

RECEIVED 27 MAY 1993

ENTRY

DPA

Date: 13th May 1993

Client: Birmingham Diocese

Matter: Penney

Fee-earner: 23

The following are the results of a further review of the file in the light of telephone conversations with Jim McDonnell of the Catholic Media Office and Nicholas Coote from the Bishops' Conference. The Priest mentioned by Nicholas Coote and confirmed by Jim McDonnell has not yet telephoned (11-00 a.m.):

1. The initial complaint to the Diocese was made on July 1st 1991 by Eamon Flanagan then aged 28. The typed notes state specifically that

"Eamon Flanagan does not want to go to Court, he does not want him to lose the Priesthood but does want him taken out of circulation."

2. On the 16th July Bishop Pargeter wrote to Eamon Flanagan saying that as from the 22nd July "the matter discussed between us here on July 1st will have been resolved. All the conditions you asked for will have been met. We are grateful to you for bringing the whole question to our attention and are happy to inform you that all is well."

3. On the 1st March 1993 Eamon Flanagan wrote a letter to Bishop Pargeter from Australia. The letter is very indistinctly typed, refers to a recent meeting with the Bishop and states that he felt particularly dissatisfied with the outcome and that the Bishop patronised "[Name Redacted]" (his wife?). The Bishop replied on the 13th March 1993 also apologising for any distress caused as a consequence of that meeting. Flanagan wrote again on the 29th March 1993 officially requesting payment from the Diocese of £5,000 "to cover counselling costs for myself and [Name Redacted] regarding the sexual abuse." The Bishop responded to this on the 2nd April 1993 signifying that the Diocese would be most unlikely to be able to accede to that request on the grounds that it would be seen by others "to be a bribe."

4. So far as housing is concerned, and other help for the families concerned, Father Farrell's notes for me indicate that there has been regular contact by phone, that the families were offered counselling help which a number have taken up and that the [RC-A358 family] were offered the chance to rent a house from the Diocese to allow them to get over the initial shock of