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Strictly Confidential

16th February, 2004

Major Peter Farthing
SECRETARY FOR PERSONNEL

COMPLAINT – GA

Dear Major,

Thank you for your letter of 05/02/04 reference the above.

Given the media driven notoriety these matters have gained in recent years it was only a matter of time before someone with a grudge against their life's lot should try to fit me into the frame. Therefore your call was no surprise, nor is it unwelcome; just times taking and tedious. I have better things to do with my time!

The accusations made against me personally by GA are entirely and utterly false!

To my knowledge the Salvation Army has not conducted a childrens home in Berala and I certainly have never worked there. I understand the GA children may have been placed in a home in Berala by their mother prior to admission to Bexley.

Any corporal punishment administered by me while at Bexley is recorded in the Punishment Book ~~which should be held in Salvation Army archives with the Bexley Boys Home archival material. This~~ would attest to any dealings I had to do with GA in this regard. The claim about extreme fatigue punishment is false.

The claims of sexual abuse of any kind is entirely false!!

As to GA s motivation for lodging such a claim, I can only guess that, among others, it could be any or all of the following:

1. It is complete and utter fabrication from which he hopes to obtain some emotional or financial gain.
2. On admission to Bexley he was suffering a greater degree of psychological trauma than the admission report indicated, and the facts, times, dates, incidents and personalities of his early child hood have become horribly jumbled.
3. The ravages of the years and drug and alcohol abuse have seriously effected an accurate recall of the incidents of his childhood.

It is worth noting that not only does GA fail to give the correct name of the Salvation Army home he was living in, but he also fails to give the correct names of the manager/s in charge during

his stay. He also fails to be even vaguely specific about the date/s, year/s when the alleged incidents are purported to have occurred.

It is my understanding that the Salvation Army has a duty of care responsibility not only to its clients, but, during the course of their employment, to its employees and officers as well; not only for their physical and psychological well being, but also for their professional reputations!

From the onset of this complaint, GA [redacted] allegations have passed through a number of hands, via a number of channels, both within and without our organisation, and any claim of confidentiality, is at best, just that! My personal and professional reputation has been irreparably damaged.

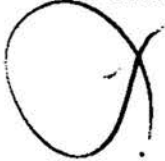
I can pass over the accusations of excessive corporal and fatigue punishment as distorted childhood memories, but the allegations of sexual abuse, I cannot! They strike at the very core of my character and reputation as a professional worker and as a Salvation Army officer.

Therefore, unless GA [redacted] completely and unequivocally withdraws his allegation of sexual abuse, I hereby request the Salvation Army to fund the taking out of defamation action on my behalf by a legal representative of my own choosing.

Should you wish to check the veracity of my statement I suggest you cross reference with the manager of the day, X4 [redacted] and with Major REDACTED, who was Matron, while I was Assistant Manager at Bexley Boys Home. I have not canvassed either of them in regard to this matter!

As always, your assistance is appreciated!

Yours sincerely,



John D McIver, Major