



BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

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1st May 2019

H.E Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop's House
Ambrosden Avenue
London
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Dear Cardinal Vincent,

RC-A710

Together with Bishop Peter Doyle, I am writing about a troubling and complex matter: that of **RC-A710** who allegedly was abused by **Name Redacted**. Bishop Peter has been a regular visitor to her over many years. A number of other priests visit her from time to time too, as well as Angela McGrory, our Portsmouth Safeguarding Coordinator. Before Christmas, since she lives within this Diocese, I visited her myself to listen to her account, to give pastoral support and to offer her my prayers. I have to say that, regardless of the remarkable nature and contents of the allegations made, I found nothing to suggest that she was not a very genuine and credible witness. In fact, she came over to me as entirely sincere and convincing in her statements.

Last September, as you know, the media featured reports about these allegations against **Name Redacted**. This, of course, was deeply troubling on many levels. But what to both Bishop Peter and myself seemed appalling was that highly confidential and detailed information about **RC-A710** and her case was being openly reported, meaning that someone highly-placed within the Church had access to all this information and was actively leaking it. Moreover, those 'in the know,' if they put two and two together, would have been able to find out her identity, leading in turn to further journalistic investigation and discussion. All of this caused **RC-A710** enormous distress. She expressed this to me with great emotion when we met.

It seems to both Bishop Peter and myself – and to our own Diocese of Portsmouth Safeguarding Commission - that with regard to her case, the Church's own policies and procedures, which are clear, have not been followed correctly. We are writing, therefore, to request that her case be once again reviewed and an investigation undertaken.

More specifically, may we ask you, in your role as Chair of the Bishops' Conference, to write to **RC-A710** on behalf of the Church in our land to express

an apology for the leak of information and for the distress it will have caused her?

Indeed, I wonder too whether you might even consider yourself making a visit to **RC-A710**? We are both sure it would bring her great healing and solace.

I realise that there are many levels of complexity in all of this. But do please be assured of our prayers and our loyalty, as a brother Apostle. It is only our hope and prayer hereby to bring the Lord's healing balm to one of His most distressed souls.

With prayers and best wishes

DPA

Bishop of Portsmouth