

expect any information about serious assaults on child migrants whilst in residential care to be passed by the Christian Brothers back to CEMWA. We have seen no evidence to indicate that this happened.

1.19 If knowledge of allegations of sexual abuse had been passed on to CEMWA, by the nature of the organisational links that operated in relation to post-war Catholic child migration, this would have brought this knowledge into the range of sending organisations from England and Wales. As we have noted in our Fifteenth Addendum (5.3), Fr Stinson, who was the Director of CEMWA between 1948 and 1955, was also involved in actively recruiting child migrants from residential institutions in the UK in 1952 and 1953 on behalf of the Australian Catholic Immigration Committee – the Catholic sending organisation recognised by the UK Government. Although, as has been discussed in our Fifteenth Addendum, Stinson did not undertake this recruitment in the way requested by the Catholic Child Welfare Council, he nevertheless did have close contact with Canon Flint in this period, as well as with other sending organisations such as the Sisters of Nazareth. If Stinson had been informed, in his custodian role as Director of CEMWA, about allegations of sexual abuse by the Christian Brothers in Western Australia, it would not appear difficult for such knowledge to have had an effect on his own practice of recruiting child migrants, nor for such knowledge to have been shared with other sending agencies in the UK. We note that the Australian Royal Commission’s investigation of sexual abuse in Christian Brothers institutions in Western Australia identified a range of allegations of sexual abuse that were known to the Christian Brothers during the period in which Fr Stinson was Director of CEMWA.⁸

1.20 We also note that Bernard Griffin, who became Archbishop of Westminster in December 1943, also apparently had active links with the Christian Brothers in relation to their child migration work. On 23rd March 1943, Griffin and Canon Craven met with an official at the Dominions Office who briefed them about the critical comments that the UK High Commissioner, Sir Ronald Cross, had reported back from a visit he had made to Tardun. Bishop Griffin (as he was then) is reported to have said that he was anxious to have more details when a follow-up report was produced by Australian State officials and that ‘he would go straight to the head of the Christian Brothers Organisation and tell him that deficiencies must be put right and this would no doubt be done.’⁹ A month before this meeting a note on the same Dominions Office file records that the quarterly claims for UK Government maintenance payments for child migrants at Tardun were passed from the Christian Brothers to the UK Government via Griffin.¹⁰ This suggests that Griffin, who from 1943 to 1956 was the most senior cleric in the Catholic Church in England and Wales, had previously been in direct communication with the Christian Brothers about their child migration work in Western Australia prior to becoming Archbishop. We do not know whether or not this active communication between Griffin and the Christian Brothers continued after he became Archbishop, but what evidence we do have

⁸ Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Final Report on Case Study 11, pp.31-32, <http://childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/27a80b05-2b21-48ec-bd94-2f3f02522596/Report-of-Case-Study-no-11>

⁹ Minute of meeting with Griffin and Craven, 23rd March 1943, TNA, DO35/1138/M1020/1, p.4 on submitted copy.

¹⁰ Note to Mr Wiseman, 5th February 1943, TNA, DO35/1138/M1020/1, p.10 on submitted copy.