



ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY

The Reverend Matthew Ineson

DPA

18th December 2017

Dear Father Matthew

Your CDM Complaint against the Right Reverend Roy Williamson

I am grateful to you for bringing this matter to my attention. The Registrar for the Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester, acting on behalf of the Provincial Registrar, has now reported back to me and Bishop Roy Williamson has sent an Answer in response to your Complaint, together with evidence in support. I enclose a copy of the Registrar's Report and the Answer with the two witness statements.

Having very carefully considered the whole matter, I have decided that it is not appropriate to take any further action on your Complaint.

The reasoning for my decision is as follows:

- Your Complaint is based on the assumption that someone told the Respondent about the abuse you suffered from the Reverend Trevor Devamannikam (TD) and that therefore the Respondent acted in the way that you allege he did in the knowledge of that abuse. There must be sufficient evidence to sustain the allegation that the Respondent knew of the abuse at the relevant time (in 1984/5).
- You say in your Form 1b that the Respondent "became aware of the abuse against me. I believe this to have come through my maternal grandmother reporting this to him at the time". However, this assertion is inconsistent with evidence you offer elsewhere. In your Form 1c against TD, you describe how your grandmother visited the Vicarage and said hello to you and spoke to TD, but left without talking to you. You then say that "I do not know what was said in their conversation". You also state that when you travelled to Dewsbury you "did not know if she [your grandmother] knew what had been going on". This account of the arrival at Dewsbury is also given in Form 1b.

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU

Therefore, you assert that your grandmother informed Bishop Roy of the abuse, but also state that, even after leaving the Vicarage, you were not aware of what your grandmother knew of TD's behaviour. There is an inconsistency here.

- The Respondent denies he was aware of the abuse at that time. This is supported by the Assistant Curate and the Churchwarden in their statements, who had no knowledge at the time of any abuse or any allegations against TD.
- You say that the Respondent visited the Vicarage prior to you being required to leave and move elsewhere. The Respondent denies visiting the Vicarage at that time. This is supported by the Assistant Curate and the Churchwarden who say they were not aware that the Respondent was personally present in the parish then. They both do, however, confirm that the Archdeacon and Rural Dean did attend a meeting at the Vicarage.
- It is not surprising, given the fact that you were not directly involved in the discussions which clearly took place at the time, that events may not have been clear to you. You are not able to say definitely in what circumstances or when the Respondent was told about the abuse you suffered and you are only able to assert that he did have this knowledge. The Respondent denies that he knew and witnesses say that they had no knowledge of any disclosure either. They all say that the Respondent did not visit the Vicarage at the time and the Assistant Curate and Churchwarden provide convincing evidence that the meeting in fact was with the Archdeacon and the Rural Dean.
- It is not clear to me that the Respondent was present in the parish at the time or knew of the abuse you suffered. It is therefore not clear to me that there was any misconduct for which the Respondent was responsible and it is only the responsibility of the Respondent (not of the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean or anyone else) which is in issue in the context of this Complaint.
- I stress that in coming to this conclusion, I am not addressing the abuse which you suffered from TD, which was the subject of a separate Complaint by you and, of course, of the criminal case brought against him.

You are entitled within fourteen days of receiving this letter to ask the President of Tribunals to review my decision if you are dissatisfied with it. The request should be in writing and you should explain in it why you believe I am wrong. Any request for a review should be accompanied by copies of:

- (i) Your Complaint;
- (ii) The Answer from Bishop Roy;
- (iii) The evidence in support of the Complaint and the Answer;
- (iv) The Registrar's Report; and
- (v) This letter.