse allegations, and/or developing or implementing professional standards policies or practices, in Newcastle Diocese and/or the suitability of Mr Rosser for the office of Chancellor or Deputy Chancellor of Newcastle Diocese.

18 July 2016

Garth Blake