

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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## LEGAL DEPARTMENT

LEM:LET 19 August 2020

Mr Martin Smith  
Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse  
PO Box 76107  
LONDON  
SE1P 6HJ

Sent by e-mail

Dear Mr Smith:

### **Re: Comments by Panel Member Mr Ivor Frank**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August 2020.

We note the Inquiry's apology for not giving either Mr Gillies or CCJW prior notice of the subject matter upon which Mr Frank questioned Mr Gillies, and thank you for it. However, this procedural failing directly created a situation which potentially damaged the reputations of Mr Gillies, CCJW, and Mr Bartlett. In this connection, in his closing live-streamed statement, Mr Scorer referred to Mr Frank's questioning and implied that the Inquiry had uncovered destruction of child abuse documents by CCJW, and this lie is likely to proliferate. Accordingly, please confirm that the Inquiry and/or Mr Frank will make its apology public (in the same way that the questioning of Mr Gillies was conducted publicly)? If not, we would be grateful if you could explain why.

We also note that your letter has not responded to a number of important questions raised in our 13 August 2020 letter. Further, your letter has raised other important questions. Accordingly, please respond to the following questions:

1. On what date did Mr Frank undertake his personal internet research on this subject?
2. On what date did Mr Frank first come across the relevant article in The Philadelphia Inquirer? What is the date of the article in The Philadelphia Inquirer?
3. Did any individual or entity, at any point, inform Mr Frank of, or point him to, any of the information he relied on in his questioning of Mr Gillies? In this regard, as noted in our letter dated 13 August 2020, certain individuals have claimed on Internet blogs that they provided the information to the Inquiry. Please also confirm whether or not Mr Frank has ever been in contact with any of these individuals or been contacted by them?
4. What is Mr Frank's explanation for not discussing his concerns and the results of his personal information research on this matter with: (a) the Inquiry's legal team; (b) his fellow Panel members; and (c) anyone else, once he had found the article?
5. What is Mr Frank's explanation for not drawing the information that he had found to the attention of CCJW in advance of Mr Gillies' evidence?

The Inquiry's detailed responses to these questions are necessary so as to allay our serious concerns about Mr Frank's actions in this matter.

LEM:LET  
19 August 2020  
Page 2

In view of the importance of this matter, kindly provide your response by close of business on Thursday 20 August 2020.

Yours sincerely,  
*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*  
Legal Department