



Royal Commission
Into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Statement

Name Geoffrey Stephen Marsh
Address Queensland Police Service, c/- 200 Roma Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000
Occupation Police Officer
Date 28 October 2016

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Where direct speech is referred to in this statement, it is provided in words or words to the effect of those which were used, to the best of my recollection.
2. This statement is made in response to a request from the Royal Commission for a statement in respect to Thomas Butler (Brother Patrick).
3. The request from the Royal Commission seeks specific information, my response to each of the matters identified by the Royal Commission is set out below.
4. My full name is Geoffrey Stephen Marsh and I am a Detective Inspector of Police. I am currently attached to the Far North District, Cairns.
5. I am presently the Detective Inspector of the Far North District Crime Group, Northern Region, Queensland Police Service. I have over 30 years policing experience, 25 years of those as an investigator/detective.
6. In 2000 and 2001 I was a Detective Sergeant attached to Task Force Argos, Child and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit, State Crime Command in Brisbane. Task Force Argos is an investigative unit that, at that time, specialised in historic complaints of child sexual assault.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Witness: [Signature]



Statement of Geoffrey Stephen Marsh continued

7. Due to the passage of time, I have limited recollection of the matters pertaining to this investigation. I have made enquiries with the Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group in an attempt to obtain and review investigation material, however I have been advised that efforts to locate the original finalisation report and associated correspondence pertaining to this investigation had been unsuccessful.
8. I do have a number of diary entries, contained within Queensland Police Service Official Diary B8353, which I am able to refer to in the provision of this statement.
9. From my review of those diary notes, I am aware that on 6 April 2001, I attended the Brisbane City Watchhouse and was briefed by Detective Sergeant David Farley of the Ferry Grove Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB) as to a current arrest and charging of a Marist Brother, Thomas Joseph Butler, date of birth 19 May 1929. I recall that Detective Sergeant Farley wanted the Task Force to assume carriage of the historic inquiries of child sexual assault complainants. The historic aspect can be from complaints of years to decades old in nature. It was not an unusual event that a regional JAB would seek the assistance of Task Force Argos to conduct a more detailed and historic investigation of a person who has had protracted involvement with children.
10. A diary note indicates that, on this same date, I made inquiries with Brother John McGuire of the Ashgrove Marist Brothers regarding the recent arrest and charging of brother Thomas Joseph Butler. I was referred to Brother Michael Hill of Sydney, New South Wales. A diary note indicates that I was asked to make a written request by facsimile to Brother Hill.
11. On 10 April 2001, a diary note indicates that I made contact by telephone in the first instance with Provincial Michael Hill, I do not recall the content of this conversation, and sent a facsimile letter requesting further intelligence. This is the letter referred to as CTJH.053.07160.0335_R.
12. A diary note indicates that, on 11 April 2001, I received advice from Marist Brothers regarding a possible New South Wales investigation into Thomas Joseph Butler. A diary note indicates that I then made telephone contact with a Detective Sergeant Greg Englert, Intelligence Coordinator of the New South Wales Child Protection Agency. The inquiry

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Witness: .....



Statement of Geoffrey Stephen Marsh continued

was in relation to any New South Wales Police intelligence holdings on brother Thomas Joseph Butler.

13. On 12 April 2001, a diary note indicates that I received advice from Senior Constable Cole Kerwick of the New South Wales Police, that no records relating to Thomas Butler had been found.
14. A diary note indicates that I then contacted Pat Mullins of Mullins and Mullins Solicitors as requested by brother Michael Hill to enquire about brother Thomas Joseph Hill and was requested to send a letter outlining my request.
15. On 19 April 2001, a diary note indicates that the QPS Intelligence Section had identified a possible complainant, a CNJ of REDACTED New South Wales from the Woods Royal Commission. A diary note indicates that attempts were made to contact CNJ and a message was left with his spouse.
16. On 20 April 2001, a diary note indicates that I sent a facsimile to Detective Sergeant Dengate of the Hunter Police regarding the CNJ complaint. I was seeking any statements, interviews or any other evidence that may assist the Queensland prosecution by way of similar fact evidence.
17. On 10 May 2001, a diary note indicates that I had contact with Detective Senior Constable Mark Dixon of Newcastle CIB regarding the Brother Patrick investigation and that he was to facsimile copies of statements.
18. On this same date, I completed Interim Report SCCR01/2267. This is the report referred to as QLD.0153.001.0708_R to QLD.0153.001.0710_R.
19. On 11 May 2001, a diary note indicates that I attended Ferny Grove JAB and spoke with Detective Sergeant Farley. While I have no specific recollection of the occasion, it is more probable than not that at this time I provided Detective Sergeant Farley with the facsimile statements received from New South Wales Police.
20. On 23 August 2001, a diary note indicates that I submitted the finalisation report for SCCR01/2267. A finalisation report is a summary of all inquiries conducted and itemises

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Witness: _____



Statement of Geoffrey Stephen Marsh continued

the evidence obtained to either substantiate a prosecution or otherwise for filing pending further evidence coming to hand. I have been unable to locate a copy of this report.

- 21. In response to the enquiry of the Royal Commission, which seeks my response to the evidence of Marist Brothers, Brother Michael Hill, I do not have any specific or independent recollection of my communications with Brother Hill. I do however consider it highly unlikely that I would have narrowed the scope of my request as described by Brother Hill. The sole purpose of my investigation pertaining to Brother Patrick (Thomas Joseph Butler) was to identify any further complainants to assist the Queensland prosecution by way of similar fact evidence. This being the case, it defies logic that I would exclude information in the manner and to the extent indicated by Brother Hill.

Signed:
 [REDACTED]

Date: 28 October 2016

Witness:
 [Signature] JFC (Qual) 8/5/15

Date: 28 October 2016



Signature:
 [REDACTED]

Witness:
 [Signature] JFC (Qual) 8/5/15

