

Witness Name:  
Statement No.:  
Exhibits:  
Dated:

**THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**EXHIBIT JD / 7**

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DRAFT

1. On 27 March 2003 at Cardiff Crown Court Canon Lawrence Davies was convicted on serious offences of sexual assaults upon two boys from his parish. In each case these offences continued over many years.
2. He was sentenced to a total of 10 years imprisonment. He is banned from working with children and his name has to be registered for life as a sex offender.
3. The Trial Judge observed that it was difficult to imagine a greater breach of trust.
4. There was no appeal against conviction nor against sentence.
5. The conduct leading to these convictions formed the basis of the immediate reference by the Diocesan Bishop to the Tribunal.
6. Upon the evidence before us we find proved the complaint of conduct giving just cause for scandal or offence contrary to section 18(1)(c) of Chapter XI of the Constitution of the Church in Wales.
7. We have considered the representations made on behalf of Canon Davies. We note there is no expression of remorse.
8. We have read the many references and letters of testimonial written in his support before his conviction.
9. In our view his treatment of these young people in his care was appalling.
10. We are mindful of the service Canon Davies has given his parishioners over very many years, but the affection and trust that he gained, as demonstrated by their letters, were betrayed by his corrupt conduct and we believe that deception has damaged more lives, as well as the damage caused to the Church both locally and in the wider world.
11. Canon Davies has behaved in ways quite contrary to the promises made at the time of his ordination and in our judgement the gravity of that conduct is wholly inconsistent with the exercise of Holy Orders.
12. We therefore sentence Lawrence Vercoe Davies to be deposed from Holy Orders and expelled from the office of cleric in the Church in Wales.

30 October 2003