
From: [redacted] DPA
Sent: 01 May 2019 18:37
To: Bishop Peter; [redacted] DPA
Subject: RE :What is happening - further considerations

Importance: High

Dear Bishop Peter

The full implications of the information you gave me this morning are still sinking in, with that have come further important considerations. I am sending a copy of this email to Angela.

I am finding it very difficult to make any sense of the decision by your, and Portsmouth's, communication officers to leave this matter effectively in the hands of Vincent Nichols, in that you are saying that the statement will now only be released if he fails to comply with the requests in the letter.

What he is being asked to do, should he agree, could take months to achieve

- or to prove that it is not going to be achieved, meaning that the statement could now be put on hold for that time.

I do not have a problem with a letter being sent. What is unacceptable is the decision to withhold the statement unless he responds negatively. This means that unless he categorically refuses immediately, there will be no statement for some time at least and I will be left in limbo again. There will be no chance for [redacted] and I to finish therapy if this is still ongoing. I will not be able to have the kind of ending I hoped for with you either. I will not have any chance of reconnecting with church or faith.

Given Vincent Nichols track record over the last 10 years it will be very difficult to know if he's ethically taken on board the concerns and genuinely and properly reviewing it until he has "finished". (you will remember that I agreed to meeting Jeremy Trood as a stepping stone to the meeting with VN. He then used it to close down the whole matter and wouldn't even talk to you). I could quite see Vincent Nichols "agreeing" to consider all this and then creating delays, leaving me exposed and vulnerable for months.

When Angela presented this plan to me it was never described as an either/or: i.e. that if the terms of the letter were not accepted then, and then only, would the statement be issued. The statement was presented as definite. When we were talking on Monday you stressed the importance of the statement and said that you thought the letter was of less importance.

I would never have thought that a positive private response from the cardinal to the letter would be enough to protect me from the damage in the press. Given his record, even if he did respond to all the requests in the letter, I doubt very much he would support me publicly. I suspect any apparent compliance with the letter will be only in so far as he perceives it to be in his interests. Since he moved to Westminster he has shown no sign of pastoral care or compassion either for me or for the [redacted] survivors.

The church has allowed public leaks of a very confidential document written at its request and entrusted to its care. Then left me for 7 months to manage the outfall, and now its publicity department is saying that to put that right publicly will cause me more harm than the church's own neglect, abuse and the already published derogatory comments in the catholic press in several parts of the world? That feels like an insult, and a complete misunderstanding of who I am. But then the communications officers have no knowledge of who I am. or what I need.

Anyone who knows what I have been put through by Vincent Nichols would not be giving him yet another chance to delay my therapeutic journey and disrupt my life; while denying me the one thing I need to move on.

This is a safeguarding issue, a pastoral issue, a therapeutic issue. It should be left to those professionally trained in those areas. Not to a pair of communication officers, who have no knowledge of me and I suspect very little if any training in the therapeutic and pastoral needs of survivors.

Angela discussed with me the risks of publicity. My identity is already severely compromised - and in a detrimental way. I am asking for that detrimental and untrue representation of me to be put right. The church has a duty of care in this matter which cannot be resolved by communication

officers: rather the Church's response needs to be determined by the individual therapeutic and pastoral care needs of those entrusted to its care by Jesus.

With kind regards,

RC-A710