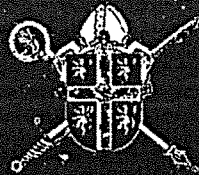


The Bishop of Durham
Right Reverend Paul Butler



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PERSONAL

4th February 2016

Dear [AN-A4]

I write to express my deep sorrow at the hurt I have caused you in the way that I responded to your revelations. As I told you when we met in the Quaker Meeting House I believe your story. I have no doubt that you were abused by [AN-F15] I remain deeply saddened that an ordained man should abuse you in the way that he did.

I am sorry that I misunderstood your expectations of me in the months that followed. I believed that you expected me to arrange for a local bishop to accompany you to meet your father when you decided the time was right; this we agreed would be the Bishop of Salisbury. I understand why in the end you decided not to take up this support although I was pleased to hear that you did manage to tell your father. I also pursued the Cathedral Chapel idea that you proposed. This took longer than anticipated and I would like to share with you the outcome. It has caused all the Cathedrals to carefully consider how they might respond better to survivors. I believed that you were expecting Sheryl Kent



Diocese of Durham

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1547

to follow up your specific complaint, which she did. I believe that you have been content with Sheryl's work in this regard. I also believed that you were receiving pastoral support from Andrew, and members of the Friends. I advise that you were expecting far more from me personally than this. It was my serious error not to grasp this.

I am also extremely sorry that when the solicitor's letter arrived regarding a claim I did not overrule the legal and insurance advice I received regarding having no further contact with you. I should have made it clear that it would have been better to maintain contact.

I am also deeply concerned that throughout this time you think I have been unconcerned or unaffected. This is simply not the case. I have thought of you often. I have wept for you, and prayed for you regularly. I have often been in deep anguish about you. There have been restless nights in concern for you. I was deeply disappointed that there could not be a better outcome through the Metropolitan Police investigations.

I have been surprised that Sheryl did not uncover any further allegations. At present you are the only known victim of **AN-F15** but it is my sincere hope that anyone else who suffered similarly at his hands (as is likely) will feel able to come forward and speak about their abuse. I really do long for you to find some peace for yourself.

I have wanted to write for a long time but been advised against it until now. This advice has always been with your welfare in mind. I would also like to see you face to face to say sorry in person. I hope you will be willing to meet with me; but this has to be what you want first.

I am, once again, deeply sorry for the hurt I have caused you.

Yours sincerely

DPA