

THE REVD CANON GORDON TREVOR RIDEOUT - POINTS OF INFORMATION

- Army Court Martial and exoneration November 1972
- Gordon resigned from the Army in August 1973
- Offered Nutley September 1973. The Diocesan Bishop at the time took up references and knew all the background which Gordon completely honestly revealed.
- 2002 allegation (dating back to 1965) and subsequent police "satisfied there is insufficient evidence to proceed in a criminal prosecution" and "I consider this matter to be closed" (see attached letter dated 25.3.02 from DS Nick May, Crawley Police Station), fully known about by Bishop John (see copy of 19.3.02 handwritten letter to Gordon from +J saying "you have my full confidence"), Bishop Wallace, and Archdeacon Nicholas Reade.
- Previous CRBs – 8.11.06 on retirement for PTO and two school CRBs on the 4.4.05 and 16.12.05 were returned unblemished.
- Only the CRB of last week gives the details of what we already knew.
- Enclosed copies of further police information received on the 7.9.10 (not to be disclosed to the applicant).
- As Chair of Governors at Bishop Bell Gordon told the relevant education official at the County Council about his recent blemished CRB and talked about resigning. His response was "we are inclined to disregard this" and "don't do anything precipitate."
- Terry Boatwright has been fully informed by Gordon and does not want Gordon to resign (I am sure that Terry would speak to you about this if you wished).

COPY

Shirley Hosgood

From: Bishop of Chichester
Sent: Saturday, 18 September 2010 08:47
To: Shirley Hosgood
Cc: Bishop of Lewes; Philip Jones
Subject: RE: The Revd Gordon Rideout
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear Shirley,

Thank you for copying me in on this correspondence and for your advice. I entirely understand your concern and as am grateful for Bishop Wallace's assurance to you in an email of 13th September that Canon Rideout "does no unsupervised work with children or young people under 18."

As you may imagine I want this to be handled in the safest way possible and before I decide what action to take would be grateful if you would again review Gordon Rideout's file as I think there may now be some relevant material on it which you have not seen.

Just for the record, the 2002 police letter to Gordon Rideout may have been standard, but it did not only say "no further police action in relation to criminal proceedings" but also "I consider the matter to be closed."

Given the historic nature and previous investigation of the allegations, I do not consider that suspension or withdrawal of PTO would be justified at this stage. I do however think we need further discussion about any potential risk. I would like to be able to write to Gordon, who is obviously aware of the blemished CRB disclosure, informing him of your concern and insisting that he must not exercise any unsupervised ministry with children or young people pending further consideration which for everybody's sake needs to be concluded as soon as possible. I shall of course not write until you have had a chance to review the file again.

With all good wishes,

John

John Hind
Bishop of Chichester

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From: Shirley Hosgood
Sent: 17 September 2010 17:09
To: Bishop of Lewes
Cc: Bishop of Chichester; Philip Jones
Subject: The Revd Gordon Rideout
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear Bishop Wallace

I am now in a position to provide you with the recommendation of the Risk Assessment group.

04/12/2010

ACE022267_228

Having considered the information contained in the Disclosure and additional 'soft' information provided by the police it was the view of all the group members that there is sufficient information available to give cause for concern and as such our advice would be that PTO should be withdrawn until more information is forthcoming about all the different circumstances surrounding the alleged offences and a proper risk assessment is completed.

In forming their views and reaching a recommendation panel members considered:

- That the historic nature of the allegations is irrelevant. Risk does necessarily diminish over time.
- There would appear to be at least three sets of allegations against this man which could be indicative of an ongoing abusive sexual interest in children.
- The letter from the police in 2002 would be a standard letter indicating there would be no further police action in relation to criminal proceedings; it doesn't mean that the allegations were unfounded or capable of proof in civil proceedings.
- It is questionable whether a court marshal in 1972 would have afforded any child victims the opportunity to give their evidence in a protected and meaningful way.
- The 1965 allegation appears to indicate a very opportunistic offending behaviour, without prior grooming of the child.

We would therefore highly recommend that his PTO is withdrawn until we can be satisfied that the information provided through the Disclosure does not constitute a risk to children.

I hope this information is helpful.

All best wishes

Shirley

Shirley Hosgood
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