
THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Supplementary Witness Statement of Shirley Hosgood

I, Shirley Hosgood, will say as follows:-

1. This statement is supplemental to my first witness statement which I submitted to the Inquiry on 9 February 2018. I have since had the opportunity to read the witness statements of Bishop Wallace Benn (WPB000047), Bishop John Hind (WWS000138), Philip Jones (WWS000133) and Canon Ian Gibson (WWS000070).
2. These statements contain a number of comments about me which I have found disappointing and very hurtful to read. I do not, of course, wish to engage in a "tit for tat" exchange. However, to the extent that these comments are unfair and based on inaccurate versions of events, I ask that IICSA note the following brief responses. I have chosen to respond only to the most hurtful and inaccurate aspects of these statements.
 - 2.1 As a general point, the overall picture presented by these statements is that my working relationship with Bishop Wallace was an extremely fraught and acrimonious one, characterised by regular spats and disagreements. I do not recognise this characterisation. I had very limited interaction with Bishop Wallace. We met a handful of times during my three years as DSA and we communicated relatively infrequently on the phone or by email. All of these exchanges were cordial. I did not know Bishop Wallace well and my overriding objective during all my interactions with him was to work together to ensure the proper implementation of safeguarding practices in the Diocese.
 - 2.2 In relation to specific comments, I would like IICSA to note my response to the following:
 - 2.2.1 Page 48 at paragraph 159 of WWS000138 states that Bishop John was told that I said of Bishop Wallace Benn "I'm going to get him". This is untrue. I have never said that or anything like that.
 - 2.2.2 On page 48 at paragraph 160 of WWS000138, Bishop John states that "on occasion" he "had to speak to both of them [me and Bishop Wallace] about their behaviour towards and language about each other". At no time did Bishop John speak to me about my behaviour towards Bishop Wallace or the language I used when communicating with him.
 - 2.2.3 On pages 48-49 at paragraph 161 of WWS000138, Bishop John describes my "continued resistance" to his having given Philip Jones an increased role in safeguarding. This is not true. I did not resist this arrangement and worked collaboratively with Philip Jones. There were times when emails were not answered by Philip Jones and on those occasions, I went back to Bishop John to seek his help and support in progressing matters.

- 2.2.4 Bishop John at page 52, paragraph 172 of WWS000138 states that he spoke sharply to Bishop Wallace after he had reduced me to tears. I do not know to what Bishop John is referring. I recall no occasions when Bishop Wallace caused me to become visibly upset.
- 2.2.5 At page 27, paragraph 70 of WWS000133, Philip Jones states that I did not "trust the church" based on my experience with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and that I "had no respect for the Church as an institution or for the clergy in general". This is not true and I do not understand on what Philip Jones has based these comments. I left my role with the Roman Catholic Diocese on good terms having enjoyed good working relationships with parish clergy. I had excellent working relationships with Bishop Kieran and Archbishop Vincent Nichols wrote me a personal letter of thanks for my work in the Diocese after I left the role to work for the NSPCC.
- 2.2.6 Page 8, paragraph 25 of WWS000070 states that I refused to accept Francesca Del Mese as my line-manager and that Ms Mese almost initiated disciplinary action against me. This account is echoed in statement WWS000133 at paragraph 70 on page 27. I do not recognise this account. Francesca Del Mese, as Diocesan Secretary, was my line-manager in terms of my employment as a Diocesan Officer, however I continued (as I had prior to Ms Mese's appointment) to report to Bishop John or Philip Jones with respect to safeguarding issues/allegations. I recall that Ms Mese wished to have greater involvement in safeguarding cases, however I understood from Bishop John that he wished to maintain the status quo. This put me in a difficult position which was exacerbated when Ms Mese suggested that I move my work base to Church House and that safeguarding practice/policy be altered so that the DSA needed to get approval from the Diocesan Secretary and relevant Bishop before making a safeguarding referral to a statutory agency. Bishop John decided not to take up these recommendations. I was not aware that Ms Mese had contemplated disciplinary action against me and I am not sure on what basis this would have been done.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____