22nd July 2010

Dear WD,

I am writing to you in response to the letters we received, dated 1st July 2010, regarding the result of the Criminal Trial before a Jury of Mr YJ, where he was found guilty on thirteen counts of indecent dealings with a child under the age of 13 years, against five boys who were students in his class between 1999 and 2009 at THE SCHOOL. I cannot tell you how many times I have re-written this letter, going over and over in my head what it is that I want to say to you.

Firstly I would like to express my concern and disappointment that at no stage has there been any written communication from you, or the school, to in regards to this matter. Is it also true that those complainants and their families who are no longer directly connected with the school have still to receive any written communication regarding this case?

I feel that the letter that was sent, to current families only, is grossly inadequate in its clarification of the seriousness of this case, especially when you compare it to the REDACTED letter of April 2005. It greatly diminishes my confidence in the assured protection and support that you and the school offered the victims, their families and witnesses in this matter, especially in light of the outcome of the trial. This manner of letter is what I may have expected had Mr YJ been found not guilty or acquitted of the charges. The way it is written could very well lead to confusion and misunderstanding in many people’s minds as to the truth in this case and to the credibility of the victims. Part of the reason that we supported our son so vigorously through this harrowing ordeal was so that he could finally bring this man to justice, so that he could stop him harming anyone else, so that he could pave the way for others to speak out, so that those who could not or would not come forward may still feel some sense of justice, so that he could deal with this atrocity that occurred to him while he was in the care of the school, so that he could ‘rid that monster from his head’, so that he could regain his sense of self-worth and esteem, so that he could stand up for what is right. I believe that you would have done no less had it been your own son who was violated in this way. I am also quite aware that it is you who has had to ‘carry the can’ for several other people in this sorry saga, people who should have shown more integrity and courage in my opinion, and that of many other people who know about this case. For this reason I feel sympathy for you but I can’t, as yet, move past the sense of betrayal and deep hurt that I feel inside at the way this has all been handled.
I am sorry but, in its omissions, this letter belittles the severity of the impact that the actions of this man has had on my boy's life ... on all our lives.

I really have issues with the fact that...

YJ's name was not disclosed.
The nature and severity of the charges that Mr YJ was found guilty of were not mentioned.
The number of charges he was found guilty of was not clearly stated.
The number of boys who were found to be indecently dealt with by Mr YJ was not indicated.
The period that these indecent dealings occurred were not outlined.
The difficult time for the school may have been mentioned but certainly there was no attention drawn to the difficult time for the victims, their families and the witnesses. Nor was there any request for understanding and support of the victims and witnesses in this case.

You would know, as well as we do, that the evidence that was presented in court showed that this may very well be 'only the tip of the iceberg'. There were numerous more incidents relating to the five complainants that were not included in the 17 counts presented and the 13 counts upheld. It is also highly likely that there are many more boys who have been indecently dealt with by YJ, over the twenty five years that he was on staff at THE SCHOOL, as a teacher and boarding housemaster. You and I both know that this particular trial was limited to these first five boys only, but very few people within the school and broader community would be aware of this.

The reason I sat through the entire painful proceedings of this trial was to gain a clearer knowledge of exactly what evidence has been there all along ... to hear for myself all the documented warnings that I suspected were on record, to be there for my son, to be there to support the other families. As hard as it was at times, I am so glad that I was able to endure it all. I am enormously proud of my son who, under considerable and prolonged duress, showed tremendous courage and integrity to finally put a stop to this wicked man's behaviour. He is the person who deserves to hold his head highest in all of this and be recognised for what he has achieved. And yet, even now, I watch him struggling with what he has lived through, what he still has to deal with.

It is my understanding that the support group for YJ is still active within the school. I am sure that these people have been further encouraged because the lack of detail in your letter, that was only sent to current families. I still can't understand why the school and YJ's names have continued to be suppressed. I have difficulty in deciding who this actually protects – the complainants who can never be identified because they were under the age of 13 at the time of the incidents, or the school and YJ.

Even when we first went to the police we were warned that allegations of sexual assault result in a very low conviction rate, by their very nature, and that it would be a long and
gruelling process. You will understand how difficult it has been for all of us to persevere with trying to get this man convicted and brought to justice ... and yet we did, emphatically.

I fear that your communications have offered little encouragement for other victims or witnesses to come forward, especially in light of all the evidence and the verdicts. In fact, there seems to have been no appeal whatsoever for other complaints from within the current school community or from ex-students of YJ throughout this entire process. This is so frustrating and disappointing and, to a certain degree, unfair on the five boys and their families involved. I seem to recall that there was only one other letter, which followed a brief email, on 8th September 2009, to current school families when this matter first broke, when there was only one complainant. Why wasn't there a similar communication when the number of complainants and charges increased? This may have diffused some of the support for Mr YJ, which still continues to be extremely intimidating to the victims and witnesses. More people may have been able to come forward and we may have received more support.

One thing that really sticks in my mind, that I still cannot come to terms with, is why we were never contacted by YK/WB and later, yourself, to let us know that YJ could possibly have been indecently dealt with, way back when he, along with the two other adult complainants, was named in YF's report of 2001/02, as an observed target of a man who was already under suspicion and warning for inappropriate touching of boys in his class. All the formal warning letters from the different Headmasters, including YN, to YJ regarding his behaviour, were so similar in their wording that it leads me to believe that each subsequent warning may have been written after referring to those previous.

I am left with the feeling that your letter may have been very carefully drafted, probably not even by yourself, to reduce the impact on, and the responsibility of, the school and those who really should have been more vigilant in this terrible affair. This is what is so disappointing to me and why I continue to feel so aggrieved. The very least that WP deserves, in all of this, is an apology and acknowledgement of what he has been though and what he has achieved. The same goes for me, my family, the other victims and their families and the witnesses who did come forward. I feel that it needs to be made very clear to the entire school community that YJ has been found guilty of indecent dealings with five boys who were in his class over a ten year period and that measures are now in place, or should be, to make sure that everyone is more informed of the 'grooming' practices that allow people, like him, to prey upon innocent children. Let them know that he will not teach again, that he will be placed on a sex-offenders register, that he had no right to perpetrate these crimes at our school, on our children and that he is being justly dealt with. I would also urge you to invite other victims and witnesses to come forward or to go to the police. It is time to be seen to deal with this properly so that everyone concerned can start to feel better and hopefully move towards some sense of closure.

Sincerely and with respect,

WQ