

<p>1 Monday, 12 March 2018 2 (10.00 am) 3 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Good morning, 4 Ms Scolding. 5 MS SCOLDING: Good morning, chair and panel. Today, we are 6 due to hear the evidence of Bishop Wallace Benn, whom 7 I shall refer to as "Bishop Wallace" during the course 8 of his evidence. 9 May I just indicate now that sitting on the second 10 row back are Mr Hofmeyr QC, who is representing 11 Bishop Wallace, and Mr Macey-Dare of Lee Bolton 12 Monier-Williams, who are his instructing solicitors, so 13 just to indicate that they are there. 14 BISHOP WALLACE BENN (sworn) 15 Examination by MS SCOLDING 16 MS SCOLDING: Bishop Wallace, we have three witness 17 statements from you. If I can just indicate for the 18 record, they are WPB000047; WPB000052; and WPB000056. 19 They will all be placed on the inquiry website at some 20 point later today. 21 Chair and panel, you should have three witness 22 statements -- you have two lever arch files for this 23 particular witness, just so you are clear. 24 Can I ask you to turn to the first page of your 25 first witness statement, if you wouldn't mind. Can you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 a break before that, please do let us know. 2 A. Thank you. 3 Q. Can I turn to your first witness statement, if I may. 4 You are Bishop Wallace Benn. You were ordained, as 5 I understand it, in 1973, and you became Bishop of Lewes 6 in 1997. Is that correct? 7 A. I was ordained as a deacon in 1972 and as a priest in 8 '73. 9 Q. I'm very grateful. We have got at paragraph 1.2 your 10 progression. It is paragraph 1.2 of the witness 11 statement, panel, at WPB000047_002. This is your 12 progression through your clerical career, so to speak. 13 Your appointment as the Bishop of Lewes within the 14 Diocese of Chichester, this was your first episcopal 15 post? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You were appointed by Bishop Eric Kemp? 18 A. Correct. 19 Q. Who was towards the end of what has been described as 20 his long tenure as the Bishop of Chichester? 21 A. That's right. 22 Q. From your perspective, we have heard various things 23 about Bishop Eric. What was your view about his 24 approach to safeguarding, inasmuch as you and he ever 25 had conversations about it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 identify -- you have in fact signed all three, but your 2 signature is covered over for Data Protection Act 3 reasons. Your first, second and third witness 4 statements, are they all true, to the best of your 5 knowledge and belief? 6 A. Absolutely, yes. 7 Q. There are a few things I just wanted to run through by 8 way of housekeeping before we started your evidence. 9 There are some portions of your witness statement where 10 ciphers have been attached. Please can you refer to the 11 person by a cipher? You have an indication of whom the 12 ciphers are. If you are not clear who they are at the 13 particular point in time, Ms Schofield, who is sitting 14 there, can send a Post-it note over to you. If there 15 are any problems with that, please do let me know. If 16 you do accidentally say someone's name, please don't 17 worry -- I have already managed to do that -- we can 18 stop the feed and fix it. 19 The next thing is, this isn't a test of memory. We 20 have asked you a lot of questions. Please feel free to 21 refer to any notes that you may well have made in 22 advance. 23 The other thing to say is, we can stop at any time. 24 We will stop and have a break at around between 11.15 25 and 11.30, for the transcribers, but if you do need</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. I suppose the first thing I would want to say about 2 Bishop Eric is that he always reminds me of the comment 3 about Moses, that he did his best work after 80, so that 4 he was very alert after 80, but he took -- things were 5 very different and not as progressed back then, but he 6 took safeguarding -- as far as I knew, and as far as 7 I heard from him, he took it very seriously indeed. 8 Q. Because we do have some evidence from some other 9 individuals -- Paul, can I ask you to get up 10 ACE005560_003. It is not in your bundle, chair and 11 panel. It is a bit of a fourth-hand email from somebody 12 called -- from Philip Jones to Colin Perkins reporting 13 on a conversation that he had with Hugh Glasier: 14 "Despite the fact that RC ..." et cetera, et cetera. 15 We can read it: 16 "He of course knew nothing about that ... commented 17 further that it would have been just like Bishop Eric to 18 tell Peter Ball to go to the parish to prepare the 19 ground in regard to Cotton. He made some other remark 20 about Bishop Eric being rather prone to take a rather 21 laissez-faire view and he did remember also having an 22 argument with Bishop Eric about an appointment to 23 another parish in relation to similar background 24 difficulties." 25 Now, we will come on to the situation in respect of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 Reverend Cotton a bit later.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. But would you say -- Hugh Glasier, as I understand it,
 4 was an archdeacon, who was the predecessor of
 5 Philip Jones, as I understand it?
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. So he was the Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings --
 8 I mustn't forget Hastings, we have been told.
 9 Do you disagree, therefore, with Hugh Glasier's
 10 statement of Bishop Eric's view about these sorts of
 11 things?
 12 **A. Hugh Glasier stepped down when I arrived.**
 13 Q. Right.
 14 **A. So I didn't really know him. This perspective is new to**
 15 **me --**
 16 Q. Okay.
 17 **A. -- and wouldn't have been -- I didn't know that, or it**
 18 **wasn't my experience.**
 19 Q. Thank you very much, Bishop Wallace.
 20 The other thing that quite a lot of other people
 21 have given evidence about is the fact that you are from
 22 the evangelical wing of the church?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. We have had Bishop John explain Anglo Catholicism to us.
 25 Can you explain, what does being a member of

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1 the evangelical wing of the church mean in terms of your
 2 approach to worship, religious ritual and doctrine?
 3 **A. To be a classical evangelical Anglican is simply in many**
 4 **ways just to be a classical Anglican. The kind of**
 5 **emphases of evangelicals are the kind of emphases of**
 6 **the English Reformers: emphasising the glad good tidings**
 7 **of the good news of the gospel; an emphasis on taking**
 8 **the Bible seriously; an emphasis on personal faith**
 9 **that's real and vibrant and changes lives and affects**
 10 **how we live. So I think that we are -- as an**
 11 **evangelical leader, Dr John Stott, once said, we are**
 12 **gospel people and Bible people and we are church people**
 13 **too.**
 14 Q. So in particular, some other individuals who have
 15 already given evidence to this inquiry have identified
 16 that the evangelical wing of the church might have
 17 different views to other wings of the church about
 18 various issues. Firstly, both Canon Ian Gibson and
 19 Philip Jones, Archdeacon Philip, have identified that
 20 the view of the evangelical wing of the church
 21 concerning women may well be influenced by the concept
 22 of headship.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. What is the concept of headship and what influence does
 25 that have upon the way that women are viewed or seen,

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1 particularly women in positions of responsibility?
 2 **A. Forgive me getting theological, but the idea of headship**
 3 **is mentioned in the New Testament twice -- at least**
 4 **twice, both by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5 and 1,**
 5 **Corinthians 11. The idea is, within an equal**
 6 **partnership in marriage in the family, and in the church**
 7 **family, within an equal partnership where neither side**
 8 **is more valuable or more important than the other, there**
 9 **is a responsibility of leadership placed on the man to**
 10 **lead lovingly and caringly, in the case of marriage, for**
 11 **his partner and, in the case of the church, to exercise**
 12 **leadership that is loving.**
 13 **That would apply, therefore, to a traditional view**
 14 **of who should be priests and bishops, but to no other**
 15 **area in the life of the church, or the state.**
 16 Q. So you're not of the view, therefore, that the concept
 17 of headship therefore translated in terms of
 18 difficulties in the relationships you may well have had
 19 of women in positions of responsibility in the context
 20 of the diocese?
 21 **A. Absolutely not; didn't affect it at all. The priests --**
 22 **women priests in my area, I had a meeting with them,**
 23 **asked them, did they feel cared for, were there any**
 24 **problems, and would they like a regular meeting, just to**
 25 **be a safety valve in case they didn't feel happy or not**

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1 **as cared for as the male priests. They said they didn't**
 2 **want a meeting, they were very happy, and I never had**
 3 **any complaints from them. So I don't see how it**
 4 **affects, necessarily.**
 5 **I think I want to say that the disagreement about**
 6 **headship is not a church-dividing issue, and as long as**
 7 **people on both sides love one another, respect one**
 8 **another and provide for one another, it's not -- it need**
 9 **not be a church-dividing issue, and shouldn't be.**
 10 Q. Although it need not be a church-dividing issue, during
 11 the time that we are talking about, between 1997 and
 12 2012, there were some significant concerns, as we
 13 understand it, about potential splits within the church
 14 over these issues?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Was it something that you think took up significantly
 17 more air time than possibly was necessary or needed
 18 because of the national debates that were going along,
 19 and was that reflected within the context of Chichester?
 20 **A. I think there were very great concerns about how the**
 21 **church would handle the disagreements, and I was careful**
 22 **to say before about the need for proper provision for**
 23 **both sides of the argument. I think that that really**
 24 **was the area of concern: would the more traditional view**
 25 **be respected and provided for? I think that it probably**

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<p>1 did take up more time than it needs to, as these things 2 do, but that's inevitable, I'm afraid. But I don't 3 think it distracted from the main mission of the church. 4 Q. In particular, although I understand there are 5 differences of theological opinion, I think Chichester 6 is also known for being Anglo Catholic? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Both Anglo Catholics and evangelical wings of the church 9 don't agree with the ordination of women, albeit from 10 different theological standpoints. That's right, 11 though, isn't it? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. So Chichester, in and of itself, was conservative, with 14 maybe a small "c" rather than a large "C". Is that an 15 accurate reflection of the tone of the diocese in 16 general? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Can I turn now to the practice of homosexual acts. 19 I understand that the evangelical wing of the church, 20 and you, as a representative of it, would have what 21 people may call a conservative view as to the practice 22 of homosexual acts. Is that correct? 23 A. That's correct. 24 Q. From that perspective, do you think that influenced the 25 responses that you gave to various of the child</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 and one isn't. 2 Q. Thank you. Now can I turn over to forgiveness. Because 3 Archdeacon Jones in particular within his evidence -- 4 I am going to read out what he said in his evidence and 5 ask you to comment upon it. The question which was put 6 by Ms McNeill was: 7 "Question: What I want to ask is, now that you have 8 explained to us about conservative evangelicals and the 9 type of views that Bishop Benn would hold, how do you 10 think that affected his approach to safeguarding? 11 "Answer: His aim was always for forgiveness and 12 reconciliation and a transformed life. Therefore, 13 anyone who had, in inverted commas, 'done wrong' needed 14 to seek forgiveness, be restored, be reconciled, but 15 also move towards a completely transformed life in 16 a Christian sense. Therefore, when he was faced with 17 anyone who had done anything wrong, disciplinary or not, 18 that's what he expected, and he would apply scriptural 19 principles as to how that was achieved. I always had 20 the impression that in fact he thought along those 21 lines, even in regards to issues relating to 22 safeguarding." 23 Do you think that's an accurate picture of your 24 approach to safeguarding and, in particular, the issue 25 of forgiveness and reconciliation?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 protection concerns which were raised and sexual abuse 2 concerns which were raised, some of which involved 3 homosexual acts by men upon boys? 4 A. I really don't think that that's got anything really to 5 do with safeguarding. I think that I want to say, as an 6 evangelical Anglican, that God loves all sorts and 7 conditions of people, whatever their sexual orientation, 8 but the traditional Christian view is that God's best 9 for us is sexual relationships within heterosexual 10 marriage. So that's a challenging position to both 11 homosexuals and some heterosexuals, but it isn't -- I'm 12 not aware of doing anything other than upholding the 13 traditional view of the church. 14 Q. Do you think not necessarily from yourself, but from 15 others within the diocese, what we have heard is that 16 because there wasn't a great deal of understanding, 17 shall we say, about the nature of homosexuality, that 18 some individuals may well have confused what is 19 paedophilia with homosexual acts and, therefore, not 20 acted when they should have done because there wasn't 21 a clarity, or there was a confusion, about what was 22 appropriate or not appropriate, both of them being 23 considered, in effect, sinful, one of them significantly 24 more sinful than the other, one might say? 25 A. I'm not aware of that confusion, because one is criminal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A. I think that's a very inaccurate, shocking 2 misrepresentation of evangelical opinion. I would like 3 to draw the panels' attention to the supplementary 4 witness statement, the second one, and section 5. 5 Q. This is WPB -- I think we will get this up on screen, 6 Bishop Wallace. 7 A. Okay. 8 Q. WPB000056_003. 9 A. I particularly want to draw your attention to 5.5 and 10 5.6, which I would like to read, as the best kind of 11 succinct way of answering this question. 12 Q. That's WPB000056_004, Paul. It's not coming up. If you 13 would just like to read it out, I'm sure we can get it 14 up on screen at a later stage. 15 A. "The Christian gospel offers forgiveness and a new 16 beginning to those who repent and believe, but this is 17 not cheap grace. Repentance that is real means turning 18 your back on sinful and evil practice, and seeking God's 19 help to live differently. It also means owning up to 20 past sins and being willing to face the consequences. 21 As we know, paedophiles reoffend, so no benefit of 22 the doubt can ever be given that assumes a change of 23 behaviour. Disciplinary procedures must therefore be 24 followed and obeyed." 25 Not only do I not or, to my knowledge, no</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 evangelical Anglican I have ever met believes in cheap 2 grace, but not only do I not believe it and not preach 3 it, but I have preached against it, because if I may 4 tell you a little story, the story is told of a mission 5 held in Belfast last century in Harland & Wolff 6 territory, the shipbuilding place, where so many people 7 repented and believed and turned to Christ that 8 Harland & Wolff had to get in 12 little wooden 9 structures to take back the tools that had been nicked 10 beforehand, so that when people took repentance and 11 faith seriously, they brought back what they had stolen. 12 Therefore, real repentance means turning your back on 13 past sin and being willing to take the consequences. 14 Here, in this time, God may forgive, but we have 15 consequences to live with here and we have perhaps 16 punishments to face up to and acknowledge and take. So 17 real repentance is the issue and real repentance is 18 never cheap grace. 19 Q. I would also identify that Archdeacon Jones says several 20 other things about your approach to safeguarding within 21 the context of his witness statement. Chair and panel, 22 it is behind tab C5 of your bundle. I think it's, 23 certainly in my second bundle, 11B rather than 11A. 24 WWS000133_007. This is paragraphs 20 to 24. This is 25 what Archdeacon Jones says about you. Firstly, he deals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 premature judgment before things have been properly 2 considered, and we have seen plenty of evidence of that 3 in the press and in lots of other stories. 4 Q. Thank you. I thought it was only fair that I put those 5 criticisms to you. Can I just double-check, can we go 6 to paragraphs 23 and 24, if that is possible, Paul, on 7 the next page. 8 We will come on to that -- in fact, we will come on 9 to that in a moment. I don't think I need to take you 10 through that now. 11 Now, you were an area bishop. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. We have heard a little bit about the area bishop being 14 an area bishop, but throughout your time, there was an 15 area scheme in place. What did that mean, in terms of 16 your pastoral and canonical responsibilities in the 17 Lewes part of the diocese? 18 A. An area bishop is a suffragan bishop, an assistant 19 bishop, with other responsibilities around three areas: 20 around ordinations; appointments; and institutions. 21 I have summarised that particularly at 22 paragraphs 2.10 and 2.17 of my witness statement. 23 Q. That's WPB000047_004 and WPB000047_005, Paul. 24 A. It is important, I think, to say at this point that 25 these privileges and opportunities for an area bishop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 with forgiveness. I think we have already dealt with 2 that, at paragraph 20. He then goes on: 3 "This, coupled with a strong belief in the 4 traditional legal principle ..." 5 Halfway down paragraph 20, chair and panel, the 6 fourth sentence along: 7 "... coloured his approach to dealing with any 8 disciplinary matter ... he could, and did, adopt 9 strongly antagonistic attitudes towards those clergy he 10 believed were in the wrong, but if he believed they were 11 not, then he was reluctant to condemn even when due 12 process demanded a different approach." 13 I would like to give you an opportunity to comment 14 on that, since it is what somebody else has said about 15 your approach? 16 A. I just want to say, I am a pastor and not a lawyer, but 17 if I understand properly the change in the level of -- 18 to come to a guilty verdict between -- to the balance of 19 probabilities, I completely accept that. What I was 20 concerned about was a premature rushing to judgment 21 without an adequate consideration of the evidence. It 22 is not the level of evidence that ever bothered me. 23 I can fully see that the change in relation to 24 safeguarding is a helpful and necessary one. It is not 25 the level of that that worries me. It's the running to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 are delegated opportunities. Therefore, you are never 2 left to feel that you are to get on with them completely 3 on your own. You hopefully are trusted to get on with 4 them, but you're answerable to the diocesan bishop. 5 It's delegated authority. 6 It might be just worth saying at this point that 7 it's delegated in those three areas, and the interesting 8 thing is that, in the area scheme that I was working 9 under, disciplinary issues were never delegated. 10 Q. Safeguarding -- I am assuming safeguarding wouldn't have 11 been included as a delegated function because, probably, 12 at the time that the area scheme was created, it 13 wouldn't have existed as a concept within the church? 14 A. I think the point is that safeguarding and disciplinary 15 issues -- in other words, very serious issues -- had an 16 even more serious feel about needing to report to the 17 diocesan and keep him in the loop and that ultimate 18 responsibility for disciplinary action and for 19 safeguarding was his, not mine, under the area scheme. 20 Q. Bishop John, in his witness evidence, said about 21 East Sussex, and he said: 22 "The extent to which the east for a long time tended 23 to go its own way, I would be very keen indeed not to 24 lay that charge at Bishop Wallace's door. I don't know 25 how far it went back before Peter Ball, but undoubtedly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

1 the fairly long tenure of Peter Ball in East Sussex and
 2 what we know about a number of covert activities may
 3 well have also fed this notion of it being a relatively
 4 independent fiefdom."
 5 Would you agree that it was a relatively independent
 6 fiefdom during the course of your tenure?
 7 **A. No, I wouldn't. I wouldn't agree with that at all.**
 8 **I think that the problem the panel needs to understand,**
 9 **this inquiry needs to understand, I think, is that East**
 10 **and West Sussex are two very big counties.**
 11 Q. Can we get up the map, please, Paul -- ANG000221 I think
 12 is the parish map. Yes, would you mind turning it
 13 around? It might be quite difficult for you to identify
 14 what your areas of responsibility were from that map.
 15 Would you prefer one which is slightly more simplistic?
 16 **A. No, it's all right. The orange bit, really, and the**
 17 **white and the lighter green bit is my responsibility,**
 18 **roughly speaking: East Sussex, in other words.**
 19 Q. We have everything that's in orange and everything down
 20 to sort of Beddingham all the way to Brighton; is that
 21 right?
 22 **A. Yes, to the edge of Brighton, but not including**
 23 **Brighton.**
 24 **I think it is very important that we understand that**
 25 **West Sussex is very affluent as a county; East Sussex is**

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1 **not affluent as a country, it has high levels of**
 2 **deprivation, it is only one of two counties in England**
 3 **without a motorway, and considerable employment**
 4 **difficulties and funding -- the county council have had**
 5 **lots of funding difficulties. So it is a very different**
 6 **county, needing different handling, and sometimes the**
 7 **solutions for West Sussex don't fit easily into the**
 8 **east. Therefore, the east often struggled to be heard**
 9 **adequately in the west, but that's really about wanting**
 10 **to be understood, not wanting to be independent.**
 11 Q. Okay.
 12 **A. We didn't want to be independent. We just wanted to be**
 13 **understood.**
 14 Q. When you say you wanted to be understood, did that
 15 impact at all in respect of safeguarding? Were there
 16 different responsibilities and roles that you had as
 17 a clergy than there would have been in West Sussex, for
 18 example?
 19 **A. No, that wouldn't have impacted safeguarding at all.**
 20 Q. Can I also identify, you arrived in 1997 --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- which was only five years after Bishop Peter Ball had
 23 left being the area Bishop of Lewes?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. And only four years, I think four or five years, after

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1 he'd had to resign. He had been Bishop of Lewes for
 2 a very long period of time, from 1977 to 1992.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. So largely, would it be fair to say that you were
 5 inherited his fiefdom, if anyone's?
 6 **A. Yes. Yes, I think that's true. There was a -- Bishop**
 7 **Nicholas Reade would tell you that there was a worry**
 8 **about the quality of the appointments in the east, which**
 9 **were felt by -- there were a lot of complaints about the**
 10 **quality of the appointments.**
 11 Q. What do you mean by "the quality of the appointments"?
 12 Was that anything to do with safeguarding or was it just
 13 they couldn't give a sermon or they didn't turn up on
 14 time?
 15 **A. No, generally, clergy that were not on top of their**
 16 **game. Nicholas Reade and I set about to change that.**
 17 **If it was a fiefdom, it was a fiefdom that needed to**
 18 **come up to scratch a bit.**
 19 Q. I think we will find that there were a number of -- as
 20 we will come on to find, there were a cluster of
 21 individuals, shall we say, within the East Sussex area,
 22 the majority of whom have now been convicted of child
 23 sexual offending, all of whom I believe were appointed
 24 during Peter Ball's tenure. That's correct, isn't it?
 25 **A. Absolutely, that's right.**

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1 Q. If we can sort of move back to the area scheme, you said
 2 that you were responsible for, as I understand it,
 3 appointments, and there were two other things -- I'm
 4 afraid it's slipped my mind?
 5 **A. Ordinations and institutions.**
 6 Q. Yes, and institutions.
 7 **A. Institutions just means the conducting of the services**
 8 **of a new vicar or a new priest in charge.**
 9 Q. Therefore, you had a significant degree of
 10 responsibility, but you were also, obviously, subject to
 11 the diocesan bishop -- as Bishop John identified last
 12 week, there's no real line management responsibility
 13 between a diocesan bishop and an area bishop, is there?
 14 He wasn't your boss in any strict sense of the word?
 15 **A. I would have always thought of him as -- nicely, as my**
 16 **boss.**
 17 Q. Right.
 18 **A. There was a sense of line management, in that all**
 19 **appointments, although I got on with them, were always**
 20 **shared and talked about at senior staff meetings.**
 21 Q. Okay.
 22 **A. His perspective on things was listened to. So although**
 23 **delegated responsibility, it was also collective**
 24 **responsibility, really.**
 25 Q. How often would you meet with Bishop John and other

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<p>1 senior colleagues at the senior staff meetings?</p> <p>2 A. The senior staff meeting was once a month, and in</p> <p>3 Bishop Eric's time, there was a supplementary meeting of</p> <p>4 the three bishops, always once a month. I think,</p> <p>5 looking back, the fact that that changed into an</p> <p>6 occasional bishops' meeting was not always helpful</p> <p>7 because -- but in Bishop Eric's time, it was always once</p> <p>8 a month. In Bishop John's time, it was irregular. And</p> <p>9 that was a useful place to be able to talk about things</p> <p>10 in more detail.</p> <p>11 Q. How often would you, during the course of those</p> <p>12 meetings, discuss safeguarding -- either issues</p> <p>13 generally or issues in respect of clergy against whom</p> <p>14 allegations had been made?</p> <p>15 A. In the monthly staff meeting, there was a section which</p> <p>16 said "Problem cases". Any clergy or parishes that had</p> <p>17 any problems were discussed at the senior staff meeting.</p> <p>18 But particularly worrying things, like safeguarding,</p> <p>19 would have been reported to the diocesan bishop.</p> <p>20 I believe it to have been my responsibility for him to</p> <p>21 know about them -- either the DSA or him to know about.</p> <p>22 For either him to know and raise with the DSA or for the</p> <p>23 DSA to know and raise with him, but both needed to know.</p> <p>24 Q. If you were talking about senior staff meetings being</p> <p>25 less frequent, were there alternative forms of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 One of the lovely things about this inquiry is an</p> <p>2 opportunity for us to get things better, and one thing</p> <p>3 that really needs to be really given attention is</p> <p>4 anybody in posts of extra responsibility needs to be</p> <p>5 doubly prepared for any issues.</p> <p>6 Q. So you would feel, in retrospect, that you needed not</p> <p>7 just basic safeguarding training but specific training</p> <p>8 about how to manage allegations and how to lead in these</p> <p>9 sorts of situations?</p> <p>10 A. I should say that there was some training pretty soon,</p> <p>11 in September 1997 done by Janet Hind, but it would have</p> <p>12 been helpful, I think, to have had more on the way in.</p> <p>13 Q. Whilst you were bishop, you mentioned safeguarding</p> <p>14 training with Janet Hind in 1997.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you undergo any other training, particularly in</p> <p>17 managing or dealing with safeguarding from a leadership</p> <p>18 perspective?</p> <p>19 A. No, we had some training in 2002 and then later with</p> <p>20 Shirley Hosgood and Roger Meekings, which raised --</p> <p>21 which progressively raised more of those issues.</p> <p>22 Q. But it seems to me that, in total, you're looking at</p> <p>23 maybe two or three days' training over the course of</p> <p>24 the sort of 15 years that you were a bishop; is that</p> <p>25 right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 communication? I don't think the WhatsApp group had</p> <p>2 been invented by the time you left your tenure, but</p> <p>3 a round robin email certainly would have been common</p> <p>4 during the first decade of this century?</p> <p>5 A. Can I just correct you, if I may. The senior staff</p> <p>6 meetings remained monthly always.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 A. It was the bishops' meeting of the three of us that</p> <p>9 became a little bit irregular.</p> <p>10 Q. Thank you. I wasn't clear.</p> <p>11 A. But the senior staff meeting was always regular.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you have frequent communication by telephone or</p> <p>13 email as an alternative to that?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Can I ask you about your background and experience in</p> <p>16 safeguarding at the time when you began your episcopate.</p> <p>17 When you took up your post, what safeguarding training</p> <p>18 had you had?</p> <p>19 A. I hadn't had any, which, looking back, is quite</p> <p>20 shocking.</p> <p>21 Q. So that's 1997?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. I think coming into a situation where in my first</p> <p>23 year I discovered two priests who were -- you know, had</p> <p>24 serious cases against them in safeguarding terms,</p> <p>25 really, there should have been some induction process.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 A. Three or four, I would say.</p> <p>2 Q. Three or four, okay. Did you have any specific training</p> <p>3 in dealing with victims and survivors of sexual abuse or</p> <p>4 providing pastoral support to those who came as adults?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you given any training in managing those who came</p> <p>7 to you as adults, who had been the subject of abuse, in</p> <p>8 terms of the way that you should approach them</p> <p>9 pastorally in respect of giving apologies or in respect</p> <p>10 of managing redress and reparations towards them by the</p> <p>11 church?</p> <p>12 A. No. The kind of -- the general attitude of the church</p> <p>13 was: don't give an apology because of the possible legal</p> <p>14 action. That changed, happily.</p> <p>15 Q. When did that change? Can you roughly tell us when?</p> <p>16 A. Well, the first time it changed was when I broke the</p> <p>17 rules and apologised to Phil Johnson, which he</p> <p>18 appreciated, and then later, about two years later,</p> <p>19 I think Bishop John apologised.</p> <p>20 Q. So this would have been -- the sea change would</p> <p>21 therefore have been sometime between 2005 and 2008,</p> <p>22 roughly?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, the conversation with Phil Johnson was 2007.</p> <p>24 Q. With retrospect -- you have already identified -- do you</p> <p>25 consider that the amount of training you had whilst in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

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<p>1 post was adequate and sufficient to meet your needs as 2 a bishop? 3 A. Let me tell you, if I could have had any more training 4 that would have made a better and clearer response to 5 safeguarding issues, I would have been glad to have it, 6 and looking back, there wasn't enough, I don't think. 7 Q. Do you have any particular recommendations, from the 8 role that you undertook for a long period of time as 9 a senior member of clergy, about any specific training 10 that you wish you had had? 11 A. I think that there was a particular issue in our diocese 12 because -- which is less an issue now, but Eastbourne 13 was something of a retired -- a capital for retired 14 clergy, with, I think, over 100 at one stage in the 15 diocese of retired clergy. Therefore, the whole issue 16 of -- I had an area which was bigger than a number of 17 dioceses in the Church of England, so it was difficult 18 to keep on top of the retired clergy as well -- in fact, 19 impossible, really -- and I think that the whole issue 20 of the supervision of the giving of PTOs and the 21 monitoring of PTOs in retirement is a big subject which 22 needs tightening up, and I understand has been tightened 23 up considerably since my time, but I think there is room 24 for more improvement. 25 Q. If we can sort of pass on to permission to officiate or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 "Initially, during my time as area bishop, PTO 2 requests came to my office, directly to my PA. My PA 3 was given special training as to what to do next 4 (ie what checks to undertake and what paperwork to fill 5 in). If the applicants were from outside the diocese, 6 the diocesan bishop's chaplain was asked to check if 7 everything was in order in the relevant blue file." 8 Which I didn't have access to. 9 Q. We will come on to the record keeping in a moment. 10 A. "The applications were then referred to me and, if there 11 were any issues, I would raise them with the diocesan 12 bishop and at the bishop's staff meeting. PTO was not 13 granted until all these checks had taken place." 14 Q. You say that that was the position throughout your 15 tenure? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. But of course if individuals -- I think we will come on 18 to see specific examples of that. If the record keeping 19 and the paperwork wasn't good from other dioceses, you 20 wouldn't necessarily know of problems until they emerged 21 and the individuals were arrested. That's right, isn't 22 it? 23 A. Exactly. 24 Q. Can we turn now on to record keeping. Now, we have 25 heard from other witnesses of about -- I think there are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 PTO, as it is known, within the church, you were 2 responsible for making decisions about who was or wasn't 3 granted permission to officiate during your tenure as 4 a bishop; is that right? 5 A. Yes, that's right. 6 Q. So you had to manage not just the -- I think it is 7 around 400 clergy within your particular patch, so to 8 speak, but also 100 on top of that who were all retired? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. And who you didn't necessarily have anything to do with 11 before they came to retire in the Eastbourne diocese? 12 A. No. 13 Q. So they would have been completely new to you. So when 14 individuals arrived in your diocese who hadn't 15 necessarily been parish priests within it, would you 16 have interviewed them or how did the process work to try 17 to make sure that it was appropriate to grant them 18 permission to officiate? 19 A. I have set out in my witness statement at paragraphs 13 20 and 14 of the first witness statement -- 21 Q. Just for the record -- I don't think we can get the 22 witness statements up -- oh, we can now. That's 23 WPB000047_013 through to WPB000047_014. 24 A. It is perhaps just worth drawing attention or even 25 reading 13.1:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 four different sets of files that could have been kept 2 on individuals which may have raised safeguarding 3 issues. Firstly, we have had a lot of discussion, but 4 let's talk a little bit about the blue files. These 5 are, as I understand it, the sort of confidential clergy 6 files which were kept centrally at the palace in 7 Chichester. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Would you have had access to the blue files during your 10 tenure? 11 A. No. My understanding was, I had no access to the blue 12 files until about 2004, when Bishop Lindsay, the other 13 area bishop at the time, raised a question about, could 14 he see the blue file on somebody, and Bishop John said 15 yes. But it wasn't -- it wasn't a kind of permission -- 16 "Fine, any time" sort of permission; there had to be 17 a real reason to be granted access, which was, at that 18 stage only -- access to the blue files was the diocesan 19 bishop, the diocesan bishop's chaplain and his PA, in 20 terms of putting things into the blue file and, to my 21 utter horror, I didn't discover until 2010 that the DSAs 22 did not have access to the blue files, which I always 23 assumed they would have. 24 Q. So you assumed they had access to the blue files? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 Q. In fact, they didn't. So you wouldn't actively have 2 gone to check? You wouldn't have -- if not yourself, 3 then you wouldn't have said to your PA, "Could you go 4 over to the palace in Chichester and check to make sure 5 that the blue file doesn't have a conviction, for 6 example, on it?"</p> <p>7 A. That wasn't my understanding of our responsibility. Our 8 responsibility, if in doubt about something, was to 9 raise it with the diocesan bishop's office and with him 10 in particular if it was -- appeared to be a serious 11 issue.</p> <p>12 Q. You also had your own personnel files on individuals -- 13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- which would have been kept in your home office? 15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Would those personnel files have had things like CRB 17 checks and allegations -- they would have been placed in 18 those files; is that right? 19 A. They would have been -- we would have had copies of 20 things in our files. And all sorts of things, like, you 21 know, parish visits and all sorts of things like that.</p> <p>22 Q. Would CRB checks -- because it would have been -- the 23 CRB checking was done by you at an area bishop level 24 rather than at a diocesan level during this time. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Safeguarding files. Would they have been shared 2 with you? Would those documents have then been placed 3 on the area file so that there was a --</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. No.</p> <p>6 A. In fact, I have only yesterday, for the very first time, 7 seen the safeguarding files on Cotton and Pritchard.</p> <p>8 Q. They were matters which were kept by the diocesan 9 safeguarding adviser. There is then, as I understand 10 it, also something called a parish file --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- which is kept centrally by the diocese, which is -- 13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Would you have ever had access to those files? 15 A. It wasn't really kind of -- that wasn't really necessary 16 because we kept our own parish files, which is, again, 17 details of confirmations and missions and roofs and all 18 sorts of things happening at a local parish level. But 19 the sort of -- any issues would have revolved around the 20 clergy files.</p> <p>21 Q. As I understand it, you identify -- we dealt with this 22 with Bishop John in his evidence -- that on or around 23 the time that the Data Protection Act came into force, 24 which I think was October 2001 -- 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Q. Would you and your PA, in effect, have been responsible 2 for making sure that all that information went onto the 3 blue file?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, it was passed to the palace. That was the 5 responsibility of my PA, and of me, to send them to the 6 palace.</p> <p>7 It just -- I need to add one other thing, is that on 8 the retirement of any of those clergy, the blue file -- 9 anything we had on our files was sent to be included in 10 the blue file.</p> <p>11 Q. But whilst people were sort of active or even if they 12 were retired, would the diocesan safeguarding adviser 13 have had access to your -- I suppose I will call them an 14 area file, so to speak? 15 A. Yes. I said to all the DSAs, "You have open access to 16 my files". I didn't -- I offered that on a number of 17 occasions.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. There was never any restriction for the DSA coming and 20 looking at my files.</p> <p>21 Q. There were also records which the diocesan safeguarding 22 advisers kept called -- I think we are going to call 23 them safeguarding files. I don't know what colour they 24 were. I think there's been some discussion in fact they 25 might have been red, but let's pass over on that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. -- Bishop John asked you to "fillet" files, I think is 2 the word that was used.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What did you take that to mean and what did that 5 therefore mean you got rid of or, if not you personally, 6 somebody on your behalf? 7 A. I took it to mean -- I was quite concerned about this, 8 really, because we were warned about the 9 Data Protection Act and people having access to files. 10 But it seemed to me tremendously important that 11 important information wasn't lost from files. So my PA 12 and wife looked at our files, and while I don't remember 13 the actual specific details, the gist of what they were 14 asked to do was to get rid of "Thank you" letters and, 15 you know, peripheral stuff, but anything of any serious 16 nature was not culled out of my files.</p> <p>17 Q. I think the word that Bishop John used was "ephemera", 18 so, "Thank you very much for a splendid sermon" or, 19 "Thank you very much for giving my son's baptism?" 20 A. That's why he's a diocesan bishop. He uses nice words 21 like that.</p> <p>22 Q. So far as you're aware, within the context of your area, 23 no files -- no safeguarding difficulties or allegations 24 were removed from the file during that point in time? 25 A. Absolutely not. I had -- as you may know, I had some</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

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<p>1 worries about the removal of things from the blue files 2 in the palace, but not from my files. 3 Q. Bishop John, however, said that, in retrospect, what may 4 have gone as part and parcel of that filleting would 5 have been information which to the outside observer 6 would have been, you know, ephemera, but which could 7 have built up a picture of somebody who maybe had 8 a tendency to engage in unlawful sexual conduct against 9 children. 10 Do you agree that those sorts of -- I mean, what 11 could have been called sort of mischievous letters, 12 I suppose, from disgruntled parishioners, "You need to 13 watch Father X", you know, "he's always around teenage 14 boys", or maybe not even anything as obvious as that. 15 Do you think it may have been possible that some of that 16 kind of material was filleted? 17 A. From where? 18 Q. From your files when Bishop John asked you to fillet 19 them in 2001 for data protection reasons? 20 A. Definitely not. The thing you have just described would 21 ring alarm bells, but definitely not. The filleting of 22 our files was very minimal and really just the things 23 you could chuck away, largely "Thank you" letters or 24 details of an upcoming service that nobody needed to 25 know about in future. But any character things --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 at the training day in September 1997 and made 2 a handwritten note accordingly." 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Was that, therefore, your practice in respect of 5 disciplinary obligations throughout your tenure as 6 Bishop of Lewes? 7 A. It was. 8 Q. Even though certainly national guidance changed in 2004 9 and identified quite clearly that, even if there hadn't 10 been a police prosecution -- I don't think I need to 11 take you to "Protecting All God's Children" 2004, but 12 suffice it to say there are specific paragraphs within 13 that document which identify that, even if somebody 14 isn't prosecuted, or charges are dropped, that does not 15 mean that an individual is necessarily safe, and that an 16 appropriate risk assessment should take place? 17 A. Yes, I was aware of that change, but believed it to be 18 something that the DSA would handle and deal with at an 19 appropriate level. 20 Q. So your view -- I used 14.1 really as a springboard in 21 order to ask you, does this sort of sum up your view as 22 to your responsibilities and that of the diocesan 23 safeguarding adviser and that of the diocesan bishop, 24 which was that you were responsible for reporting 25 matters to them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 I should also say that you asked me about parish files 2 and maybe you had in mind there, if there were any 3 issues about church wardens or parishioners behaving 4 badly, that would have been taken out of the parish file 5 and dealt with, and sent to the DSA. But, no, the 6 culling in our files was -- my wife is behind me and she 7 is there to correct me, but she and the PA, it was very 8 minimal, really. 9 Q. Can I ask you about your view of the -- I am now going 10 to turn to another topic, which is your view of 11 the responsibilities for safeguarding for yourself and 12 that which lay with the diocesan safeguarding adviser? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Firstly, can I ask you to turn to paragraph 14.1, in 15 which you identify that you were told that no 16 disciplinary -- this is WPB000047_014. This is to do 17 with PTO, but I think it would probably apply to those 18 who were in situ, so to speak, as well as those who had 19 retired: 20 "I would report the matter to the DSA and the 21 diocesan bishop. Indeed, I was told that no 22 disciplinary action could safely be taken without 23 a police prosecution, caution or conviction and that we 24 would be liable to legal action ourselves if we did so. 25 From memory, I received this instruction from Janet Hind</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And then what happened after that was their business, 3 not yours? 4 A. Yes. We might well be -- I might well be the first port 5 of call, and there would be an initial handling of an 6 incident by -- a complaint or whatever by the archdeacon 7 and myself, but we were under obligation to report it to 8 the DSA and/or the diocesan bishop, who had ultimate 9 responsibility for safeguarding matters. 10 I never, ever thought that I had ultimate -- I had 11 absolutely serious responsibility, as we all have in 12 safeguarding issues, and cannot duck that, and 13 I wouldn't want to, but the ultimate responsibility was 14 with the diocesan bishop. 15 Q. So you would say that, in respect of whether or not you 16 should investigate complaints which had been made -- 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. -- if you should take action -- 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. -- if charges were dropped, that wasn't your 21 responsibility? 22 A. No. It was to listen to the advice of the DSA. 23 Q. If you felt that the diocesan safeguarding adviser had 24 made a wrong decision or hadn't made a decision -- for 25 example, had failed to do something -- do you think it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 would be your role to do something in place of her or 2 him, or not?</p> <p>3 A. It's interesting. I was looking this weekend over notes 4 of a training event in 2010, I think it was, and that 5 very issue is raised in my notes in the thing as 6 somewhat unresolved. Roger Meekings said that that 7 needed to be cleared up. But my understanding would be 8 that if the professional -- the professional advice of 9 the DSA needed to be taken very seriously. If, for good 10 reasons -- for very good reasons -- we disagreed with 11 that, that would be something that Bishop John would 12 need to decide about and make a decision about it, 13 because the issue was, the DSAs were called diocesan 14 safeguarding advisers, and the question was always, was 15 the advice obligatory or was it very serious, and it was 16 always very serious, almost obligatory, but would there 17 be some occasions when it might be disagreed with? It 18 seemed to me that that was Bishop John's decision, not 19 mine.</p> <p>20 Q. So, therefore, you wouldn't have seen it was your 21 responsibility that matters were referred, for example, 22 to the local police force?</p> <p>23 A. No. I mean, if, during my time, my responsibility had 24 been to report things to the police and I didn't do 25 that, that would be a serious dereliction of duty. But</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Obviously it is not just the police, there is also 2 social services, who provide a very valuable role in 3 investigating matters, particularly in respect of people 4 who are children, but also adults, if those individuals 5 are still in positions of trust and responsibility. 6 Did you ever refer a matter directly, yourself, to 7 social services where you were concerned?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Again, whose responsibility do you consider it was 10 during your tenure?</p> <p>11 A. It was clearly -- in the safeguarding guidelines in 1997 12 produced by Janet Hind, it was clearly the 13 responsibility of the DSA to liaise with the police or 14 with the social services about any issue. In other 15 words, it could have been -- you can see at that point, 16 it could have been very confusing for statutory 17 authorities to know, who am I talking to when I talk to 18 the church? The idea was to have one point of contact 19 at that stage.</p> <p>20 I can now see that, actually, with the benefit of 21 hindsight, a few points of contact would have been 22 better. It would have been a belt and braces.</p> <p>23 Q. Given that you would have been responsible for 24 supervising some individuals about whom concerns arose, 25 or whether in retirement or inactive, or you would have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 that was not my understanding during my time that -- 2 the one point of contact with the police designed to be 3 that was the DSA, and in fact Baroness Butler-Sloss said 4 that in her report in 2011 and the Archbishop of York 5 said it too, that it wasn't the responsibility of 6 the bishop to report things directly to the police up 7 until that time.</p> <p>8 Q. In retrospect, do you think it should have been your 9 responsibility? So looking back with the benefit of 10 hindsight, you say, "Well, you know, my job was to refer 11 things to the diocesan safeguarding adviser. It was 12 then her job to refer things on to statutory 13 authorities". If you had your time again, having gone 14 through what could be described as a series of grave 15 difficulties in respect of safeguarding within your 16 diocese, what would you say to a bishop about what their 17 responsibilities should be in that respect?</p> <p>18 A. Honestly, I would walk over hot coals to do it better, 19 if I could. I entirely agree with the change from 2011, 20 the advice that in a serious criminal matter you go 21 directly to the police, and, actually, I did, at the 22 very end of my time, hand over some material directly to 23 the police about Peter Ball, which proved to be not very 24 significant, but nonetheless I did.</p> <p>25 Q. How about making referrals to statutory agencies?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 been responsible for ultimate ministry within their 2 parishes, or in effect you were the pastor, the superior 3 pastor, shall we say, in the context of the area scheme, 4 did you not consider or did you not think it was 5 appropriate for you to follow up concerns that you had 6 with the diocesan safeguarding adviser and/or, if 7 necessary, to intervene if you felt that the DSA wasn't 8 doing what you thought was appropriate?</p> <p>9 A. I felt at the time that if the DSA wasn't doing what 10 I felt to be appropriate, the right thing to do was to 11 raise that with Bishop John. I never felt that the 12 advice I was given was actually wrong. You know, as far 13 as I was concerned, the DSAs that I had to deal with -- 14 Janet Hind and Tony Selwood -- were in contact with the 15 police and the social services at every point where they 16 needed to be. Particularly, there was a big development 17 under Tony Selwood's time, and we worked -- he and 18 I worked very closely together.</p> <p>19 So I was not unhappy about what I thought was being 20 done. If, looking back, I discover some things were not 21 done that I didn't know about, I am desperately sorry 22 about that.</p> <p>23 Q. Can I identify, just for the record, you talked about 24 there being a change in 2011. That came as a result of 25 Baroness Butler-Sloss's report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Just to identify, just so that everybody has it on the 3 record, that report is -- we don't need to get it up, 4 Paul -- OHY000186, and the recommendation at page 22 was 5 that communication by a member of the police to the 6 clergy and vice versa is essential when there is 7 important information about a potential criminal 8 investigation. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. So whilst Baroness Butler-Sloss sort of didn't say it 11 was your fault for not going to the police, she did say 12 that that practice had to change? 13 A. Yes, and I entirely agree with that suggestion. 14 Q. As well, I suppose, some people might say, whilst you 15 did have a diocesan safeguarding adviser, you were 16 ultimately, as area bishop -- took responsibility for 17 the administration of the parish and for the 18 safeguarding and care of children and adults within your 19 area. 20 Given that, do you not think that, even though the 21 diocesan safeguarding adviser has a strong technical and 22 administrative role, it was still for you to show 23 leadership in respect of safeguarding by doing things 24 like disciplining individuals, reporting people to the 25 police and, really, as well as the diocesan safeguarding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. Secondly, Tony Selwood: how often would you 2 speak to him and what was your relationship with him? 3 You said you had a very close relationship with him in 4 the evidence you have just given? 5 A. I had a very good relationship with Tony Selwood. 6 I mean, one of the sadnesses about all this is that, if 7 he was still alive, a lot of the issues would be cleared 8 up, I think, in terms of what he did or what he didn't 9 do. But he was very helpful, and there was a lot of 10 progress at that time in safeguarding in the diocese. 11 He was both very professional but very easy to talk to 12 and very eager to help. I suppose because things were 13 beginning to develop in my patch from the problems I'd 14 inherited, I began to talk to him -- because they were 15 developing in the early noughties when he took over. 16 I began to talk to him quite a lot. 17 But we didn't have a regular meeting. We had 18 meetings whenever anything came up. 19 Q. I understand that you may have had discussions about 20 cases over a drink. With hindsight, was that 21 appropriate? 22 A. I don't ever remember a case -- talking about a case 23 over a drink. I remember many phone conversations and 24 I remember him popping in to chat, and he may have been 25 given a cup of coffee. But the idea of meeting in a pub</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 adviser? Sort of leading from the front, I suppose 2 might be the way that you would call it. 3 A. I entirely agree that we have a duty to lead, and that 4 might be clearer now than it was then, but I just want 5 to remind you that any ultimate disciplinary action was 6 never mine to take. That was not part of the delegation 7 to area bishops. Disciplinary action is not -- was not 8 my responsibility. It was the diocesan's 9 responsibility. 10 Q. However, you could have asked your archdeacon to lay -- 11 as I understand it, in effect, it is the archdeacon 12 which undertakes the first stages of a disciplinary 13 complaint? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Whether under the previous regime before CDM was brought 16 into force or under the CDM regime from 2006 onwards. 17 That's right, isn't it? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Can we now turn to ask about your relationship with 20 various diocesan safeguarding advisers. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Your first diocesan safeguarding adviser was Janet Hind? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. How would you describe your relationship with her? 25 A. Fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 over a pint to talk about safeguarding, we never did 2 that at all. 3 Q. I understand that after a brief period after 4 Tony Selwood tragically died, then Janet Hind took the 5 reins, and then Stephen Barber, and then Shirley Hosgood 6 was the diocesan safeguarding adviser from 2007 to 2010. 7 How would you characterise your relationship with 8 Ms Hosgood? 9 A. Initially, it was okay. I think that -- I want to be 10 scrupulously fair to Shirley. I think that she raised 11 the level of safeguarding further; that her inclinations 12 were right; and her desires were right about advancing 13 safeguarding and tightening procedures and controls. My 14 problem with Ms Hosgood was that she went about it in 15 quite an aggressive manner, and that caused quite 16 a number of difficulties, not only with me, but with 17 a number of people. 18 Q. When you say an aggressive manner -- obviously, we have 19 had the benefit of having had Ms Hosgood come and give 20 us evidence. I wouldn't necessarily have described her 21 as aggressive. 22 A. No. 23 Q. Was her demeanour to you during that time significantly 24 different than when she came to give evidence to us 25 before this inquiry, or do you mean aggressive in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

1 a different way?
 2 **A. Could you explain to me more what you mean?**
 3 Q. Well, I mean, there are different ways in which people
 4 can be aggressive.
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. There is the shouting and stamping your feet and
 7 bullying type of aggression --
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. -- or there is what some people might call sort of
 10 passive aggression, which isn't sort of directly saying,
 11 "I think that you are rubbish" or being sort of nasty,
 12 but is sort of subtly doing so, without necessarily
 13 raising one's voice?
 14 **A. It certainly would have been the latter. We never had**
 15 **words of anger between us at all. I was rather --**
 16 **I think that she -- well, this is opinion, and you're**
 17 **more concerned with fact than opinion, but if I am asked**
 18 **for opinion, I think she came with a chip on her**
 19 **shoulder from her previous job that bishops didn't**
 20 **listen to safeguarding advice and clergy didn't either.**
 21 **I think that affected her. I remember one of the early**
 22 **training events -- the earliest that she did --**
 23 **actually, interestingly enough, with her friend**
 24 **Roger Meekings. They were for the senior staff team,**
 25 **but Bishop John wasn't there, which was a pity. They**

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1 were overtly aggressive in that, that, "You take our
 2 advice, there is no discussion at all, about anything.
 3 We are the professionals, you are the amateurs". That
 4 was the tone of the meeting, which was very different
 5 from how Tony Selwood would have handled things.
 6 So it was that kind of feeling and, also,
 7 Tony Selwood was trying to help us get better. Shirley
 8 wanted us to get better, but gave the impression of
 9 nitpicking and trying to find us out rather than help us
 10 get better.
 11 Q. Well --
 12 **A. I'm sorry, I don't really like talking about people**
 13 **behind their back.**
 14 Q. No.
 15 **A. And I'm sorry, but you have asked me for my impression.**
 16 **So it was difficult when she began to get nitpicking,**
 17 **I thought, about some things in relation to me that were**
 18 **strange.**
 19 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about a couple of things you have
 20 just said there?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Firstly, you said that during the course of a training
 23 event they said, "We are the professionals, you are the
 24 amateurs". Well, actually, they were right about that.
 25 Not in respect of your pastoral responsibilities

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1 generally, but in respect of safeguarding, you yourself
 2 have identified, you only had three or four days'
 3 training.
 4 **A. Yes, absolutely.**
 5 Q. So in fact, what they were saying was right, really, in
 6 the context of the advice that they were giving you?
 7 **A. Yes, but that's not the way it came across. Absolutely**
 8 **right in that they're the professionals in safeguarding**
 9 **and we need their advice. Absolutely. But it came**
 10 **across as, "We are the professionals. You have nothing**
 11 **to give at all" in this scenario. That just wasn't**
 12 **helpful.**
 13 Q. Can I ask, you said that she was nitpicking.
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Can you remember -- I know it has been a long period of
 16 time -- what you would describe was her nitpicking? Can
 17 you give us any evidence about that, or is it just
 18 generally?
 19 **A. Well, there was the -- you may want to come on to it**
 20 **later. There was the particular issue of passing on**
 21 **a particular blog --**
 22 Q. Right.
 23 **A. -- which she made a huge thing about, in not knowing**
 24 **about in early 2008, later in 2009, when she talked to**
 25 **Phil Johnson, that it had not been -- had it been passed**

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1 to the police in 2008, it would have maybe helped their
 2 investigation into Colin Pritchard.
 3 Q. Yes.
 4 **A. But when you look at the paperwork and the evidence,**
 5 **what you find is that in 2008, in February, she knew all**
 6 **about it, and she was talking to the police about it,**
 7 **and the police said that it didn't help with the**
 8 **Colin Pritchard thing at all, and the original letter**
 9 **from Phil Johnson passing on the blog actually said he**
 10 **was in communication with the police. But she suddenly**
 11 **made the whole thing -- one of the interesting things**
 12 **I've just discovered this week -- this weekend, is that**
 13 **in the CDM against me, it's -- in the chronology, it**
 14 **actually -- I'm not sure how safe this is, actually,**
 15 **because it isn't quite my memory of it, but it's there,**
 16 **that I actually passed the blog to her in February 2008.**
 17 **It is very important to understand about that**
 18 **particular thing that Roy Cotton was dead, and**
 19 **I definitely passed it on to Bishop John for**
 20 **information, but the police, who were the appropriate**
 21 **and most important people to know about it, knew about**
 22 **it and were in contact with Phil Johnson.**
 23 **So it seems she made a huge thing about that, and**
 24 **she made a big thing about it to Phil Johnson, that, if**
 25 **only she'd known and, if it had been known, it could**

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1 **have helped the police investigation, but the paperwork**
 2 **shows that she did know and it was being talked to the**
 3 **police about it.**
 4 Q. If I could just clarify a couple of issues, this is
 5 about somebody who we know as A31.
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. We won't identify him by anything else.
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. As I understand it, the chronology of the events is that
 10 you received a blog concerning A31's concerns about
 11 Reverend Cotton and Reverend Pritchard in December 2007.
 12 You passed that to Ms Hosgood only in February 2008.
 13 So, as I understand it, the concern from Mr Johnson and
 14 Ms Hosgood -- I can't entirely remember when
 15 Colin Pritchard pleaded guilty, but I think it was
 16 sometime slightly later that year, I think it was April
 17 or May 2008.
 18 So I think what their point was, was that you
 19 hadn't -- we were going to come on to it later, but we
 20 might as well deal with it now. The point that they
 21 wish, I suppose, me to make to you is that, had that
 22 information been passed three months earlier, it could
 23 have been part and parcel or could have formed part of
 24 Northamptonshire Police's case against Mr Pritchard
 25 and/or other information?

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1 **A. Well, two things to bear in mind there. One is that,**
 2 **when the police got it, they said it didn't help in**
 3 **relation to Pritchard; but much, much more**
 4 **importantly -- and Bishop John read this the same way --**
 5 **it was passed to me by Phil Johnson saying that he'd**
 6 **been in contact with the police and the police had asked**
 7 **him not to be in contact with me.**
 8 **So I assumed that the police knew about it. In**
 9 **fact, he was talking to the police about it. I assumed**
 10 **that he sent it to me just for information and not for**
 11 **action, and Bishop John felt that too.**
 12 Q. Can I just ask: did you ever have a discussion with the
 13 police -- during this period of time, did you ever
 14 directly discuss matters or allegations which had been
 15 raised with the police and vice versa? Did they come
 16 and see you and say, "Can we have a look at your files?
 17 Can we see this? Can we see that?"
 18 **A. No. If they had, they would have been welcome to see my**
 19 **files, and I would have been glad to see them. I helped**
 20 **them any way I could, but at no time during my time as**
 21 **bishop did the police come to see me at all, except at**
 22 **the very end when I requested to pass over something**
 23 **about Peter Ball.**
 24 Q. Which would have been 2011/2012?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. So, for example, during all -- a number of individuals
 2 were arrested, particularly 1997, 1998 and 1999.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. We no longer have the Sussex Police case files for that.
 5 To the best of your recollection, did they ever come and
 6 see you or your PA and say, "Can we have files? Have
 7 you got any background information?"
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Okay.
 10 **A. At no point was that ever done.**
 11 MS SCOLDING: Chair, I don't know whether this would be
 12 a convenient moment to take a short break?
 13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Scolding. Yes, we will return at
 14 11.35 am.
 15 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much.
 16 (11.20 am)
 17 (A short break)
 18 (11.36 am)
 19 MS SCOLDING: Bishop Wallace, I understand that there is
 20 something you would like to say about the lead you took
 21 in respect of safeguarding within the context of your
 22 area episcopate.
 23 **A. Thank you very much.**
 24 Q. Episcopacy, in fact. Apologies.
 25 **A. Don't worry. Thank you very much for the opportunity of**

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1 **just adding something to a question you legitimately**
 2 **asked me but I misunderstood. The best way that I could**
 3 **take a lead in safeguarding was to talk to the rural**
 4 **deans whom I worked closely with who were in charge of**
 5 **groupings of parishes, and I, on a number of occasions,**
 6 **asked them to make sure that at deanery meetings the**
 7 **safeguarding officer was invited, that safeguarding was**
 8 **regularly on the agenda, and that, in the light of**
 9 **the seriousness of the issue, they would do their level**
 10 **best to make sure that safeguarding was exemplary in the**
 11 **parishes of their deaneries.**
 12 **So I got folk -- I tried to get folk to engage with**
 13 **the issue and invite relevant people. Maybe there could**
 14 **have been more done, but I thought that was the best way**
 15 **to do it.**
 16 Q. I'm now going to turn to ask you about your relationship
 17 and the issues which arose out of a number of specific
 18 individuals. The first individual I am going to ask you
 19 about is the Reverend Roy Cotton.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Firstly, you came into post, as I understand it,
 22 in May 1997, but in fact you were commuting until the
 23 end of June 1997; is that right?
 24 **A. I was consecrated on 1 May, the same day as Tony Blair**
 25 **was made Prime Minister, which has nothing to do with**

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<p>1 anything, except just a useless bit of information. But 2 I didn't begin work until the end of June and commuted 3 from the end of June until the end of July when we moved 4 house. 5 Q. Approximately four months, roughly, after your arrival 6 within the diocese, Roy Cotton is arrested? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. So did you know anything about Reverend Cotton prior to 9 his arrest? 10 A. Nothing at all. 11 Q. What involvement, if any, did you have with 12 Reverend Cotton whilst the police investigations were 13 ongoing? Did you accompany him to the police station? 14 Did you obtain pastoral support from him? Anything like 15 that? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Obviously he was arrested in November 1997 for a series 18 of serious sexual offences against Mr Johnson. Did you 19 consider suspending him from office when he was 20 arrested? 21 A. The advice from the DSA at that stage was to suspend -- 22 not to suspend, but to make sure there was no contact 23 with children. That was the advice at the time. 24 Q. I understand that. But I'm assuming that at that 25 particular point in time he was a parish priest, wasn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 The way an archdeacon would do that would be to talk to 2 a rural dean who knows what's going on with the clergy 3 in his deanery. 4 Q. But you can't remember -- I don't think we have any 5 paperwork which identifies -- for example, later on, we 6 have examples of sort of safeguarding plans and things 7 like that? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. So there were express written agreements. You can't 10 remember anything like that being put in place? 11 A. I'm sorry, I can't. 12 Q. The fact that Janet Hind said, "Well, don't suspend him, 13 but make sure that he doesn't have any contact with 14 children", did you consider going against her advice, 15 given the nature and seriousness of the allegations? 16 A. You need to know that I didn't know what the allegations 17 were, and I didn't know who the people were that the 18 allegations were made against. 19 Q. So how do you find out? Are you literally just told, 20 "Reverend Cotton has been arrested"? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Do you even know what it was for? 23 A. "And allegations have been made against him". 24 Q. But the nature of those allegations? So it could have 25 been he was stealing from the church plate?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 he? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Of a parish, I understand, in Eastbourne? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Therefore, how could you, practically, have stopped him 6 having contact with children? And how did you try to 7 enforce that particular diktat? 8 A. That's a very good question, and it's very -- it is very 9 difficult to monitor. You know, a bishop can say 10 something and you assume that clergymen will take it 11 seriously, but it doesn't always happen. It's very 12 difficult to monitor. 13 I can't honestly remember at this particular point 14 in time, because it is so long ago, what was done to 15 actually reinforce that, but he was -- we talked -- 16 Nicholas Reade and I talked about it with Janet Hind, 17 and there was a curtailment that he not be involved in 18 any services involving children. How that exactly was 19 enforced at the time, I don't remember, I'm afraid. 20 Q. Who would have been in charge of enforcing it? Would it 21 have been your archdeacon, Nicholas Reade, or would it 22 have been -- 23 A. It really would have been the DSA to tell us what to do 24 and then -- and the archdeacon on the ground, who is the 25 troubleshooter for a bishop, to spot how it's going.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 A. Oh, no, I knew it was a safeguarding issue, but what the 2 nature of it was or the seriousness of it was I didn't 3 know. 4 Q. Did you not think to say to either Janet or with the 5 benefit of hindsight, shouldn't you have gone to the 6 police and said, "Look, this man is still under my 7 pastoral care. I need to make sure that children are 8 safe. You need to tell me, what is he alleged to have 9 done?" They needn't have told you in any great detail, 10 but, you know, the rough picture? 11 A. The contact in those days between the bishop and the 12 police was the DSA. I assumed that that kind of -- or 13 those kind of conversations were going on between the 14 DSA and the police and that she was the professional to 15 advise me what could and couldn't be done. 16 Back in those days, we were kind of -- there was 17 a real tension of worry that if you took -- if you 18 didn't take enough action, it was wrong, obviously, but 19 if you took too much action, you could find yourself in 20 litigation -- a litigation situation. I think that's 21 all I can say, that the DSA was talking to the police. 22 Q. So in fact, what you are trying to say is that the 23 balance that you struck might not have been struck 24 correctly in that you were trying to balance two -- 25 well, isn't this a fundamental difficulty with the role</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 of a bishop in the context of safeguarding: on the one 2 hand, you are responsible for the safety and welfare of 3 children, which should be paramount? 4 A. Which is paramount. 5 Q. On the other hand, you are also responsible for the 6 safety and welfare of the clergy in your care? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Striking that balance can be very difficult, I would 9 imagine, on occasions? 10 A. Well, it's not a balance of equals. 11 Q. Right. 12 A. The care of children is -- in the light of what Jesus 13 said about anyone who offends against these little ones, 14 it is better that a millstone is put around his neck and 15 cast into the deepest sea, the church must have the care 16 and welfare of children as number 1 on the agenda. But 17 there are other responsibilities. 18 Looking back now, with the benefit of hindsight, and 19 with the advances in safeguarding, I would have loved to 20 have felt I could have, and indeed did, query things 21 a bit more. But I didn't feel I was able to at that 22 stage. 23 Q. It strikes me that one of the reasons you didn't feel 24 able to was partly because you felt the responsibility 25 was that of the diocesan safeguarding adviser; secondly,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 Q. An obvious step could have been -- I know that the 2 Clergy Discipline Measure wasn't in place, but there was 3 a forerunner to it which I think we have heard everybody 4 thought wasn't terribly good, but it was something. It 5 did include a complaint in respect of laws 6 ecclesiastical, including conduct unbecoming. I can't 7 think of anything that would be more unbecoming than 8 sexual offending against children. 9 A. That's right. 10 Q. So the fact that you didn't have the information from 11 the police, did that therefore hamper your ability to 12 undertake effective internal disciplinary action? 13 A. Well, I think -- not me personally, because it would 14 have had to have been taken at a higher level. But it 15 certainly -- you know, one of the things we have learned 16 in all these things, isn't it, is that there needs to be 17 case meetings between the police, the church and the 18 appropriate authorities, and we need to know from one 19 another what's going on. It's very, very important. 20 Although the safeguarding people are the 21 professionals, the church does -- the church was rather 22 dismissed in those days and does have a perspective and 23 a knowledge on the ground that is important in proper 24 handling of things. 25 So, I mean, if there had been better communication,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 because you felt you didn't have a responsibility to the 2 police; but thirdly, and you expressly identify it in 3 your evidence, because of fear of repercussions from the 4 priest if you suspended him and it turned out that there 5 were no problems? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. But suspension is a neutral act, isn't it? I mean, we 8 have heard from various people. Was it considered to be 9 a neutral act at that time, though? 10 A. It is a neutral act, but anybody in the public gallery 11 will know that for certain people it doesn't feel like 12 that and it certainly doesn't feel like that for 13 a clergyman. It doesn't feel like that for a teacher. 14 But it is a neutral act and it needs to be pursued as 15 a neutral act. But in those days, it didn't feel quite 16 like that. 17 Q. So the police weren't continuing their investigation 18 in December 1998. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Can you remember if they said anything to you or any 21 information was passed to you about the nature of 22 the allegations and why they weren't pursuing them? 23 A. No information at all was passed to me about the nature 24 of the allegations or why they weren't pursuing them; 25 just that they weren't pursuing them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 if we had known from the police about the seriousness, 2 but, again, it didn't -- it looked like as if it wasn't 3 that serious because the things had been dropped. 4 Q. Right. 5 A. That's what it looked like. 6 Q. So, in effect, unlike, I think, from -- I mean, there is 7 nothing which is said, as I understand it, in either the 8 national or the diocesan safeguarding guidelines at the 9 time, from 1997/1998, about this particular issue. 10 A. No. 11 Q. But your understanding, therefore, was, if the police 12 aren't pursuing it, it's because there's nothing in it, 13 in effect? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Obviously, that has turned out to be a significantly 16 mistaken assumption on your part? 17 A. Well, I actually -- as you will get on to it, I actually 18 did believe there was something in it. 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. But I had no evidence. 21 Q. Okay. After Roy Cotton was, in effect -- after the 22 police discontinued their investigation, was any 23 supervision or monitoring put in place of him and his -- 24 because he was still, I think, in office then. He 25 retired in 1999, so towards the end of '98/'99?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 A. You would have to ask Janet Hind that. As to the 2 details of that, I don't remember. 3 Q. But you, yourself, can't remember arranging any 4 supervision or monitoring of him? 5 A. Which, again, would have been done through the DSA. 6 Q. However, you identify in your witness statement at 7 paragraph 15.1 -- this is something which comes up in 8 a lot of the documentation -- that you thought he was 9 a villain. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. This is WPB000047_014, paragraph 15.1, chair and panel. 12 It is either two or three sentences down: 13 "I thought Roy Cotton was 'a villain' simply because 14 I did not believe him and his protestations and I told 15 Bishop Eric of my concern and asked him to see Roy." 16 What conversations did you have with Reverend Cotton 17 at the time which led you to believe that he was 18 a villain? 19 A. If you just give me a minute to ... 20 Q. Of course. I will give you a moment. It is page 14 of 21 your first witness statement, if you have got it. 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. I have got it up on screen for you -- 24 A. Oh, yes, sorry. 25 Q. -- Bishop Wallace, if you find it easier.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 been rudeness, it could have been anything. We didn't 2 know what the "something" was. 3 But in conversation with Roy Cotton, he told me 4 about a false accusation having been made against him in 5 1954, but he never told me it was a conviction. He said 6 it was a false accusation which didn't prevent him from 7 being ordained in due course. 8 Q. Did you not -- 9 A. I didn't believe him. 10 Q. If you didn't believe him and you thought he was 11 a villain, did you not ask Bishop Eric -- did you not 12 say to Bishop Eric, "Look, can I have a look at the blue 13 files?", because, had you seen the blue files, you would 14 have seen firstly that -- we will come on to whether you 15 knew or didn't know about the conviction later. But 16 let's assume -- 17 A. I didn't know about it. 18 Q. We will come on to that in a moment. Why didn't you 19 just say to Bishop Eric, "Look, can I have a look at the 20 blue files?" or "Can you go through his blue file?" 21 Because there is obviously a problem here and I need to 22 find out what it is"? 23 A. Well, with the benefit of hindsight, maybe I should have 24 done it that way, but what I did was to say to my boss, 25 "I have a problem with this man. I don't believe him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 A. Thank you very much. Sorry. 15.1? 2 Q. Yes. 3 A. Yes, okay, I'm with you. 4 Q. "I do, however, recall Roy Cotton saying to me that he 5 had been falsely accused previously." 6 We will come on to that in a moment. 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. "I thought Roy Cotton was 'a villain' simply because 9 I did not believe him and his protestations and I told 10 Bishop Eric of my concern and asked him to see Roy." 11 What conversations did you have with Reverend Cotton 12 that made you think he was a villain? You wouldn't have 13 known him. He then was arrested. Did you have 14 conversations with him during the course of the police 15 investigation that led you to believe that? 16 A. Yes, in 1998, I had a conversation with him and I think 17 in 1999. Obviously somebody under investigation at the 18 time, a bishop wants to know from the person themselves, 19 as well as through the proper authorities, and I had 20 a conversation with him which -- when he told me that -- 21 Nicholas Reade had initially told me that there was 22 something had delayed his ordination. That's actually 23 quite an important word, because we didn't know what the 24 "something" was. It could have been anything. It could 25 have been lack of academic achievement, it could have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 But I have no evidence. Therefore, as you are the 2 senior man and the man with the evidence, with the blue 3 file" -- I think I was -- it was fair to depend on 4 Bishop Eric to look into the blue file and to deal with 5 anything that he knew about Roy Cotton from the past, 6 because he'd been around a long time. 7 So I really told my boss I had a problem, I had no 8 evidence, and could he look into it and see him. 9 If I could have done it another way that was more 10 effective, I'm sorry, and I wish I'd done it the other 11 way, but I thought I was doing the best I could do at 12 the time. 13 Q. Bishop Eric, did he report back on your meeting with 14 Reverend Cotton -- with Reverend Cotton? Did he say to 15 you, "Right, I have had a meeting with him and don't 16 worry, Bishop Wallace, everything is okay"? 17 A. Yes, he said to me, "In my opinion, it is all right. 18 He's been badly handled by the police. You can give him 19 PTO", and there is evidence of that in a letter from 20 Bishop Eric. 21 Q. We will come on to that. You say, and you have said 22 again, that Roy Cotton had told you he had been falsely 23 accused previously? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Did you tell Janet Hind that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 A. I did, yes, and Nicholas Reade; both knew.</p> <p>2 Q. So can we move on to the conviction, if we may. Your</p> <p>3 evidence is that you only found out that Roy Cotton in</p> <p>4 fact had a 1954 conviction for sexual offending against</p> <p>5 a boy in 2001.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And that he was found guilty and placed on probation for</p> <p>8 one year and that he therefore had his ordination -- and</p> <p>9 I think we have lots of background evidence that nobody</p> <p>10 disputes that his ordination was therefore put on hold</p> <p>11 for approximately 12 years --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- and things like he was banned from the Scouts and</p> <p>14 things like that, which I would imagine, in the context</p> <p>15 of 1955, was, you know, very serious indeed.</p> <p>16 Can I ask you now to turn to the account that</p> <p>17 Roger Meekings wrote down in September 2008 and</p> <p>18 then March 2009. It is behind tab 4, chair and panel,</p> <p>19 of your bundle. Paul, if you could get up ANG000178.</p> <p>20 It is a contemporaneous note, as I understand it, that</p> <p>21 Roger Meekings made of a conversation.</p> <p>22 At page 4 of the note -- this is the typed-up</p> <p>23 version of the interview. You can see it was</p> <p>24 a handwritten interview and then there's this. He asked</p> <p>25 you some questions about Roy Cotton's conviction:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 A. With hindsight, yes, but at that point -- my knowledge</p> <p>2 of what that was was from Nicholas Reade, who said --</p> <p>3 initially said something and it was only in the course</p> <p>4 of the interview with Roy Cotton that it became clear it</p> <p>5 was an allegation.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 A. An accusation.</p> <p>8 Q. Can I take you now to ANG000179. Chair and panel, it is</p> <p>9 behind tab 5 of your bundle. It is a contemporaneous</p> <p>10 note of a conversation on 20 April 2009. At page 3, the</p> <p>11 penultimate paragraph, of this note, it says:</p> <p>12 "Seen too much of people being blackened</p> <p>13 (erroneously). [Belief that something, something]</p> <p>14 trivial thing they've done -- not that important --</p> <p>15 can't right off a good guy, just because of a bad</p> <p>16 day ..."</p> <p>17 I'm assuming that that's someone -- because it said</p> <p>18 earlier, "TS was brilliant -- ghosted a letter ...</p> <p>19 "PJ ..."</p> <p>20 So this is all about the Reverend Cotton. Was that,</p> <p>21 therefore, your approach at the time? Were you sort of</p> <p>22 thinking, well, all these allegations date back to the</p> <p>23 1950s. I have got no evidence that he'd done anything</p> <p>24 since that. Therefore, I'm not going to -- can you</p> <p>25 provide some context for why you said that statement?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 "Did he make you aware of [any] previous</p> <p>2 conviction?"</p> <p>3 This is his notes of what he was going to be saying?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. If I can turn back, I think, to page 1 --</p> <p>6 A. Can I just say, when were those questions -- what's the</p> <p>7 date of those questions?</p> <p>8 Q. They were before you -- I think they were</p> <p>9 Roger Meekings' questions that he put to you and then we</p> <p>10 have got his handwritten note of what was then said. So</p> <p>11 on page 1, it says:</p> <p>12 "Discovered ..."</p> <p>13 If I can take you down -- I know it is barely</p> <p>14 legible. Paul, could you get up there something which</p> <p>15 is slightly underlined:</p> <p>16 "Advised NR to look into RC. There was no ..."</p> <p>17 This is about a third of the way down:</p> <p>18 "There was no protocol at the time for this and we</p> <p>19 discovered something on file a long time back."</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Yes? I think that's what that says, and that's what</p> <p>22 Roger Meekings says that it says, "Discovered something</p> <p>23 on file a long time back"?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Could that have been his conviction?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. I remember saying that about you can't -- whatever</p> <p>2 it is.</p> <p>3 Q. "Can't right off a good guy, just because of a bad day"?</p> <p>4 A. Yes. I did say that about -- but not about the</p> <p>5 safeguarding issue.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 A. It was about a dispute in a parish where relationships</p> <p>8 were not good between a vicar's wife and a previous</p> <p>9 vicar's wife, which had been badly handled by the vicar</p> <p>10 in question. But it was nothing to do with safeguarding</p> <p>11 at all.</p> <p>12 Q. Why was it being used in a conversation -- in</p> <p>13 a contemporaneous note of a conversation between</p> <p>14 yourself and Roger Meekings? Was it an offhand remark?</p> <p>15 Because this is nothing to do with squabbling wives?</p> <p>16 A. I don't know. I don't know.</p> <p>17 Q. Can I ask you to turn to --</p> <p>18 A. Can I just say, I would not have felt that. If somebody</p> <p>19 had committed abuse, you don't just say, "Well, that was</p> <p>20 a bad day".</p> <p>21 Q. Can you understand how, in the context of what we are</p> <p>22 talking about and the fact it is in a contemporaneous</p> <p>23 note, it could have been read in that way?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, but a lot of these notes are actually not very</p> <p>25 clear and a bit muddled.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 Q. Yes.</p> <p>2 A. I'd be concerned if you made too much out of what looks</p> <p>3 like a bit of a muddle.</p> <p>4 Q. I'm just taking you to the passage just so that we are</p> <p>5 clear about the situation.</p> <p>6 A. Okay.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I now turn you to, chair and panel, behind tab 6,</p> <p>8 ANG000182. This is Roger Meekings' reflections after</p> <p>9 the meeting. I don't know, but I think it may well be</p> <p>10 a social work tool or, you know, the sort of things you</p> <p>11 do, thinking about things. He indicates:</p> <p>12 "Degree of vagueness -- about preciseness ...</p> <p>13 "Believes that all his information came from NR."</p> <p>14 That's Nicholas Reade:</p> <p>15 "Info DID NOT come from Bishop Eric.</p> <p>16 "Revised his view ..."</p> <p>17 Then he says:</p> <p>18 "Roy Cotton did tell him about his conviction [to</p> <p>19 minimise/it was false accusation].</p> <p>20 "In all likelihood ..."</p> <p>21 I think that's meant to be you, "+ Wallace" I think</p> <p>22 is clerical shorthand for "Bishop":</p> <p>23 "... knew of this by or at his 2nd interview with</p> <p>24 Roy Cotton."</p> <p>25 A. With great respect to Roger Meekings, that's opinion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 the time, having been carried out?</p> <p>2 A. Can I just say about that, I've never seen the blue file</p> <p>3 until this inquiry, and it makes scandalous reading. It</p> <p>4 is a shocking revelation of the number of people</p> <p>5 involved and the suppression, at that point, of</p> <p>6 a conviction about him. I think it's something we have</p> <p>7 to hold up our hands and say, "That's a period and an</p> <p>8 event we ought to be thoroughly ashamed of".</p> <p>9 Q. In fact, you say you didn't see the blue -- but you</p> <p>10 would have seen this chronology which set out --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- shall we say, the extracts from the underlying</p> <p>13 information?</p> <p>14 A. I know, but the full case -- you know, who saw what</p> <p>15 when -- I have never seen until just recently, apart</p> <p>16 from this.</p> <p>17 Q. This is 1998. This is what Roger Meekings then sent to</p> <p>18 you in draft form:</p> <p>19 "Before the police concluded their investigation,</p> <p>20 Bishop Wallace had a second meeting with RC, which arose</p> <p>21 from Bishop Wallace's concerns about RC and the</p> <p>22 allegations. RC advised Bishop Wallace of his</p> <p>23 conviction in 1954 and refers to it as a 'false</p> <p>24 accusation!'"</p> <p>25 Then on the right we see:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 which is not borne out. He believes that Roy Cotton</p> <p>2 told me about his conviction and, to minimise it, said</p> <p>3 it was an accusation. But he wasn't there at the</p> <p>4 interview and that isn't what happened. He's turned</p> <p>5 a speculation into a fact in a way that I think is not</p> <p>6 very helpful at all, if I may say:</p> <p>7 Q. Mr Meekings obviously has given evidence, and he has</p> <p>8 a different view about what you told him.</p> <p>9 A. Fine. But that's -- it is opinion, not fact.</p> <p>10 Q. Roger Meekings subsequently sent you a chronology --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- which is set out at ACE005171_003 and 012. Paul,</p> <p>13 could we zoom in on the entry from 1998, please. It is</p> <p>14 behind tab 6 of your bundle, chair and panel. We need</p> <p>15 to skip over a few pages. I think it is probably</p> <p>16 page 12.</p> <p>17 This is the chronology that was sent to you and to</p> <p>18 various other individuals. If we could go to page 12,</p> <p>19 please, Paul. That's fine. It sets out in some detail</p> <p>20 the quite -- I think what nobody would say was how</p> <p>21 Roy Cotton ever got ordained is something which is</p> <p>22 beyond all of us, really. In particular, if you look at</p> <p>23 the fact that he was pushed through -- I think we all</p> <p>24 accept he appears to have been pushed through ordination</p> <p>25 with none of the proper or appropriate checks, even for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 "This information was not shared with the child</p> <p>2 protection adviser."</p> <p>3 You didn't correct that at the time. I know you</p> <p>4 corrected it subsequently, but when you were first sent</p> <p>5 this draft, you didn't correct that as being erroneous.</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Is there any particular reason for that?</p> <p>8 A. Well, you might understand how much I regret that. What</p> <p>9 happened was, it came at a time when I was unusually</p> <p>10 busy running around, as bishops are, and I just</p> <p>11 cursorily looked at the chronology, thought that</p> <p>12 Roger Meekings, as a professional, would have done</p> <p>13 a good job, and it was only subsequently when I had the</p> <p>14 time to sit down and go through it -- because, in the</p> <p>15 conversation with Roger Meekings, I never really</p> <p>16 understood what he was trying to get at and what the</p> <p>17 problem was he was trying to address. We talked around</p> <p>18 issues and around one another, I think, and sometimes,</p> <p>19 sadly, at cross-purposes. But as soon as I sat down and</p> <p>20 saw that, we put in a correction to it which later</p> <p>21 Roger Meekings accepted as correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Can I now ask you to turn to the account that you gave</p> <p>23 to Phil Johnson at a meeting that yourself,</p> <p>24 Shirley Hosgood and Mr Johnson had on 26 August 2008.</p> <p>25 Chair and panel, behind tab 7, it is ANG000217.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 We have already looked -- if I could just indicate 2 on behalf of the chair and panel, we have already looked 3 at this transcript in the context of the other witnesses 4 who were part of this. So this is a full transcript 5 which you would only have seen recently. There was 6 a partial transcript available in some previous 7 documents. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. If I could take you to page 16, the first few pages are 10 just sort of, "Would you like a cup of tea? Have you 11 had to come far?", et cetera, et cetera. Page 16. In 12 fact, Paul, I'm so sorry, could I ask you to go back to 13 page 14. Sorry. This is when the conversation starts: 14 "Yeah -- the notes at the Bishop's Palace ... I saw 15 Roy Cotton ..." 16 This is the start of the conversation: 17 "I saw Roy Cotton several times, and we were in 18 a difficulty back then -- the sort of advice ... was 19 that if you investigate a thing as the church, it looks 20 like a coverup; best to let the police investigate it 21 and handle it, and then there's no accusation of 22 a coverup." 23 That seems to be reflective of the evidence you have 24 given us today. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 a long conversation about it, and I said to Nicholas, 2 'Really, how can we get to the bottom of this?'" 3 If we can go to the top of the next page, please, 4 Paul: 5 "Now, well, at that stage we didn't -- I think there 6 was an anonymous accusation; so, we weren't privy to 7 all -- exactly who and what, the whys and the 8 where -- ... Anyway, Nicholas went to see Roy, and he 9 said, 'Actually, on reflection, I'd agree with you'; and 10 we pushed Roy into retirement ..." 11 I'm going to ask you about that later: 12 "... and I refused to let him officiate as a priest 13 and found that he was trying to and told him in no 14 uncertain terms not to." 15 We will come on to that later: 16 "So, from my point of view, Phil -- and if in all 17 this there was anything done amiss, I'm deeply sorry, 18 but from my point of view we did everything we could 19 about it, because the police were investigating it. 20 Now, when I had that conversation with Nicholas -- 21 "Yeah. 22 "-- he told me out of the conversations with -- and 23 I haven't told you this before, because it's only just 24 come back to my memory. He told me out of those 25 conversations that he -- that there had been a previous</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Q. If we can then turn on to the next page: 2 "So, as far as we were concerned, there was total 3 cooperation with the police ..." 4 But although today, in fact, you have said the total 5 cooperation with the police involved the police not 6 actually coming to see you. 7 A. No, but of us seeing them, of us being in contact with 8 them. 9 Q. "... and I became very concerned ... that the police 10 investigation was dropped ... I became very, very uneasy 11 about Roy and the truthfulness or otherwise of what he 12 was telling me. The case with Colin Pritchard was 13 a bit -- a little bit different ... I became very, very 14 uneasy about the stuff from Roy, and I basically didn't 15 believe him; and I had a long conversation with my 16 archdeacon at the time --" 17 Phil Johnson says "Yeah": 18 "-- Nicholas Reed [incorrectly spelled], who's now 19 the Bishop of Blackburn, and I said to him, 'He had been 20 the rural dean of Eastbourne', and you may or may not 21 (inaudible) ... 22 "(Inaudible), sorry? 23 "Nicholas Reed. 24 "I don't recall him, sorry. 25 "But -- Nicholas is a lovely chap, and he -- we had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 conviction, way back in the 1970s, which I didn't know 2 about. 3 "Well, there's -- well, unless there was another one 4 in the 1970s." 5 Shirley Hosgood says: 6 "It wasn't in the 1970s. 7 "There's one in the 1950s. That's what ..." 8 Top of the next page: 9 "Sorry, it must have come (inaudible) which way 10 round -- there was ... that's right, it was the 1950s. 11 "Yeah. 12 "Yeah, that's right; which I didn't at that stage 13 know about, and I didn't have it on file here, but 14 I don't know whether it was on file in the diocese 15 office or not. 16 "Well, it must've been. If it was on file in the 17 1950s ..." et cetera, et cetera. 18 I don't think we need to go any further. What were 19 you trying to say during the course of that 20 conversation? Were you trying to say that you knew 21 about the fact that there was a conviction in 1998, 22 because that's the impression which is given? 23 A. Can I just add one thing from your previous question, if 24 you don't mind? 25 Q. Of course.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

1 A. There was an email. You know you put up Roger Meekings'
 2 chronology.
 3 Q. Yes.
 4 A. As soon as I read it thoroughly, we sent in an email.
 5 Q. We will come to that.
 6 A. Which is Tuesday, 14th, 2009. But it's just worth
 7 saying that. Okay, sorry.
 8 Q. So the impression I get from what you said halfway down
 9 page 16 -- Paul, can we get that up? -- and I think the
 10 impression Mr Johnson certainly had as a result of that
 11 meeting was that you knew that you'd told him at that
 12 meeting that you knew about the fact that there was
 13 a conviction --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- in 1998. Can you understand why that conclusion may
 16 have been drawn by Mr Johnson?
 17 A. I can, and, I mean, I really apologise for using the
 18 wrong word. I was talking about allegations. As the
 19 context of the whole transcript shows -- please also
 20 appreciate that my use of wrong word will have added --
 21 I appreciate that it will have added to Phil Johnson's
 22 anxiety and confusion, and for this I deeply apologise.
 23 But the reasons -- would you like to hear some reasons
 24 as to why I am certain that I did not know
 25 until May 2001 that Roy Cotton had a conviction?

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1 Q. Yes.
 2 A. Because that -- if you stand back from that, it's a bit
 3 muddled, and I'm sorry, but sometimes a rabbit in the
 4 headlights, suddenly you realise there's an issue, and
 5 you're being asked about an issue, and it's distant, and
 6 you now know it is a conviction, it is very easy to use
 7 the word "conviction" about the conviction incident
 8 because we are talking about the same incident. But
 9 I did not know it was a conviction before 2001, and
 10 I will give you the reasons why I didn't.
 11 Here are 12 or 13 reasons that I am certain I did
 12 not know until May 2001 that Roy Cotton had
 13 a conviction. I did not have access to the blue file in
 14 1999. I saw it for the first time in the context of
 15 this inquiry, which I have already mentioned.
 16 Nicholas Reade recalls being told about accusations in
 17 the '90s, not of a conviction. In fact, the initial
 18 word he used was "something".
 19 As my source of information was him, how could he
 20 have told me about something he didn't himself know?
 21 If either of us had been told in the '90s by
 22 Roy Cotton that he had a conviction, we would have told
 23 Janet Hind. When the declaration was made, we told
 24 Janet Hind, and we told her about the allegations. It
 25 was news to me when we received the declaration in 2001.

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1 The news led to a discussion with Nicholas Reade.
 2 Evidence from both of us is consistent about that. We
 3 would not have had a discussion then after receipt of
 4 a declaration if both already aware of the conviction.
 5 Until the declaration, I regarded Roy Cotton as
 6 a villain. I would have known he was a villain, not
 7 just regarded him as one, if I knew of the conviction,
 8 and my hand would have been strengthened to do something
 9 about it. But I didn't.
 10 It is perhaps not the strongest of points, but the
 11 services that Roy Cotton took are consistent with being
 12 told in 2001, then, that he had a conviction and pulling
 13 his PTO from all public ministry. So he did very few
 14 services after 2001.
 15 Q. We will come on to that.
 16 A. Okay. But compared to what he had done between 1999 and
 17 2001, it's small.
 18 My conversation with Roy Cotton, after pulling his
 19 PTO in 2001, was very unpleasant. He was very abusive
 20 from him to me for having done that and from having
 21 curtailed public ministry.
 22 Consistent with what I told Meekings, as his note
 23 confirms, ANG000182, here the same mistake that I made
 24 is made by Meekings himself, referring to it as
 25 a conviction, which is -- he came to accept that I had

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1 been slightly muddled, and I deeply apologise over that.
 2 After the event, one can be forgiven for describing
 3 being told of the events, ie, allegations, as being told
 4 of the conviction. My email that I've just mentioned,
 5 14 July 2009, is accurate. The note in my diary --
 6 there is an interesting thing I found this weekend is
 7 there is a note in my diary of Tony Selwood's private
 8 telephone number in 2001 in the very week the
 9 declaration was discovered from Roy Cotton. I could
 10 have only got that private phone number from Janet Hind.
 11 From memory, I told her -- and it was a vindication, in
 12 a way, of how I had felt earlier that he was a bit of
 13 a villain, but I had no evidence, and she said, "Ring
 14 Tony Selwood", which I did.
 15 Then, finally, it was discussed in the staff meeting
 16 after the interviews I had with Roy Cotton back in 1998.
 17 If he had mentioned the word "conviction" then, I would
 18 have mentioned that to the staff and action would have
 19 been taken. But there wasn't that evidence back then.
 20 But I am really sorry about -- I think if you stand
 21 back, it's clear what I said, but there is a bit of
 22 muddle, and I'm really sorry about that.
 23 Q. I'm asked to put on behalf of Mr Hofmeyr QC, who is
 24 representing you, the fact -- chair and panel, can we
 25 get up ACE022270_012. This is the final version of what

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<p>1 is now known to be called the Meekings Report, certainly 2 in the context of this inquiry. I think if we look at 3 the bottom box, "1998", which is: 4 "Before the police concluded their investigation, 5 Bishop Wallace had a second meeting with RC, which arose 6 from Bishop Wallace's concerns about RC and the current 7 allegations. RC advised Bishop Wallace of a historical 8 allegation involving a young person and refers to it as 9 a 'false accusation!'. 10 So as a result of the representations you made, 11 Mr Meekings amended his chronology? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. But what it does still say is: 14 "This information was not shared with the child 15 protection adviser." 16 So you didn't tell Janet Hind at the time that 17 Roy Cotton had told you that there was an accusation, 18 albeit he'd said it was false? 19 A. I did. 20 Q. Okay. 21 A. And Bishop Reade will bear that out, because we both 22 did, and we raised it at the staff meeting. 23 Q. Can I ask, Roy Cotton, shortly after the police dropped 24 matters, decided -- well, he was approaching 70, as 25 I understand it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 better notes. I have more notes than I thought I had. 2 Q. Right. 3 A. But -- 4 Q. There is no note of this meeting, though, is there? 5 A. There isn't a note of that, but there is a note of 6 Bishop Eric writing to Roy Cotton. 7 Q. We will come on to that. 8 A. And telling him to go to me for a PTO. But that was 9 consistent with him telling me I could give him PTO. 10 Q. Okay. So: 11 "Bishop Eric operated as head of the diocese in such 12 a way that it was not open to an area bishop to refuse 13 the sort of instruction which Bishop Eric had given. In 14 that regard, Bishop Eric was the most senior bishop in 15 the Church of England and an expert in Canon law. As 16 a diocesan bishop, he carried ultimate responsibility 17 for safeguarding and had possession of the blue files. 18 Having told him my concerns and asked him to be directly 19 involved, it would not have been appropriate for me to 20 refuse his advice. I have no knowledge of whether 21 Bishop Eric consulted Janet Hind ... before telling me 22 that a PTO should be granted. It might be that he did, 23 in circumstances where Bishop Eric himself knew of 24 the police investigation; but it might be that he did 25 not. I would certainly have expected Bishop Eric Kemp</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Which I am right in thinking that is, and was, the 3 mandatory retirement age for clergy? 4 A. Yes, but you can go on a year at a time with permission 5 from your bishop. 6 Q. You granted permission to officiate, and, as 7 I understand at this stage, as we have already talked 8 about, it would have been your responsibility to do so. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. 2009/2010, that responsibility then went to Bishop John, 11 but at this time we were Bishop Eric. You said that 12 Bishop Eric instructed you, and you say this at 13 paragraph 25.3 of your witness statement. So chair and 14 panel, just for your reference, that's WPB000047_024. 15 Maybe if we get that up, Paul, if you wouldn't mind. It 16 is page 24, Bishop Wallace, up to the top of page 25: 17 "In the autumn of 1998, Bishop Eric Kemp verbally 18 instructed me that a PTO should be granted to Roy Cotton 19 after he retired; unfortunately, I cannot remember when 20 precisely this conversation took place." 21 A. No. 22 Q. Can I ask, Bishop Wallace, would it have been your 23 practice to have kept notes of these sorts of meetings, 24 or not? 25 A. That's one of the things we have had to learn, to keep</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 to have talked to Janet Hind about this matter." 2 Now, I think the evidence from Janet Hind was that 3 Bishop Eric knew his own mind, I think might be the 4 charitable way of putting that, or basically, you know, 5 Bishop Eric had made his mind up about something, it 6 would have been very difficult for Janet to have 7 persuaded him otherwise. Would that accord with your 8 recollection of the relationship that Janet and 9 Bishop Eric would have had with each other? 10 A. I think that's true in the end, that -- when he made up 11 his mind, but I would have -- I certainly would have 12 been surprised if he hadn't talked to the DSA about it. 13 But I don't know whether he did or he didn't. 14 Q. It's interesting, you obviously say this now. Can 15 I take you to ACE021705_078. It is behind tab 8 in your 16 bundle, Bishop Wallace. We will obviously be getting on 17 it screen, which I think is probably easier, but if you 18 prefer a paper copy. 19 This is an email -- I believe it was sent from your 20 wife's account, but it's obviously from you? 21 A. Yes, sure. 22 Q. That you sent in July 2009. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. If I can take you to the fact of what you said about 25 Roy Cotton, (d):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

1 "PTO was given in both cases ..."

2 Let's ignore the other matter:

3 "... probably unwisely with hindsight because there

4 was no evidence forthcoming at the time to prevent them

5 being given."

6 You don't say, do you, at that time, "and because

7 Bishop Eric told me"? Was there any reason for that?

8 You can understand that individuals might say, "Well, we

9 are only just hearing about Bishop Eric telling us

10 that". Back in 2009, that wasn't something that you

11 said. Had you meant to say that or did you imply that?

12 Was it simply that you omitted that when you were

13 writing this email? Because there is a difference

14 between, "I gave somebody PTO because there wasn't any

15 reason not to give it to them", and, "I gave somebody

16 PTO because Bishop Eric told me"?

17 **A. Well, it was both.**

18 Q. Right.

19 **A. It was both reasons. I had no -- the police had dropped**

20 **the case, I had a hunch from long pastoral experience in**

21 **parish work that I didn't believe him, but I had no**

22 **evidence about that. I took that hunch to Bishop Eric**

23 **and asked him to see Roy Cotton, that I didn't believe**

24 **him, and he told me he believed the police had handled**

25 **Roy Cotton badly and that I could safely give him PTO.**

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1 **I don't see that -- sorry, in my mind, the two things --**

2 **it's all part of the same bundle.**

3 Q. Can I now take you, if you don't mind, Bishop Wallace,

4 to WPB000009, which I think is Roy Cotton's letter -- it

5 is behind tab 9, chair and panel, of your bundle:

6 "Dear Bishop Wallace.

7 "As I approach my 70th birthday, I feel that I must

8 retire ..."

9 Well, actually, he has to retire, as I understand

10 it, so I'm not sure there's "I feel that I must" about

11 it:

12 "... and intend to do this on 31st January ...",

13 et cetera, et cetera:

14 "... 32 years in orders.

15 "I have also written similarly to the patron ...

16 Mrs Marigold Crook.

17 "I trust I shall be granted a licence to officiate

18 generally in the diocese when needs demand."

19 Now, you said to Mr Johnson, and at various other

20 points you have said, "I thought he was a villain and

21 that Nicholas Reade and I pushed him to retire". This

22 letter gives no flavour of that, does it?

23 **A. No.**

24 Q. It is a bit like, "I'm retiring now, so you'd better

25 give me PTO". A slightly presumptuous letter, if I may

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1 say so?

2 **A. Yes, I agree. But, actually, there was a time that --**

3 **not so much now, but when clergy did presume that they**

4 **would get PTO fairly automatically. That is**

5 **a presumption that is no longer happily held. Sorry,**

6 **what was your question?**

7 Q. Well, the question really was, was it -- is it the case,

8 therefore, that you pushed him or he just retired

9 naturally because of age?

10 **A. No, remember Nicholas Reade and I had no evidence. We'd**

11 **taken the issue to our boss and he'd told us, you know,**

12 **to give him PTO. But what we were concerned with,**

13 **because Nicholas took seriously my hunch, because we**

14 **worked very closely, it was a wonderful working**

15 **relationship, a tremendous working relationship. We**

16 **were just eager to get him -- to make sure he didn't try**

17 **and stay on, which he could have. He could have**

18 **requested that, and it would have been hard to deny it.**

19 **But we were eager to get him out of a parish where we**

20 **felt he could do more damage. That's the point.**

21 **Because in a parish you have more room to groom. If you**

22 **are simply a member or doing duty, you have less room to**

23 **do that.**

24 Q. But, I mean, I suppose, you know, following on from

25 that, you're quite right to say that if you are in the

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1 context of a parish, then that would be the case.

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. However, the respectability of the collar, which you

4 would be entitled to wear during permission to

5 officiate, would give a veneer of -- well, more than

6 a veneer. People would assume that you both had

7 integrity and that you were honest in all manner of

8 dealings in your life?

9 **A. Believe you me, with the benefit of hindsight, I wish**

10 **I'd pulled his PTO then. But I didn't think I could get**

11 **away with it and I didn't think I had the authority to**

12 **do it either.**

13 Q. Can I take you now to WPB000008_001, Paul, behind tab 10

14 of your bundle, chair and panel. This is your letter to

15 Reverend Cotton in response to his letter to you:

16 "I understand your wish to retire, but I want to

17 thank you for all that you have done ... prayerful good

18 wishes ...

19 "... I would be grateful if you would apply for this

20 when you have retired and have a new address. I shall

21 be very happy to grant this to you."

22 In the context of what you just told us it slightly

23 jars, doesn't it, that sentence?

24 **A. Yes, it does, I should have picked a better word, but**

25 **that's the standard letter that went out to people.**

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1 Q. Right. So it's --
 2 **A. I should have written a nonstandard letter.**
 3 Q. So this was the standard letter which you just signed
 4 the bottom of?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. You would have just said to your PA -- I can't remember
 7 the lady's name at the time.
 8 **A. Jill.**
 9 Q. You would have just said to her, "Jill, can we get
 10 a letter ready?"
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. But you can understand, with the benefit of hindsight,
 13 how that has caused some consternation, that last
 14 sentence?
 15 **A. Indeed I can. But, you know, hindsight is a blessed**
 16 **thing. It isn't always obvious at the time, sadly.**
 17 Q. Did you ask Janet Hind at all about whether or not you
 18 should grant PTO to Reverend Cotton?
 19 **A. I think so, yes. But I honestly can't remember.**
 20 **I think it was -- you know, it was openly discussed with**
 21 **the staff team. Certainly I told her about the false**
 22 **accusations and that I was -- she actually says in her**
 23 **witness statement she knew about my worries. So I must**
 24 **have told her.**
 25 Q. Obviously, as we understand it, and it may well be

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1 wrong, you have said now PTO in fact isn't a grant as of
 2 right, is it?
 3 **A. No.**
 4 Q. It is completely discretionary?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. And it can also be revoked at will, as I understand it?
 7 **A. Yes. It's become much tougher now.**
 8 Q. Right.
 9 **A. It was much more a foregone conclusion then.**
 10 Q. Okay. There were no real checks -- as I understand it,
 11 there were no checks undertaken at that time?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. I'm not sure, in fact, that CRB checks in fact would
 14 even have come in at that point in time?
 15 **A. No, they wouldn't. POCALS was around in I think '98,**
 16 **but it was later that CRB checks came in.**
 17 Q. If we then move on to 2001, that is the time when
 18 Roy Cotton did disclose to everyone the fact of his
 19 conviction, and that's ACE021705_025 to 027. We do have
 20 a copy of this form somewhere, chair and panel, but it
 21 is probably just as easy to look at it on the screen:
 22 "During February 1954, I was charged at Abingdon
 23 Magistrates' Court ... with indecent exposure in the
 24 presence of a child. This was said to have taken place
 25 in the organ loft of a village church. I was rehearsing

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1 and the boy was hand pumping the organ. I was found
 2 guilty and placed on probation ...
 3 "... five times ...", et cetera, et cetera.
 4 So that's the allegation. Knowing that and the fact
 5 that he was a villain, you didn't revoke his PTO, as
 6 I understand it, but you sought to impose restrictions
 7 on it. Again, having read that and given all that you
 8 have told us about his villainy, which I think is
 9 probably now evident, shouldn't you just have revoked
 10 his PTO?
 11 **A. Yes, I should have. But PTO is really -- you can't**
 12 **prevent somebody from taking communion in their own**
 13 **home.**
 14 Q. No.
 15 **A. PTO, as I understood it, and in terms of safety issues,**
 16 **was preventing any public ministry, which I did. I was**
 17 **asked by Nicholas Reade and then subsequently by others,**
 18 **but asked by Nicholas to consider, from a more**
 19 **Anglo Catholic point of view, a desire to take communion**
 20 **and whether it was possible to do so in a nursing home,**
 21 **which I believed he was going into after hospital, or**
 22 **was in and, as that would have not involved any contact**
 23 **with children, I agreed, I have to say somewhat**
 24 **reluctantly, but I shouldn't have agreed at all.**
 25 **I should just have said no, and no is no.**

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1 Q. You identify -- would he have needed PTO to have
 2 performed communion within his own home? Because he
 3 still would have been in holy orders, wouldn't he?
 4 Technically -- I mean, I don't know the answer to that
 5 question because I'm not an ecclesiastical lawyer, but
 6 technically, do you need PTO to administer communion to
 7 yourself, so to speak? Or is it simply the granting of
 8 public -- you know, giving communion to other people
 9 rather than to yourself?
 10 **A. I think, legally, you probably do, but I don't know**
 11 **ecclesiastical law. But please think of it the other**
 12 **way around: I was trying to get him out of public**
 13 **ministry and wasn't prepared to give any ground on that**
 14 **issue.**
 15 Q. Okay. You said that you restricted his public ministry?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Again, we come to the problem that we raised earlier,
 18 which is, how can you effectively -- would you agree
 19 with me that there is no real way to monitor whether or
 20 not he was taking services or he wasn't?
 21 **A. It's very difficult to -- and still is very difficult to**
 22 **monitor. I mean, you depend on your archdeacon being on**
 23 **the ground, the rural deans telling you what's going on**
 24 **in deaneries, and it is amazing what gets back to**
 25 **a bishop. But it is patchy and it may be around the**

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1 **houses a few times before it arrives.**
 2 Q. You say that these restrictions were on his public
 3 ministry. Were they written down anywhere? Was there
 4 a circular that went to all priests in the diocese
 5 saying, "If Reverend Cotton tries to deputise, don't let
 6 him"?
 7 **A. No, because Nicholas Reade knew him much better than**
 8 **I did and had done for some time, and he took the news**
 9 **to him. You need to ask Nicholas as to whether he kept**
 10 **a record of that.**
 11 Q. Okay.
 12 **A. I had a very abusive phone call from Roy, saying, "Who**
 13 **on earth do you think you are to restrict my public**
 14 **ministry?" That was --**
 15 Q. Okay.
 16 **A. So I knew it had been done.**
 17 Q. So considering that -- so, in other words, the extent of
 18 the restrictions were really Nicholas Reade having
 19 a stern word?
 20 **A. Yes, but keeping on eye out as well as to whether -- but**
 21 **it is a difficult, and still is a difficult, thing to**
 22 **monitor.**
 23 Q. That's really what I'm thinking, is that it's one of
 24 those things that it's almost impossible to enforce
 25 adequately?

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1 **A. Well, you hope that a clergyman will take the command of**
 2 **a bishop seriously. You hope that that's the case. But**
 3 **if he's not prepared to take the commands of the Lord**
 4 **seriously in moral behaviour, he's unlikely to listen to**
 5 **a bishop.**
 6 Q. That's what I was thinking.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. If he's willing to break one of the most sacred --
 9 **A. Exactly.**
 10 Q. -- bonds of trust we have in our society, he is probably
 11 not going to listen to Nicholas Reade having a stern
 12 word, is he?
 13 **A. No, but how -- you know, if somebody can come up with**
 14 **a way that we can monitor that better, that would be**
 15 **very -- that would be a good step in securing better**
 16 **safeguarding.**
 17 Q. We have also had some evidence from the individual who
 18 was the incumbent after Reverend Cotton, which I don't
 19 think I need to take you to, but Reverend
 20 Duncan Lloyd-James, who indicates he was never told
 21 anything about the fact that Reverend Cotton's ministry
 22 should be limited. In fact, he says he was never told
 23 anything about Roy Cotton at all?
 24 **A. Well, that's hugely misleading, because you need to**
 25 **remember just when Duncan Lloyd-James was appointed,**

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1 **which was '99, and Bishop Eric and I saw him together,**
 2 **okay.**
 3 Q. Right.
 4 **A. We had -- I had no evidence against him and Bishop Eric**
 5 **had seen him and decided he was all right. If the**
 6 **police don't pursue something, I don't think it's**
 7 **a bishop's part or -- you know, you haven't got evidence**
 8 **against a person. It isn't -- it wouldn't have been**
 9 **appropriate to start talking about what had happened**
 10 **before, at that stage.**
 11 Q. You understood that Reverend Cotton was in fact -- well,
 12 you were told, you say, by Nicholas Reade that
 13 Reverend Cotton was a very sick man who was then living
 14 in a nursing home?
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. Now, it turns out, in fact -- I think the witness
 17 statement of Philip Jones identifies this. I don't
 18 think I need to take you to it, but just for the record,
 19 it's WWS000133_038 and 039 behind C3 of your bundle,
 20 chair and panel, if you wish to turn it up. But at
 21 paragraph 103, he says he spoke to the nursing home and
 22 Roy Cotton wasn't in fact in this nursing home until
 23 2003 and was then in and out, on and off.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. So in fact, it turns out that he was able to and did

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1 take, as we understand it, public services between 2001
 2 and 2003. That's right, isn't it?
 3 **A. It is: five, I understand. Four in one week, in one**
 4 **eight-day period. And, interestingly enough, for his**
 5 **friend Colin Pritchard, which is very instructive.**
 6 Q. Yes.
 7 **A. I didn't know about those until it was discovered by**
 8 **Philip Jones.**
 9 Q. So, again, this shows the toothlessness, really, of
 10 the monitoring system for permission to officiate?
 11 **A. Yes. Well, it shows how easily it's overcome.**
 12 Q. Did you tell Janet Hind or Tony Selwood about
 13 Reverend Cotton's declaration in 2001?
 14 **A. Absolutely.**
 15 Q. I think Mrs Hind's recollection is that you didn't tell
 16 her. I think that's what she says, at paragraph 43 of
 17 her witness statement, that you didn't tell her of
 18 the criminal records check in 2001. I'm turning to my
 19 junior. Yes. So what do you say to that?
 20 **A. I respectfully disagree with her. I did. I could have**
 21 **only got -- do you remember there was -- there was**
 22 **a handover. In some ways, some of these things are**
 23 **a perfect storm, in that there was a handover of DSAs at**
 24 **the time, and I rang Janet to tell her, and she said,**
 25 **"Tell Tony Selwood", who wasn't yet in full-time post,**

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1 **but was taking incidents --**
 2 Q. That was a sort of handover period?
 3 **A. Yes, but the only way I could have known of his private**
 4 **phone number was having got it from Janet. I don't know**
 5 **how -- I put a note in my diary that week in the "Things**
 6 **to do", which I just discovered this last week,**
 7 **actually, interestingly, of his private phone number and**
 8 **a note to call that very week of the declaration.**
 9 **There was no reason for me not to tell Tony Selwood.**
 10 **I felt in a way, although it's not the most important**
 11 **thing in dealing with the issues, but I felt that the**
 12 **hunches had been borne out. There was no reason not to**
 13 **tell Tony. You know, it was a very serious revelation.**
 14 Q. I think what -- obviously, we don't have Tony Selwood
 15 here, and we don't in fact have his notes, because
 16 I think his laptop crashed. So we only have very
 17 incomplete notes from that period of time. But I think
 18 what Janet would say to you if she was here,
 19 Bishop Wallace, would be to say, "Well, I kept quite
 20 meticulous notes". We have Janet's daybook which has,
 21 "Phoned X about Y. Phoned X about Y". There is no
 22 record of that. Do you think you could be mistaken in
 23 your recollection and maybe you did just tell
 24 Tony Selwood and not Janet Hind?
 25 **A. Well, anything is possible, and certainly with memory**

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1 **anything is possible. But I really do think I did tell**
 2 **her. I don't think -- I think that Tony Selwood, if he**
 3 **was here -- this is the problem, isn't it? But Tony**
 4 **didn't think that Janet's notes were all that fulsome,**
 5 **anyway, about several things, but -- look, that's for**
 6 **her to answer. All I can tell you is, I believe I told**
 7 **her, but I certainly told Tony Selwood.**
 8 Q. Can I just double-check, in 2009 -- could we get up
 9 WPB000001_145. It is behind tab 41, chair and panel,
 10 just for your record. We haven't got it? Don't worry
 11 about that. We might come back to it later.
 12 Can I just identify, as I understand it, what is
 13 accepted is that the declaration that Roy Cotton made
 14 didn't find its way onto the blue file? That's correct,
 15 isn't it?
 16 **A. It appears not, but how that's the case, I don't know at**
 17 **all.**
 18 Q. Okay. But I think when Roger Meekings checked the
 19 file -- and I think, just for everybody's reference,
 20 just so that we know the reference, that's
 21 ACE021705_078, chair and panel, behind tab 8 -- it
 22 wasn't on the blue file when he checked it in 2008/2009?
 23 **A. That goes back to Clive Dilloway's comment about there**
 24 **being a 27-year hole in the Roy Cotton blue file, which**
 25 **is tremendously worrying. But my PA -- and I have**

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1 **checked -- sent the declaration to the palace,**
 2 **I believe.**
 3 Q. But I do understand that at the time you did undertake
 4 what would then have been known as the local authority
 5 check. Now it would be known as a DBS-type check, so
 6 a vetting and barring rather than criminal check.
 7 That's WPB000002 behind tab 3, chair and panel. That
 8 search was clear, which may be somewhat surprising,
 9 given he was convicted of an allegation against a child?
 10 **A. Yes, strange.**
 11 Q. We are now passing on from the Reverend Cotton in and of
 12 himself on to your relationship with Mr Johnson. You
 13 first corresponded with Mr Johnson, as I understand it,
 14 or rather Mr Johnson first corresponded with you at some
 15 point in 2002, and we have that correspondence at
 16 ACE021705_033 onwards. I don't think we really need to
 17 get the correspondence up. We have heard from
 18 Mr Johnson that it was a very long discussion about --
 19 email -- both an account of abuse, the impact it had on
 20 his life.
 21 There was then a series of correspondence between
 22 the two of you. What was your objective? What were you
 23 trying to get out of in the correspondence that you and
 24 Mr Johnson engaged in?
 25 **A. My concern in safeguarding has always been the**

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1 **well-being of the victims who have to cope for the rest**
 2 **of their lives with the shocking experience that they**
 3 **have been through. I wanted to help him any way**
 4 **I could, and I wanted to befriend him and help him any**
 5 **way I could, if that was helpful to him.**
 6 Q. As I understand it, Mr Johnson had published an
 7 anonymous article in "People in Eastbourne", which in
 8 fact, I think, dated from 2000 or 2001. I can't
 9 remember entirely when.
 10 **A. 2000, I think.**
 11 Q. That is at -- chair and panel, I don't think, again, we
 12 need to get it up -- ACE021705 behind tab 8, chair and
 13 panel, at page 18. Just to identify, you then wrote to
 14 Roy Cotton, as I understand it, as a result of that, to
 15 express sympathy -- behind tab 8 of your bundle, chair
 16 and panel, the letter expressing sympathy. Paul, could
 17 you get up ACE021705_016:
 18 "Dear Roy.
 19 "So sorry about this article which is in a free
 20 paper in Alldays near your old parish. I thought you'd
 21 better hear about this from a friend rather than an
 22 enemy.
 23 "Please contact me if I can be of any help."
 24 This is September 2000. Again, I suppose the
 25 question is, given what we now know, did you not think

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<p>1 at that time, "Well, just for publicity rather than 2 anything else, why don't I just revoke his PTO and then 3 he can't be around a parish, even though these things 4 have been written about him"? Did you not think about 5 that? 6 A. Remember that, if my memory serves me correctly, it was 7 an anonymous article. 8 Q. Yes, it was. 9 A. You've got to be very careful about anonymous articles. 10 Look at the date at which I wrote that, which is simply 11 a pastoral letter, you know, about an anonymous 12 allegation. At that point, I had no evidence against 13 Roy whatsoever. It's easy to look back on a trail and 14 say, "Well, look where it got to", but actually, at that 15 point, there wasn't evidence. 16 Q. You obviously then engaged in correspondence with 17 Mr Johnson. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. To what extent did you consult with the diocesan 20 safeguarding adviser about how you should approach this 21 consultation and how you should manage the situation in 22 respect of Mr Johnson? 23 A. Completely talked to him about it. I wanted to not -- 24 to say the best things I could in the best possible way 25 and I needed professional help to be able to help me do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 them of his experience. He has made a very serious 2 allegation of a criminal nature." 3 Then it says: 4 "I am very disappointed. The recollection of 5 diocesan child protection officer at that time is that 6 the police did involve her and she attended meetings 7 with them. However, if you would let me know the name 8 of the officer you spoke with, I would be prepared to 9 address this issue further." 10 Again, we know that you said quite properly, "Please 11 tell this gentleman to go to the police". Did you not 12 consider telling the police yourself? 13 A. No, for the same reasons as I have mentioned before. It 14 was not my responsibility to do so, and the DSA was on 15 the case talking to the person. 16 Q. I am going to now move on and ask you about an 17 individual whom we are going to call A37. As 18 I understand it, Philip Johnson told you about A37 in 19 2007. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. This again, Paul, is behind tab 8 of your bundle, chair 22 and panel, ACE021705_030. In fact, it is from 23 Tony Selwood to yourself: 24 "[I went to see him] as the police had not 25 interviewed him ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 that. It's very easily, pastorally, in difficult 2 situations, to say something you mean with a good intent 3 but actually it's not expressed in the best possible 4 way. So we talked about it. 5 Q. In 2003, I understand it -- Paul, would you mind getting 6 up ACE021705_033 and 034, please, behind tab 8, chair 7 and panel, of your bundle. 8 This, I understand, was something where Mr Johnson 9 sent you some details about another complainant other 10 than him in respect of the Reverend Cotton. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Did you ever inform the police or did you ever tell the 13 diocesan safeguarding adviser about the fact that 14 Mr Johnson had passed on the information about another 15 complainant? 16 A. I certainly did. I told Phil Johnson to tell him to go 17 to the police. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. Tony Selwood met with him, met with the person 20 concerned. 21 Q. Could I take you to the next page, which is 22 ACE021705_034. The portion that's underlined: 23 "Thank you for telling me of your meeting with the 24 choirboy all those years ago. When you next see this 25 young man, please tell him to go to the police and tell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 "The police have told [him] that they will not be 2 pursuing the matter ... he is too ill and too vulnerable 3 to be interviewed and 'the public don't like people to 4 be hounded when they are so ill'. 5 "... 'People who are seriously ill'. 6 I mean, in this context, did you not consider or 7 think about the fact that there wasn't just Mr Johnson 8 who was making these allegations but also other 9 individuals? Two things: firstly, why you didn't revoke 10 his PTO once you found out that there was more than one 11 complainant, so to speak, which obviously leads -- well, 12 potentially more credence to the allegations which are 13 made. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. And, secondly, whether or not you should have gone -- 16 with the benefit of hindsight, you should have gone to 17 the police and said, "Look, there are two people who are 18 speaking to me, having discussions with me. I think 19 they are both telling me the truth. You need to do 20 something". Do you agree, with the benefit of 21 hindsight, that that is what you should have done? 22 A. You just need to go back a little bit. Tony Selwood did 23 go to the police, did join up the dots for the police, 24 and both Tony Selwood and I were really disappointed 25 that they didn't do something about it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

1 **By this stage, Roy Cotton was -- in 2003, he was**
 2 **hospitalised.**
 3 Q. Yes.
 4 **A. There was no issue of ministry, to adjust anything or**
 5 **pull anything. He was too ill. But we were really**
 6 **disappointed -- Tony was disappointed and I was**
 7 **disappointed that the police didn't do anything.**
 8 **Because they don't seem to have joined the dots between**
 9 **the '97/'99 thing and this other victim, though we told**
 10 **them.**
 11 MS SCOLDING: Can I take you now to the allegations
 12 against -- in fact, chair and panel, before I take you
 13 to a new topic, would this be a convenient moment to
 14 break?
 15 THE CHAIR: Yes, Ms Scolding, thank you very much.
 16 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much.
 17 If I could just remind you, Bishop Wallace, that you
 18 are under oath and therefore you can't discuss the
 19 contents of your evidence with anyone.
 20 (12.56 pm)
 21 (The short adjournment)
 22 (2.00 pm)
 23 MS SCOLDING: I understand Professor Sir Malcolm Evans has
 24 a question he would like to ask; is that correct?
 25

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1 Questions by THE PANEL
 2 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you, yes. Just one small
 3 point to pick up from what you were mentioning this
 4 morning, Bishop Wallace. You mentioned -- just to
 5 recap, we were talking about the permission to officiate
 6 in 2001.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: The question arose about what the
 9 response should have been when the disclosure for the
 10 first time revealed clearly the existence of the earlier
 11 conviction, and you mentioned that perhaps you should
 12 have revoked it at that point.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: I was just wondering how that sat:
 15 would you have been in a position to revoke it? You
 16 seem to consider that you could have revoked it, but you
 17 didn't consider that you had the authority to issue it
 18 without reference to the bishop, to the diocesan bishop,
 19 so why do you think you would have had the capacity to
 20 revoke but not to issue without consulting the diocesan
 21 bishop?
 22 **A. I would have needed to consult with the diocesan bishop**
 23 **to do that, but I think there was -- you know, it is**
 24 **a strong case to do that. I mean, it was obviously**
 25 **a point for some action to be taken. The action I took**

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1 **was agreed by the senior staff team. I wish I'd just**
 2 **pulled it without any qualifications altogether.**
 3 **I think the diocesan -- a strong case could have been**
 4 **made for that, I think.**
 5 **Ultimately, it was the diocesan bishop's -- when**
 6 **I say I could have done it, I could have done it if he**
 7 **agreed.**
 8 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Oh, I see.
 9 **A. That's what I should have said, sorry.**
 10 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: I see. So that's the point, that
 11 you couldn't have done it, in your view, without further
 12 consultation?
 13 **A. No, I would have needed to talk to him about it.**
 14 **I think I should have done that.**
 15 PROF SIR MALCOLM EVANS: Thank you.
 16 Examination by MS SCOLDING (continued)
 17 MS SCOLDING: I was just about to move on to the Reverend
 18 Colin Pritchard when the lunch adjournment took place.
 19 So just for the background, for the benefit of
 20 everybody, the Reverend Colin Pritchard was a priest
 21 within the Sussex area. He then moved to
 22 Northamptonshire. In 2008, he was convicted of child
 23 sexual offending. He was also convicted
 24 in February 2018 of further child sexual offending which
 25 took place whilst he was the incumbent, I believe, in

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1 Seddlescombe in the late 1980s/early 1990s. He was also
 2 a colleague of Reverend Cotton.
 3 You deal with him and his permission to officiate at
 4 paragraph 40 of your witness statement.
 5 As I understand it, Reverend Pritchard retired
 6 in January 2007 and asked for permission to officiate.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. He in fact had been arrested in November 2006; that's
 9 right, isn't it?
 10 **A. Yes, that's correct.**
 11 Q. I understand -- I believe it was Ms Medway who was your
 12 personal assistant at the time. Your personal assistant
 13 issued PTO. Was that a mistake? Should she have issued
 14 PTO for him, as he had been arrested for child sexual
 15 offending?
 16 **A. The protocol at the time, as you will see from what**
 17 **happened in the conversation between Janet Hind,**
 18 **Bishop John and myself, was not to remove the PTO during**
 19 **the investigation, but to make sure there was no**
 20 **connection with children, so to guard it about.**
 21 **So it was a very regrettable mistake to issue PTO**
 22 **without that qualification, but as soon as that came to**
 23 **light, we put it right.**
 24 **But please notice that the protocol at that time**
 25 **was -- the advice was not to withdraw PTO.**

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1 Q. As I understand it, in fact, looking at your witness
 2 statement, just so that you are clear, you say at 40.3,
 3 Ms Medway shouldn't have issued the PTO:
 4 "She issued the PTO believing that she was supposed
 5 to do so ... In fact, no such instruction had been given
 6 by me and it was not my desire or instruction that she
 7 should do so."
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. She did check his CRB. However, I think the position is
 10 she checked a CRB which was already in existence rather
 11 than doing a fresh check.
 12 That's correct isn't it?
 13 **A. Yes, she thought, which is legitimate to think, but it**
 14 **was regrettable in this case, that it ran for a year, as**
 15 **it did at that stage, and she thought it was clear. But**
 16 **she already had been told at a staff meeting the**
 17 **previous month about a problem with Colin Pritchard, but**
 18 **she forgot. But it's very -- you know, it's**
 19 **regrettable, really.**
 20 Q. Again, doesn't this show a record keeping point of view,
 21 because, actually, what should have been -- I suspect
 22 she would have looked at his file, because a letter
 23 would have come in saying, "Can I have PTO?" She would
 24 have looked at his file. Had there been a record on
 25 file which said "Arrested for child sexual abuse

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1 offences", I suspect she would have come to you and
 2 said, "Should I be doing this or shouldn't I?"
 3 **A. Sandy was actually very good at record keeping and this**
 4 **is the only mistake I'm aware she made in the time she**
 5 **worked for me.**
 6 Q. But you found out, as I understand it, in February 2007
 7 that the PTO had been issued. That is WPB000002, behind
 8 tab 3, chair and panel, at 74. No, that's from July --
 9 no, okay, let's not worry about that.
 10 **A. Sorry, it was July that year.**
 11 Q. It was July that year --
 12 **A. Yes, not February.**
 13 Q. So you didn't find out before July?
 14 **A. Yes. As soon as we found out, we made sure that the**
 15 **church he went to -- he hadn't been terribly well. In**
 16 **fact, he hadn't been attending any services where there**
 17 **were children anyway. But nonetheless, we made**
 18 **absolutely certain with the parish clergy that he**
 19 **wouldn't be allowed near any services where there were**
 20 **children, and when Mrs Hosgood arrived, she looked at**
 21 **the situation again and said that PTO should be pulled**
 22 **and I immediately pulled it when she so instructed.**
 23 Q. Again, if we can just go back -- I understand that you
 24 had a meeting, and I think everybody agrees you had that
 25 meeting, and at that meeting Janet Hind said to you,

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1 "Don't revoke PTO entirely, but identify that he is
 2 unable to work with children or be around children?"
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Again, how did you enforce that? Was that simply via
 5 Janet Hind or would you have enforced it in any way?
 6 **A. I was asked at that meeting to contact the parish clergy**
 7 **about it. The vicar was away. I talked to the curate**
 8 **and got a reassurance from him that only -- he was the**
 9 **only staff member that actually dealt with services that**
 10 **had children in them. He was alerted to the whole**
 11 **thing. At that point, it's left to the parish to**
 12 **monitor.**
 13 Q. But then, as you have correctly identified, as soon as
 14 Shirley Hosgood came into post, she identified that she
 15 considered that he should be suspended?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. And that then happened on 6 September 2007; that's
 18 right, isn't it?
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. Can I turn now to ask you about past cases review.
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. There are some concerns that you didn't pass on a number
 23 of relevant names. I understand that Roger Meekings
 24 wrote to you and to your PA contemporaneously asking for
 25 all relevant names and all relevant information. For

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1 example, you didn't pass on the name of AN-F3. I know
 2 you have got a note of it.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Can you remember passing that name on?
 5 **A. Well, that's an interesting case, because I had little**
 6 **to do with it. It was basically Bishop John who had**
 7 **something to do with it.**
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 **A. But I met with Bishop John who said to me -- there was**
 10 **a letter going out generally to senior staff about**
 11 **giving names. Bishop John said to me, "Because there's**
 12 **been quite a lot of incidences in the east, can you**
 13 **please give me all the names so I'm not caught out by**
 14 **them?", and we had that meeting at a bishops' meeting.**
 15 **I think -- I believe Bishop Lindsay was there. I think**
 16 **he was, anyway.**
 17 Q. I think Bishop John in his evidence said -- I can't
 18 remember whether he said that there was this meeting or
 19 not. But you said Bishop Lindsay, the three of you had
 20 a meeting?
 21 **A. I gave to Bishop John all the names I could think of in**
 22 **the east, which included all the ones before this**
 23 **inquiry.**
 24 Q. Did that include then the Reverend Robert Coles?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. Did that include then the Reverend Gordon Rideout? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. That isn't what other individuals have indicated to this 4 inquiry. They have indicated that you didn't pass those 5 names on. 6 A. Well, as I passed them on to Bishop John in a room with 7 only him and Bishop Lindsay and I present, how could 8 they be that certain? 9 Q. Okay. 10 A. Sorry, at the end of that meeting, Bishop John said to 11 me, "Are you sure that's all the folk?", and I said, 12 "Absolutely. That's all that I'm aware of", and he 13 said, "Fine", and I said, "Do you need me to write to 14 you anymore with this?", and he said, "No, we have done 15 all that's necessary", so -- 16 Q. So you didn't then write to Roger Meekings separately 17 with a list of names? 18 A. No, because the names were going to Bishop John anyway 19 to pass on to Roger Meekings. They weren't going 20 directly to Roger Meekings. 21 Q. You also indicate in your witness statement at 22 paragraph 52.2 that you offered Roger Meekings access to 23 your area files -- 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. -- which was not taken up; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 Q. At paragraph 55 of your witness statement -- 2 WPB000047_050 -- you identify the reasons. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. However, I would like to take you to WPB000034_001, 5 which is behind tab 15, which is your immediate 6 response, your contemporaneous response, which I think 7 probably is the response that then carried out 8 throughout the time. So you say: 9 "Contrary to his pleasant manner and apparent lack 10 of undue concern ... I totally and utterly reject the 11 conclusions of his report as summarised in 12 recommendation 2. Whatever sins of omission there have 13 been he has turned them into sins of commission." 14 Under paragraph 2 towards the bottom of the page: 15 "I am accused of a lack of 'seriousness of approach 16 to safeguarding'. This is a serious comment which 17 I take very personally and am hugely offended by. It is 18 a speculative, ill-founded and unjustified accusation 19 and assumption. In the light of the Lord's comments 20 about hurting 'little ones' I am appalled to be accused 21 of not being serious about something I take very 22 seriously indeed." 23 It then continues -- Paul, would you mind getting 24 the next page up? It then says at the top of the next 25 page:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Can I ask, did you ever see the final version of 3 the past cases review? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Was it not circulated to all clergy in the diocese? 6 A. No. 7 Q. Was it not circulated amongst senior staff? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Okay. 10 A. Well, if it was, not to me. 11 Q. I assume if it would have been circulated to anyone, it 12 would have included the area bishops as well as the 13 diocesan bishop? 14 A. Well -- yes. 15 Q. I am then going to ask you to turn to the addendum 16 report into Cotton and Pritchard which we in the inquiry 17 are calling the Meekings Report. We have already 18 identified that Roger Meekings interviewed you twice and 19 we have gone to those contemporaneous notes earlier, so 20 I am not going to put those back up on the screen again. 21 You identify, I think, both at the time and 22 subsequently, that you were not very happy, I think 23 might be an understatement, with the terms of 24 the Meekings Report? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 "... I am horrified by the innuendo, ill-founded 2 accusations and scapegoating of me personally in the 3 report. While I want to learn ... does not justify the 4 salary of the person who wrote it. I feel I have been 5 seriously misrepresented, falsely accused and at best 6 misunderstood. 7 "If you want a longer reply than this, when I have 8 cooled down, I would be happy to supply it!" 9 Would it be fair to say that the cooling down never 10 actually occurred, because the tenor and tone of your 11 witness statement is not dissimilar in terms of 12 the extent of your objection to Mr Meekings' report and 13 your feelings of -- I think to say -- I would suggest 14 that the word that I may wish to use is traduced. You 15 feel traduced by what Mr Meekings wrote about you. 16 That's right, isn't it? 17 A. It is. 18 Q. You wrote a reply setting out, by way of a schedule, 19 what you considered to be the inaccuracies, which again, 20 Paul, I would ask you to get up at WPB000003_042 to 051. 21 Chair and panel, it is behind tab 16 at pages 43 to 52. 22 Obviously, I am not going to ask you to go through 23 the whole of paragraph 55, but clearly at paragraph 55 24 you set out in some detail -- I'm so sorry, it is 25 ACE023515 -- sorry, I think there are two versions of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 it. ACE023515_001. This is your reply. Again, it is 2 a very lengthy reply. I think it is 12 or 17 pages in 3 total -- I know there is a difference between those 4 two -- in which you have identified exactly what you 5 considered. Was it the conclusions that he reached that 6 you were offended by or the fact that certain factual 7 information you considered was incorrect? 8 A. What do you mean by "the conclusions"? If you mean by 9 "the conclusions", the recommendations -- 10 Q. Yes. 11 A. -- I was always in favour of -- I never objected to his 12 recommendations. In fact, I sent a draft letter through 13 to Bishop John tightening up one or two of them at one 14 point to make them tighter. So I was never, ever 15 against the publication of the recommendations. I was 16 against the publication of the report from him because 17 Archdeacon Philip Jones had said to me it was 18 potentially libellous. 19 Q. Why don't we get that up? If I go to WPB000003_052 to 20 053. It is behind tab 16, chair and panel. That's an 21 email from -- well: 22 "Dear John ..." 23 It is from Philip Jones. In effect, it says: 24 "In my view, in certain instances what is said may 25 amount to actionable defamation and I have accordingly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 was a barrister, who was the diocesan secretary, said 2 she thought it was libellous as well, the archbishop's 3 legal officer said he thought it was defamatory, and 4 somebody else did, but there was -- I think there were 5 five altogether said that they all thought it was based 6 on assumptions and ill-founded evidence -- 7 Q. So did you -- 8 A. -- and was defamatory. 9 Q. So did you ever threaten an injunction if it was going 10 to be published? So at various stages thoughts were 11 given -- 12 A. No. 13 Q. Did you ever get your solicitors to write a legal letter 14 to threaten that? 15 A. No. We tried very hard, and one of the -- Angela Sibson 16 said, I understand, in her witness statement she said, 17 if only people would have sat down and talked about it, 18 and we tried very hard to get that kind of thing to 19 happen, and I'm afraid it didn't. 20 Q. Okay. 21 A. We didn't -- the fear that paralysed the inactivity of 22 the diocese was self-induced. Nobody ever said to me, 23 "Are you going to take legal action?", because I wasn't. 24 Q. But the widespread -- 25 A. I didn't want to do that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 suggested to Wallace that he seek legal advice as soon 2 as possible." 3 As I understand, Roger Meekings then responded to 4 this and a revised report was then sent, as I understand 5 it, in November 2009 and you then made further comments 6 upon it which, if we can get that up, please, Paul, 7 WPB000003_057: "Blow-by-blow analysis". So again, you 8 were unhappy with the revised report and a final report 9 was received in December 2009. That's right, isn't it? 10 A. That's correct, but our final concerns about what he had 11 written were not considered. 12 Q. So these ones here that we have in front of you weren't 13 considered? 14 A. I think so, that's right, the final. 15 Q. You've mentioned -- obviously we've got Philip Jones in 16 an email in the July saying, "I think some of it is 17 defamatory". Did you take any steps to seek legal 18 advice? 19 A. I did. I went to the diocesan registrar and I said to 20 him, you know, "What do you think about this?", and he 21 said the same thing: he thought it was potentially 22 libellous, but he said, "Don't go that route". Despite 23 what you've heard, we never went that route at all, but 24 it wasn't just -- it was -- Archdeacon Philip said that, 25 the diocesan registrar said it, Francesca Del Mese, who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 Q. But the widespread perception, as you will understand 2 from the witnesses that we have already heard from and 3 from the witness evidence, was that you were going to 4 take legal action, you were going to sue people for 5 libel, if that report was published? 6 A. That was their conclusions based on a number of 7 people's -- all the legal opinion that was asked agreed 8 that it was potentially defamatory and that news was out 9 and about, so I think they expected I would do something 10 about it, but I didn't. My legal team who are here will 11 tell you that they -- I never asked them to do that, 12 they never tried to suggest that to me, and the only 13 potential legal action we ever considered was after some 14 very, very bad reporting from BBC, against the BBC, but 15 never against the diocese or the bishop. 16 Q. But I think you said in your evidence a few minutes ago 17 that the paralysis was entirely self-inflicted? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Do you agree, however, that the consequences of 20 the falling out, shall we say, about the report did 21 cause paralysis within the context of the diocese, 22 amongst senior clergy? 23 A. Well, there was a paralysis of decision. 24 Q. Yes. 25 A. I suppose that, you know, it's a little bit like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 a rabbit in the headlights: if suddenly something is 2 shone on, I think there's indecision and then there's 3 panic. I think that there was a lot of evidence around 4 that time in the diocese, sadly, of -- and all this, in 5 a way, ends up hurting somebody or causing more problems 6 for the victims, which is tragic. But there was 7 indecision. Bishop John wouldn't talk to me about the 8 whole business for a year, and then there was panic. 9 You know, the CDM and all that. When we wanted to talk 10 through the issues, get them sorted out, get the facts 11 straightened out, because I'm totally convinced that 12 it's the truth that sets us free and the lack of truth 13 has been one of the problems that has more hurt victims 14 and more caused problems.</p> <p>15 So if untruth or lack of proper foundation for 16 things is perpetuated, it makes it more difficult for 17 the victims, and it actually makes it more difficult for 18 an institution to face up to corporate responsibility. 19 So truth is important.</p> <p>20 Q. You were also concerned, as I understand it -- I don't 21 think I need to take you through paragraph 55, but one 22 of your main concerns was you felt that Mr Meekings 23 wasn't impartial --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- because he had been Ms Hosgood's professional</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 I requested to meet them; never did. So it just -- 2 I mean, it was a difficult time.</p> <p>3 Q. I think we might come on to the difficult time, because 4 I think within the chronology there are some other 5 issues that I would like to go through.</p> <p>6 A. Okay.</p> <p>7 Q. Then I would like to talk about that. But, I mean, 8 certainly I think you were aware that the victims and 9 survivors wanted the Meekings Report to be made public, 10 because they felt --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- it would be a useful piece of information for their 13 healing, so to speak.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. You knew that?</p> <p>16 A. Well, I have never been -- I was never against the 17 Butler-Sloss Report being published, nor against the 18 guidelines. But how does it help people's healing if 19 unsubstantiated, ill-founded, defamatory material is 20 there that doesn't appear to be true? It's truth that 21 helps healing. It's not a muddle.</p> <p>22 I felt, for the sake of the victims, number one; for 23 the sake of the diocese being able to face and improve 24 things collectively, that the truth needed to come out.</p> <p>25 Q. Isn't one of the difficulties that I think individuals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 supervisor and therefore had been a sort of a mentor to 2 her, for want of a better word. Do you still consider 3 that that was an inherent problem within the report?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I do, because the House of Bishops' guidelines in 5 2009 on safeguarding issues say that anybody who does 6 past cases review should be entirely independent of 7 the DSA, and in our situation, we had somebody who was 8 her professional mentor and, I think, friend. We also 9 had a safeguarding team that was picked entirely by her. 10 If you look at the House of Bishops' guidelines and code 11 of practice, that's not what should happen.</p> <p>12 One of the things that, interestingly enough, in the 13 code of practice is that, in a reconstituted group -- 14 you remember there'd been a gap of the safeguarding 15 group in the diocese.</p> <p>16 Q. There hadn't been a group that was effective, shall we 17 say. There might have been people, but it didn't meet 18 very regularly between 2004 and around the beginning of 19 2010?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, which was unhelpful, I think, to put it -- but the 21 code of practice of the House of Bishops guidelines says 22 that in a diocese the bishops should sit on that group, 23 in terms of being informed of what's going on, or should 24 have access to that group.</p> <p>25 I never met any of the members of the group.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 have observed that all of this upset, distress, 2 unhappiness, people not talking to each other, got in 3 the way of implementing effective safeguarding 4 recommendations?</p> <p>5 A. When you see people -- say people not talking to one 6 another, there were still professional relationships 7 went on. I don't think it actually affected any 8 individual safeguarding cases. But it certainly will 9 have not been helpful for the victims and I'm distressed 10 by that.</p> <p>11 Q. If we can now move on to -- I think in order to try to 12 break the impasse which Bishop John felt had arisen 13 between, in particular, I think, probably amongst the 14 senior staff, he instructed Baroness Butler-Sloss to 15 undertake a review, really, of the Meekings review. 16 Now, I understand -- you deal with this -- this is just 17 for your note, chair and panel -- at paragraph 59 of 18 your witness statement, but I don't think I need to take 19 you to it.</p> <p>20 You did comment upon a draft, and this is at 21 WPB000004_029 to 032, behind tab 17. If we could pass 22 on to the next page, please.</p> <p>23 Can I ask, she did both the review but she also had 24 to do an addendum because there was some issue about 25 Roy Cotton's ministry, as I understand it, about whether</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 or not it was or wasn't subject to strict conditions; is 2 that right? 3 A. The baroness accepted the dates issue of the '99/2001. 4 It was only 2001 that we knew about, the conviction. 5 Q. Yes, she did accept that. 6 A. There was a bit of a muddle about -- 7 Q. Strict conditions? 8 A. Yes, where Roy Cotton was, whether he was in the nursing 9 home or a hospital or where he was. 10 Q. Okay. I think you identified that -- originally, 11 I think it was maybe identified that he was in a nursing 12 home from 2001 and in fact that turned out not to be the 13 case, it was only in 2003. That's right; we dealt with 14 that earlier? 15 A. Well, the difficulty about all this is that he was 16 permanently in a hospital from 2003. When I was told in 17 2001, I was told he was in a nursing home, I had no 18 reason to disbelieve that. That's what Nicholas Reade 19 told me. But I think the truth of the case was that he 20 was very ill but he -- one of the things he had -- one 21 of the things he suffered from was leg ulcers, which are 22 very distressing things, and need a lot of continual 23 treatment. I understand that he was in and out of 24 the nursing home, which is the best information I have. 25 I don't know if you have got more information, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 Q. In fact, I think you identify the reservations that you 2 have -- again, chair and panel, this is just to identify 3 what those are -- at 60.3 of your witness statement, 4 which is WPB000047_058 and 059. However -- so we have 5 that and just so it is on the record, those are the 6 critiques you make. Unless you in particular, 7 Bishop Wallace, want to go through those particular 8 critiques, which are all of the factual position in 9 respect of Reverend Cotton and which I think we have 10 probably dealt with? 11 A. Yes, I would only draw your attention very quickly to 12 59.11: 13 "The report resulted in unnecessary and ill-informed 14 press reporting and speculation and significant 15 consequent distress to survivors." 16 And 59.12: 17 "The ongoing press coverage and consequent distress 18 to survivors reinforced my determination to ensure that 19 the inaccuracies be corrected." 20 Q. I know you're critical of the statements of fact. She 21 reaches some conclusions that I would like to take you 22 through, if I may. OHY000186. Chair and panel, we 23 don't have a copy of that report in your bundles. 24 This is the first page. Paul, could you now go to 25 page 14, please? Paragraph 4.2. Bishop Wallace, could</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 that's -- when the issue came up about a restricted PTO, 2 I was told he was in the nursing home, and I had no 3 reason to doubt that. 4 Q. Can I ask again, when it was identified -- and 5 Baroness Butler-Sloss made it, I think, a precondition 6 of her terms of engagement -- that the report would be 7 published, you objected -- did you object to the 8 publication of her report per se or simply the addendum 9 appending the Meekings Report? 10 A. I never objected to her report being published at all, 11 although there were some ongoing problems I tried to 12 relate to her about -- it was -- the publication of 13 the Meekings Report -- Bishop John told me that it was 14 an internal investigation. Everybody was saying -- 15 everybody legally was saying its conclusions were 16 unsafe. It didn't seem to me to be very helpful for 17 unsafe conclusions to be public. I don't know how that 18 helps anybody. 19 Another promise was made to me that it would only 20 ever be -- it would be kept on file along with my 21 detailed analysis of it. What actually happened was 22 that it became public without any evidence of the points 23 I had made against it. 24 So please don't be surprised if I wasn't very happy 25 about that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 I ask you -- I don't know whether you have your own copy 2 or whether you will find it easier to look at the 3 screen? 4 A. I will look at it on the screen. 5 Q. It says -- this criticises Eric Kemp about Roy Cotton 6 not looking at the blue file: 7 "If he had done so, he would have seen the record of 8 the 1954 conviction ..." 9 The information about that wasn't given to her: 10 "In my view, Eric Kemp should have checked the blue 11 file and with the knowledge ... should have [done so]." 12 If I look to page 17, please, Paul, says here, 13 "I consider it" -- she exonerates you, in effect: 14 "I consider it is most unlikely that either WB or NR 15 did have knowledge of the 1954 conviction because, in my 16 view, it was almost certain that the fact of 17 the conviction would have been brought up at senior 18 staff meetings when the position of RC was discussed. 19 Since WB considered RC to be a villain, the knowledge of 20 the conviction would ... have spurred him on to urge EC 21 to take action to suspend RC or suspend him himself." 22 She goes on at page 17 into page 18, even if it was 23 erroneous, it has caused a great deal of harm. 24 You agree with that and have identified that 25 already?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 A. I do.</p> <p>2 Q. However, at page 18, she says the diocese didn't take</p> <p>3 any steps to establish the degree of risk and that he</p> <p>4 should have been suspended. Again, do you accept that</p> <p>5 conclusion?</p> <p>6 A. I'm sorry, I have lost you there. Where are we?</p> <p>7 Q. I do apologise:</p> <p>8 "Sussex Police ... [he] had retired ... I refer to</p> <p>9 the points I made ... in relation to the diocesan</p> <p>10 guidance and RC should have been suspended while a risk</p> <p>11 assessment was carried out or at least open conditions</p> <p>12 placed on his ministry."</p> <p>13 A. "RC should have been suspended".</p> <p>14 Q. Yes:</p> <p>15 "The fact that, because of his continuing</p> <p>16 ill-health, Reverend Cotton was unlikely to be a danger</p> <p>17 to children was not a good reason not to make clear the</p> <p>18 limits upon his right to continue his ministry."</p> <p>19 This was for two reasons: firstly, to send a message</p> <p>20 to the diocese that child abuse was to be treated</p> <p>21 seriously; secondly, in order to reassure those victims</p> <p>22 that it was treated seriously.</p> <p>23 A. I think with the benefit of hindsight, yes, I agree.</p> <p>24 Q. At page 19, Baroness Butler-Sloss identifies that it</p> <p>25 would have been preferable -- again, Bishop Wallace,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 a regrettable error, but remember that the actual PTO</p> <p>2 for Colin Pritchard was agreed by Bishop John and</p> <p>3 Mrs Hind and myself.</p> <p>4 Q. So you feel it is not a criticism that should be shared</p> <p>5 just by you but also by Bishop Hind and Janet Hind?</p> <p>6 A. I have admitted that Sandy, you know, made a very</p> <p>7 unhelpful mistake and, as her boss, I have to accept</p> <p>8 responsibility for that. But I think it would be</p> <p>9 appalling to jump to the conclusion that there was kind</p> <p>10 of mismanagement or terrible lack of responsibility</p> <p>11 going on in the office. Because there wasn't. It was</p> <p>12 just a perfect storm, I'm afraid, at that point.</p> <p>13 Q. Chair and panel, this is behind tab 19. This is</p> <p>14 a letter which Elizabeth Butler-Sloss sent to</p> <p>15 Chris Smith who was at the time Lord Williams or</p> <p>16 Archbishop Williams, as he was at the time, a letter to</p> <p>17 the chief of staff. This is ACE005501. This is</p> <p>18 a private letter that was sent, so it wasn't intended</p> <p>19 for publication, although I think it was discussed with</p> <p>20 Bishop Hind.</p> <p>21 This identifies various factors, and I would like to</p> <p>22 take you through them and to get your comments upon</p> <p>23 them. If I could ask you at number 1:</p> <p>24 "There is a perception within and without the</p> <p>25 diocese, particularly pointed out to me by the chairman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 this is about halfway down the first paragraph:</p> <p>2 "It would have been preferable if WB, since he</p> <p>3 believed that RC was a villain, had refused to grant</p> <p>4 a PTO and left it to EC to grant one."</p> <p>5 Again, do you agree with her conclusions in that</p> <p>6 respect?</p> <p>7 A. No, I don't think I do:</p> <p>8 Q. For the reasons that we have already heard?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, you have heard me say how the chain of command was</p> <p>10 working.</p> <p>11 Q. Could I now, Paul, take you on to page 33, please, Paul.</p> <p>12 This is in respect of Reverend Pritchard and at</p> <p>13 paragraph 7.4 again she says that PTO should not have</p> <p>14 been granted:</p> <p>15 "It appears to have been granted by an</p> <p>16 administrative error ... this error does however reveal</p> <p>17 a lack of proper control and negligence in the area</p> <p>18 bishop's office and by WB personally in granting a PTO</p> <p>19 to a priest who was for the second time the subject of</p> <p>20 a police investigation into child abuse. I am relieved</p> <p>21 to learn that all PTOs have now to be issued personally</p> <p>22 by the diocesan bishop."</p> <p>23 Again, do you accept that criticism or don't accept</p> <p>24 it?</p> <p>25 A. No, I think that's not really quite fair. There was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 of the safeguarding group who is a retired police chief</p> <p>2 superintendent, of an antiwoman culture."</p> <p>3 Now, do you agree that there was an antiwoman</p> <p>4 culture within the diocese or that people perceived that</p> <p>5 to be the case?</p> <p>6 A. I think that there were probably little pockets of that.</p> <p>7 I only came across it once at a meeting where a male</p> <p>8 priest spoke very badly, and I told him off, and he</p> <p>9 apologised. But other than that incident, I never came</p> <p>10 across it myself, though it was a perception about the</p> <p>11 diocese outside the diocese, but I never came across it,</p> <p>12 because there were lots of senior appointments of women</p> <p>13 in the diocese.</p> <p>14 Q. Were there any senior appointments of women as</p> <p>15 archdeacons?</p> <p>16 A. No, but there was an intention to do that, and it has</p> <p>17 been fulfilled.</p> <p>18 Q. Were there any senior appointments of women as rural</p> <p>19 deans?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. When did that first appointment take place?</p> <p>22 A. I honestly can't remember, but it probably would have</p> <p>23 been about 2007, something like that; some very good</p> <p>24 women rural deans, I should add.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I ask you further down, paragraph 2:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 "There has been a culture of denial of 2 the seriousness of historic abuse when the allegations 3 are made against a senior clergyman who is a friend." 4 I think we will come on to talk about that. Do you 5 agree with that or not agree with that? 6 A. I don't agree with the example, but I agree that there 7 was a culture of reluctance about Peter Ball. 8 Q. Why do you think that was? 9 A. I don't know. Possibly old friendships. He was highly 10 thought of by a lot of people. But there seemed to be 11 a slowness to react about that. But I really don't, and 12 I will give reasons why further on. 13 Q. We will come to that. 14 A. I really don't think the example she picks is fair. 15 Q. Paragraph 3: 16 "In general, the effect on the victims of historic 17 abuse is not well understood, eg, 'Wasn't it all a long 18 time ago?'. This may lead to some reluctance in the 19 future by some to take these allegations seriously." 20 Is this a criticism you accept or don't accept? 21 A. I think if that was the reaction, that's appalling. So 22 I don't -- I'm not sure how I answer your question. 23 Q. Okay. 24 A. But it's a terrible -- you know, if that was the 25 perception -- and I don't think it was, really, not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 got them up, one in 2009 and one in 2010. They were 2 about a year apart, both of which were letters to 3 Ms Hosgood rather than to you, and in both of which he 4 in effect says, "The relationship between you and 5 Bishop Wallace is so poor I have got to do something 6 about this", and in fact suggests some kind of 7 mediation. Can you remember, did he write in similar 8 terms to you or was it just to Ms Hosgood that he wrote 9 those letters? 10 A. He finally suggested some mediation, which I would have 11 liked, actually, and agreed to, and Mrs Hosgood agreed 12 to it as well, but, before we could meet, resigned. 13 Q. Yes, I think I do remember that. I think it was on or 14 around September 2010 that the mediation -- that 15 Bishop Hind wrote the letter and then Ms Hosgood 16 resigned shortly thereafter. I'm sure we can get the -- 17 I think -- if and when we get them, I will take you to 18 them specifically, but at the moment we haven't got 19 them. 20 Can we pass on?: 21 "There appear to have been and possibly remain 22 a number of people with a sexual orientation which might 23 predispose to a sympathy for misbehaviour ..." 24 Obviously, I'm not entirely sure what that means: 25 "... particularly in the Eastbourne area ever since</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 generally speaking -- at least I hope not. 2 Q. Can we go now to number 4: 3 "It is difficult for some senior clergy, not all, to 4 have an adequate degree of communication with the DSA 5 and the safeguarding group." 6 I think at least the degree of communication -- you 7 said you had no communication with the safeguarding 8 group. 9 A. No. 10 Q. And with the diocesan safeguarding adviser, you 11 described your relationship, well, with Ms Hosgood, who 12 would have been the individual at the time, as 13 complicated, shall we say? 14 A. Yes, that's a fair word. But I don't think -- it never 15 stopped us meeting and trying to be professional. 16 Q. But -- 17 A. I mean, that's important. We never had cross words. 18 I was always willing to meet her. Any case that came up 19 that needed her advice, I asked for it. So there was 20 never -- I'm not aware of any time there was cross words 21 or hindrance to actually dealing with individual cases. 22 But it certainly was not easy. 23 Q. Can I just pick you up on that, because I think 24 Bishop John in his evidence -- we had two letters, and 25 I'm afraid I can't remember where they came from but we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 Bishop Peter Ball lived there. I have been told that 2 outside the diocese it may be known that such people 3 will receive a welcome. I was told that there were 26 4 cases of inappropriate behaviour in the diocese last 5 year, not all clergy and not all sexual abuse." 6 Do you agree with that? 7 A. Sorry, I'm not really too sure what you're asking me. 8 Q. Were there a number of people with a sexual orientation 9 which might predispose them to a sympathy for 10 misbehaviour within the Eastbourne area? 11 A. I wasn't aware of that, but there were clearly -- there 12 was clearly a paedophile ring which I inherited and 13 which was shocking, really. 14 I'm not aware -- I'm not aware of that. 15 Q. Can I be clear: as far as I'm aware, people who are 16 paedophiles -- I wouldn't describe that as a sexual 17 orientation? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Sexual orientation I would say is, you know, depending 20 upon which gender you may wish to have sexual 21 relationships with. 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. I mean, paedophilia is a deviant behaviour, isn't it -- 24 A. Exactly. 25 Q. -- not a sexual orientation?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Is there an impression given by some people that, "Oh,</p> <p>3 these are just all" -- you know, "These are people who</p> <p>4 are gay and therefore this is the sort of thing that you</p> <p>5 should expect"? Were you aware of that? I think that</p> <p>6 might be --</p> <p>7 A. I honestly wasn't aware of that. But that would be to</p> <p>8 miscategorise things altogether, if it did exist.</p> <p>9 Q. Of course. It is a travesty of the actual position, but</p> <p>10 people can reach incorrect conclusions or reach</p> <p>11 incorrect assumptions about these sorts of things.</p> <p>12 Can I take you to the next page, the fourth</p> <p>13 paragraph down:</p> <p>14 "I have not discussed any general points with the</p> <p>15 Bishop of Lewes. He is too concerned by my criticisms</p> <p>16 of him for me to be able to have any useful conversation</p> <p>17 with him. He now says all the right things, but I very</p> <p>18 much doubt whether he has actually understood why he has</p> <p>19 been criticised."</p> <p>20 Do you have any response to that?</p> <p>21 A. I very much respect Baroness Butler-Sloss. That's her</p> <p>22 opinion. I don't think it's a fair opinion, and I don't</p> <p>23 think it's borne out by the evidence. Because I had</p> <p>24 a conversation with her and correspondence which was</p> <p>25 polite both ways and appreciative both ways, and ran</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 You set out in, I think, your first supplementary</p> <p>2 witness statement at WPB000052_001 that you had</p> <p>3 a meeting in 2012 with them in which you raised</p> <p>4 significant concerns. If we could go to paragraph 4,</p> <p>5 which I think is around page 3:</p> <p>6 "I would now like to return to [the meeting that</p> <p>7 I attended]. At that meeting, I was put under</p> <p>8 significant pressure to resign. I attach</p> <p>9 a contemporaneous attendance note of that meeting.</p> <p>10 "What was said at the meeting ... gave rise to</p> <p>11 significant concerns ... [about the] nature of their</p> <p>12 appointment and their duty to act fairly and to abide by</p> <p>13 the principles of natural justice. These were set out</p> <p>14 in a letter ..."</p> <p>15 Paul, the letter is at WPB000049.</p> <p>16 Just briefly -- I don't think we need to set out in</p> <p>17 any great detail, but obviously we are going to hear</p> <p>18 from somebody who conducted the visitation. What were</p> <p>19 your major concerns with what was said to you at that</p> <p>20 meeting and why did you feel that they acted unfairly,</p> <p>21 and I think you felt that they acted outside the scope</p> <p>22 of their role as visitors?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, I did. When I went out from the meeting, which</p> <p>24 I was a bit shocked by, my solicitor who was with me</p> <p>25 said, "I can't believe they said to you what they did",</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 into trouble in the end because she would not reply to</p> <p>2 letters about particular unresolved issues. She just</p> <p>3 wouldn't reply.</p> <p>4 But as a general statement, I'm sorry she felt like</p> <p>5 that, and I don't really accept it.</p> <p>6 Q. In fact, I think that's what the evidence of some of</p> <p>7 the other participants who have already given oral</p> <p>8 evidence in this inquiry really is, which was your</p> <p>9 concern about the factual misrepresentations got in the</p> <p>10 way of everyone in the diocese being able to move on, so</p> <p>11 to speak?</p> <p>12 A. Well, the problem about that is, the only way you can</p> <p>13 move on is by addressing the truth. When you address</p> <p>14 the truth, you see that there were systemic problems,</p> <p>15 and when you pile them on to one individual without</p> <p>16 adequate foundation, it doesn't help the diocesan</p> <p>17 structure to actually improve its safeguarding practice.</p> <p>18 It doesn't help the institution. In the end, who</p> <p>19 suffers from that? It's the victims that suffer. Truth</p> <p>20 really matters.</p> <p>21 If you sacrifice truth in order to move on, what</p> <p>22 exactly are you moving on to? The best way to move on</p> <p>23 is to face the truth.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I now pass on to the Archepiscopal Visitation.</p> <p>25 I understand that you had a meeting with the visitors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 which was --</p> <p>2 Q. What was it that they said to you that you were</p> <p>3 particularly upset by?</p> <p>4 A. I will give you a paraphrase of what it seemed to be</p> <p>5 saying. It seemed to be saying, "Go soon and we will</p> <p>6 write a report that's good about you. Go slowly and it</p> <p>7 won't turn out as well for you", which seemed to me to</p> <p>8 be shocking and exceeding their brief, and, actually,</p> <p>9 quite contrary to what the archbishop himself said to me</p> <p>10 when I went to see him, who was Archbishop Rowan, who</p> <p>11 was very kind to my wife and I when I came and saw them.</p> <p>12 I was so -- I got to a point where I was so distressed</p> <p>13 that I said, "Look, I have just come to give you my</p> <p>14 resignation", and he said, "Don't go yet. It's your</p> <p>15 decision. It's up to you". He was leaving the decision</p> <p>16 to me. But he said, "Do not go yet, because it will be</p> <p>17 misinterpreted. From my point of view, you should stay</p> <p>18 on longer".</p> <p>19 So Archbishop Rowan -- and he talked about the</p> <p>20 growing awareness in Canterbury of systemic problems in</p> <p>21 the diocese and he also talked about how easy it was to</p> <p>22 scapegoat. The tone of the meeting with him was very</p> <p>23 different from his visitors'.</p> <p>24 Q. I believe I understand -- this is sort of separate to</p> <p>25 the visitation. But I believe I think Bishop John</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 within his evidence indicated that he had had some 2 discussions with Lambeth Palace that may well not have 3 been with Archbishop Rowan, it may have been with 4 a member of staff, which sort of indicated the same 5 thing that you are suggesting, which is, "a package 6 could be put together if you wish to seek retirement 7 early". Do you remember those conversations? 8 A. Yes, I do. I don't know if you have got the evidence, 9 but I have a letter from Chris Smith after the CDM 10 process had come through apologising for the way the 11 administration side of Lambeth had handled me, that he 12 was very sorry about. But I didn't feel that from 13 Archbishop Rowan himself. But I did from the visitors. 14 Q. Can we now turn on -- 15 A. I'm sorry to say. 16 Q. That's fine. Can we now turn on to Robert Coles, 17 please. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. You set this out in your witness statement at page 65, 20 paragraph 72 onwards. Again, you identify that he again 21 was arrested in 1997. 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. This was really around the same time as you first came 24 into post; that's right, isn't it? 25 A. That's right. He'd already been arrested when</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 again, you believed that the rumours may well have some 2 foundation in truth -- 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. -- or it looked like they were credible in nature? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Did you go and speak to the police or ask the police 7 about the allegations that were being made that had led 8 to his arrest? 9 A. No. I informed the DSA -- again, that was the protocol 10 at the time, and it wasn't for me to write the protocol 11 but to live by it. 12 Q. Yes. 13 A. In fact, to undermine the protocol would have just 14 caused chaos, really. So, no, I reported it to the DSA 15 and asked Nicholas Reade if he would tackle these 16 rumours and make investigations to find out if there was 17 any substance in them. 18 Q. You identified, but we haven't got a note of this 19 conversation, that yourself, Robert Coles and 20 Nicholas Reade had a conversation -- 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. -- at which Robert Coles indicated to you -- this is at 23 75.5.2, chair and panel, WPB000047_067: 24 "My recollection of that meeting is understandably 25 not good. But he denied the allegations under</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 I arrived. 2 Q. You identify -- this is at paragraph 72.3, 3 WPB000047_066. You say: 4 "Shortly after my arrival, I learned he'd been 5 signed off work for six months and was considering the 6 possibility of early retirement. His ongoing health 7 issues were, I believe, to do with stress and anxiety. 8 I also learned from Nicholas Reade that there were 9 concerns about Robert Coles arising out of rumours about 10 his conduct." 11 Sorry, Bishop Wallace, let me -- it is up on the 12 screen, but if you want to get to it in your own notes, 13 please feel free to do so. 14 A. If you don't mind, I'm sorry. 15 Q. No, that's fine. Sorry: 16 "So far as I can recall at this distance in time 17 (and I must emphasise that I cannot be sure ...) these 18 rumours were to do with homosexual practice and worries 19 regarding inappropriate behaviours towards children. 20 I do remember that the rumours were of concern to 21 Nicholas and myself and gave rise to the question of his 22 suitability to remain in office." 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Again, you arrived, almost immediately you were faced 25 with a serious safeguarding problem and one where,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 investigation by the police but admitted other conduct 2 which archdeacon Nicholas Reade and I regarded as being 3 of a serious nature. In particular, he admitted sexual 4 activity with a younger man who was at the time one of 5 his servers and who he thought to be older than he 6 actually was. From memory, Robert Coles described the 7 sexual act as inappropriate fondling and said that it 8 was a one-off event and had not happened again." 9 Robert Coles in that situation admitted to you 10 something which was a sexual offence? 11 A. Yes. He said it was -- he described it as an activity 12 with somebody who he thought to be older and therefore 13 was homosexual practice rather than offence. 14 Q. Yes. However, he wasn't -- it may be if we come up to 15 Nicholas Reade's note. 16 A. But the important thing is, he admitted one thing to us. 17 Put in those terms, that Mrs Hind immediately was -- 18 I mean, that's very serious in itself. 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. Extremely serious. On its own, very serious, and was 21 reported to the DSA. She had a subsequent meeting with 22 him at which he asked that I left. 23 Q. Yes. 24 A. And he admitted to her a whole lot of other things that 25 he never admitted to either Nicholas or I.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Q. Well, we have Nicholas Reade's note behind tab 20, 2 chair. I think this also accords with Janet Hind's 3 daybook record of what Nicholas Reade told her at the 4 time. WWS000008_001. This is a handwritten note. 5 I understand Nicholas Reade has said -- this is in red: 6 "This has not been altered since May 1997. Any 7 comments on 9/11/2017 are in red." 8 So this is first conversation with Eric: 9 "Never [something]. Never masturbation. 10 [Something] is impotent. 11 "All they did is cuddle. He buggered Robert. Saw 12 asleep -- naked -- deep sleep." 13 So it seems clear that certainly in respect of 14 the conversation with Nicholas Reade, he admitted 15 that -- well, I think he was a boy, he was 16 years old, 16 so at that particular time that would have been under 17 the age of consent, and he also, I understand, was 18 alleged to be socially inadequate. So not only was he 19 under the age of consent, he also was somebody who -- 20 I don't know what "socially inadequate" means, but 21 obviously he was a vulnerable individual. 22 A. I didn't know that. 23 Q. That's some other individual. So did he say that to 24 you? Did he identify that he had -- there had been an 25 act which amounted to a criminal offence?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 A. It was not -- to go back to the question earlier today, 2 it was not -- I didn't think I had a responsibility to 3 talk to the police. I believed that was Mrs Hind's 4 responsibility, and I believed that, come the beginning 5 of -- I'm pretty sure that, really, come the beginning 6 of -- when was it? -- '98, that she was talking to the 7 police, and I assumed that she had been talking to the 8 police. I'm fairly sure she was talking to the police 9 then. At least that was my understanding. 10 Q. Right. Well, I think Ms Hind admitted in the evidence 11 that she gave that she didn't inform the police about 12 this. So -- 13 A. I'm astonished, I have to say, if that's the case. 14 Q. As well, the situation is, he was then released without 15 charge, as I understand it, following that 16 investigation. Did none of you -- did Archdeacon Reade, 17 with whom you obviously had a very good relationship, 18 and yourself not sit there and think, "Oh, maybe we need 19 to speak to Janet about this. This seems a bit odd, 20 given what he's told us, that the police have just 21 released him. Surely, he must have ..." because one of 22 the things I think Archdeacon Nicholas says in his 23 evidence is, "I assumed that the police would find out 24 all about this, and, therefore, there wasn't any need". 25 Did you and Archdeacon Nicholas never have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 A. He said the same thing with the same caveats to Nicholas 2 and I, and we immediately reported that to the DSA. We 3 told Janet what he had said to us and felt that she 4 should talk to him further. He was not -- by the way, 5 it's very important to know, he was not ministering at 6 this point at all. 7 Q. Plainly, this was whilst another allegation was being 8 investigated, not in fact the allegation that he 9 admitted to, but another allegation. Did you not think 10 about -- 11 A. Is that right? I didn't know that until this minute. 12 I didn't know whether that was another allegation or 13 whether it -- anyway. 14 Q. I don't think we are entirely sure. 15 A. Okay. 16 Q. Whatever it was, he's admitted sexual offending -- 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. -- either against the individual about whom the 19 investigation is in place or against another individual. 20 Did none of you sit there and think that you should tell 21 the police about this? 22 A. I thought the police had been told about it. 23 Q. Right. Well, no, the police were never told about it, 24 neither by Ms Hind nor by Archdeacon Reade nor by 25 yourself. Did you not check up to say --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 a conversation in which you thought it was a bit strange 2 that someone who had admitted to you that he had 3 committed a criminal offence against children would not 4 then have told the police or the police would not have 5 charged him? 6 A. Well, at that stage, it wasn't entirely -- it wasn't 7 entirely clear as to what the police -- how the police 8 were exactly operating. But, no, I mean, the simple 9 answer is, no, we didn't think that. He wasn't in 10 ministry. 11 Q. Okay. 12 A. You know, in terms of anything we could effectively try 13 to control, he wasn't in ministry anymore. He'd stepped 14 down. He was in retirement. 15 Q. What -- 16 A. I refused to give him a PTO. 17 Q. What Ms Hind said, because obviously Ms Hind in her 18 evidence it was raised with her, "Why didn't you tell 19 the police? Should Bishop Wallace and 20 Archdeacon Nicholas have told the police?", she said -- 21 Ms McNeill said: 22 "Question: You're saying they had potentially 23 relevant evidence? 24 "Answer: Yes. 25 "Question: Do you think they retained</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 a responsibility to give that to the police themselves? 2 "Answer: Yes, I did, yes." 3 Do you accept that obviously whether or not it was 4 a legal duty to do so, you obviously had no legal duty 5 to inform the police, and that was what was found as 6 a result of the Clergy Discipline Measure and that the 7 diocesan policy said that you should tell the diocesan 8 safeguarding adviser. Again, with the benefit of 9 hindsight, should you have told the police? 10 A. Well, I've already said earlier on that I approve and am 11 glad of the direct encouragement to go directly to the 12 police, but that was not the protocol at the time, and 13 I did not feel, and Nicholas Reade clearly didn't feel 14 either, that there was any -- that that was our 15 responsibility. The surprising thing is that it wasn't 16 being done by the DSA. 17 I think if either of us had known that it wasn't 18 being done by the DSA, we would have done it. 19 Q. But you didn't check with the DSA, when all the 20 proceedings were dropped, to ask her? 21 A. There is an issue of trust, isn't there, between staff 22 members? You assume that things are done. 23 Q. You then said -- you say in your witness statement that 24 you felt Robert Coles was potentially dangerous and that 25 he needed a psychological assessment?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 by the way, was informed about all this all the way 2 through as well. 3 Q. Okay. I mean, I suppose I'm just saying that because 4 there was conduct unbecoming, and I can't actually think 5 of anything which would be more conduct unbecoming in 6 these circumstances. But is the practical reality that 7 just nobody used it for these sorts of things? 8 A. But he's not a serving clergyman. He's not a licensed, 9 serving clergyman to be able to take that action 10 against. 11 When the police dismiss things, you assume that 12 there isn't adequate grounds, at least then we assumed 13 that there wasn't adequate grounds on which to take 14 forward any kind of prosecution, but we now know that 15 this is happily clearer and more -- it's different, 16 happily. 17 Q. Once he retired, did you put in place, or organise to 18 have put in place, some form of safeguarding arrangement 19 with his local parish? 20 A. Again, that would have been the DSA's responsibility, to 21 be watchdogged by the archdeacon. That was how it 22 worked, that was how the -- 23 Q. Did you warn the church warden or the incumbent of 24 some -- because he may well have been unwell but 25 I suspect he still would have wished to worship. Did</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. As I understand it, no psychological assessment took 3 place. Was that simply because he was being retired 4 or -- 5 A. No, because he refused. 6 Q. Of course, at that time, there was no basis upon which 7 you could compel somebody to undergo a risk assessment? 8 A. No. 9 Q. That position has now changed? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. So you put him into early retirement? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. However, you could have taken -- I know, again, it's 14 before the Clergy Discipline Measure came into force. 15 There is the EJM. Did you consider taking disciplinary 16 action against him on the basis of what he told you 17 about the sexual -- the criminal offending between him 18 and the altar server? 19 A. There is no mechanism to do that. The old 20 legislation -- I think I'm right in saying, and I've 21 been 43 -- 44 years ordained, I don't know of a single 22 case where it's been used. I mean, it's very 23 cumbersome, difficult, awkward legislation to use, and 24 it wouldn't have been my call to make that decision 25 anyway, it would have been the diocesan bishop's, who,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 anybody warn the church warden or the incumbent of 2 the risk that he posed? 3 A. I don't think initially any of us knew where he was 4 worshipping. 5 Q. Right. 6 A. I think he floated. 7 Q. Do you not think it should have been the responsibility 8 of someone to know where he was worshipping and to make 9 sure that he wasn't floating? I mean, it would have 10 been perfectly possible for you to say to him, "You must 11 only worship here and you have to be in the" -- we heard 12 from Bishop John that in fact one of the roles of 13 the church warden is to tell everybody where they can 14 sit. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. So in fact, you could have said, "You have to be the 17 sixth row back and everybody else can't be within two 18 rows", something like that? 19 A. I could say that or we could say that, but there is no 20 curtailment on a person as to where they can go and 21 worship. I mean, as an unlicensed clergyman, there's no 22 means of doing that. 23 Q. Well -- 24 A. How would we do it? 25 Q. The view is, you could have said, "I'm not going to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 retire you, but I'm not going to allow you to practise 2 and I'm going to put these things in place". So instead 3 of allowing him to retire, you could have, in effect, 4 suspended him pending the outcome of some sort of 5 disciplinary process, couldn't you, and then you could 6 have put the arrangements in place, rather than 7 retirement, which in your situation causes that lacuna, 8 doesn't it?</p> <p>9 A. Well, that would have been in consultation with the 10 diocesan bishop, as would have been the protocol, and it 11 was much more important, as far as Nicholas and I were 12 concerned, to get him out of a parish, get him out of 13 a situation where damage could be done by somebody who 14 had a position in a parish.</p> <p>15 Q. But some within his parish --</p> <p>16 A. That's our primary responsibility. For unlicensed -- 17 for lay people, is not our primary responsibility, which 18 is effectively what an unlicensed clergyman is 19 effectively, maybe not legally.</p> <p>20 Q. But some within the parish seemed to think that the 21 passage of time alone could lead to the rehabilitation 22 of Reverend Coles. Paul, could you get up ACE022138 23 behind tab 42, chair and panel, of your bundle at 24 page 78. This is a letter from Nicholas to yourself: 25 "I have seen Robert on a few occasions since he was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 Q. Did he have any further ministry?</p> <p>2 A. No, not with my approval, until I discovered that he was 3 actually taking part in services at Stone Cross.</p> <p>4 Q. Doesn't the last paragraph of this show what one of 5 the difficulties may have been within the diocese at the 6 time, which is that Robert Coles's priestly ministry was 7 considered, in effect, to be more important than the 8 safeguarding and welfare of children?</p> <p>9 A. Knowing Bishop Reade, I would be sad for you to deduce 10 that. It may well have been true of other people, but 11 I can hardly believe it would have been true of him.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 A. In fact, I don't believe that.</p> <p>14 MS SCOLDING: Chair, I notice the time. I don't know 15 whether now would be a convenient moment to take a short 16 break?</p> <p>17 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Scolding. We will return at 18 3.30 pm.</p> <p>19 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much. Again, you are under 20 oath, Bishop Wallace. Thank you. 21 (3.15 pm)</p> <p>22 (A short break)</p> <p>23 (3.34 pm)</p> <p>24 MS SCOLDING: Chair, I have three clarifications that other 25 parties have asked me to make and then I will carry on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 being investigated and the subsequent dropping of 2 the charges ...</p> <p>3 "I have told Robert I still greatly regret that he 4 did not take up your offer of clinical assessment. He 5 has behaved responsibly, he is faithful to the life of 6 prayer and says the daily office. In view of all this, 7 I wonder if you would feel it possible to raise with the 8 diocesan bishop whether there could be any possibility 9 of Robert having bishop's permission to officiate on 10 condition that he does this under the supervision of 11 a senior priest who will be informed of the incident ... 12 Robert has always been loyal to the church and to the 13 bishop and I have no reason to believe he would not 14 abide by these restrictions.</p> <p>15 "While I know this is not putting it very well, 16 I believe that the exercise of his priestly ministry is 17 fundamental to Robert and I would hate him to grow into 18 a bitter person because he was not able to do what he 19 believed he was called to do?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. What was your response to that?</p> <p>22 A. I did what my archdeacon asked me to do; I took it up 23 with the diocesan bishop and told him I was extremely 24 unhappy about him having any further ministry without 25 risk assessment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 with my questioning of Bishop Wallace. The first two 2 are on behalf of Bishop Wallace taken from 3 Mr Hofmeyr QC.</p> <p>4 Firstly, you don't accept that you received a letter 5 directly from Bishop John Hind to ask you to pass names 6 to Meekings; only a letter to your personal assistant 7 was found on file. Is that right?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay, just to clarify that.</p> <p>10 A. Thank you.</p> <p>11 Q. I also asked you about F3's name, which in fact was not 12 in the Meekings Report, as F3 was not in the diocese at 13 the time.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. F2 was the one I meant, who was on a three-year 16 probationary plan at the time; is that correct?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>18 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>19 A. Sorry, who did you say was not in the diocese at the 20 time?</p> <p>21 Q. F3.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, that's right, who I had little to do with anyway. 23 Bishop John dealt with --</p> <p>24 Q. We will deal with F3 --</p> <p>25 A. I may not have mentioned that name because he was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

1 **dealing with that.**
 2 Q. It wouldn't have been something in your purview?
 3 **A. No, but all the other names I mentioned.**
 4 Q. You said that you didn't ever have a cross word with
 5 Ms Hosgood.
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. Could I ask you, Paul, to get up WWS000112_003. This is
 8 about organising -- this is on behalf of John -- sorry,
 9 this was on behalf of Bishop Hind and Janet Hind, but
 10 I think the reference is incorrect. I will come back to
 11 that in a moment, if I may?
 12 **A. Can I help you? Was it the staff meeting issue?**
 13 Q. I think there was an issue, as I understand it, whereby
 14 there was some discussion about you having a meeting
 15 with Ms Hosgood, and in fact you indicated, "I would
 16 only do so if there was a witness present". Can you
 17 remember that?
 18 **A. Yes. But that wasn't heated. That was -- because there**
 19 **was so much misunderstanding -- no, I did say that.**
 20 **There was so much misunderstanding, and I was feeling**
 21 **I was so misrepresented if I did this or that or the**
 22 **other. So it seemed the easiest way was to make sure --**
 23 **and I suggested Archdeacon Philip, and I met her**
 24 **together. Actually, that was beneficial for the east**
 25 **anyway, so that he knew. But there was no**

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1 **misunderstanding, there was no room for, "Well,**
 2 **Bishop Wallace said something and I don't think**
 3 **it's ...", you know, whatever.**
 4 Q. If we maybe now could return to Robert Coles, you found
 5 out in 2001 that Robert Coles was exercising a ministry
 6 without a licence?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. What did you do as a result of that?
 9 **A. I contacted the parish priest.**
 10 Q. Who in fact was Jonathan Graves?
 11 **A. Jonathan Graves.**
 12 Q. Who has now been convicted of child sexual offending
 13 himself?
 14 **A. Exactly, which of course wasn't on the purview at that**
 15 **stage at all, and told him that he must not do that and**
 16 **he must not give Robert any public ministry whatsoever.**
 17 **It was a fairly strong conversation. He argued with me.**
 18 **But I told him. Then he said, "Okay, I promise, I won't**
 19 **let that happen".**
 20 Q. Did you not consider taking disciplinary action against
 21 Jonathan Graves, because allowing somebody to minister
 22 without a licence is a very serious offence in canonical
 23 law?
 24 **A. Yes, it is. No, again, that would not have been -- the**
 25 **entire staff team knew about that. I mean, that was**

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1 **raised at staff meetings. That would have -- to take**
 2 **action against him like that would have not been my**
 3 **responsibility to do that. But I have to say, he**
 4 **wouldn't be the first clergyman to allow somebody**
 5 **without a licence to preach.**
 6 **But this is very -- this is a very serious issue,**
 7 **and, you know, I was satisfied at the time that I had**
 8 **sufficient promises to make sure it didn't happen**
 9 **anymore.**
 10 Q. But my understanding is, certainly Janet Hind and
 11 various other people identified that there had been
 12 rumours, shall we say, and problems in respect of
 13 Jonathan Graves and his behaviour whilst the incumbent
 14 of Stone Cross. I believe he may well have been called
 15 the Pied Piper of East Sussex or something along those
 16 lines in respect of his relationship with teenage boys.
 17 **A. Sorry, he was called that not because -- I mean, it's**
 18 **interesting. He was not called that because of, at that**
 19 **stage, a known relationship with boys, because I didn't**
 20 **know -- I don't think any of us knew -- but because of**
 21 **his popularity as being a young people's speaker. That**
 22 **was why he was called that, which of course is often the**
 23 **case with paedophiles, isn't it? You discover**
 24 **afterwards.**
 25 Q. I mean, again, I think in the same words, do you think

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1 a stern telling-off, which is, I suspect, what you gave
 2 Jonathan Graves, was enough, with the benefit of
 3 hindsight?
 4 **A. Well, it stopped him being used in Stone Cross.**
 5 Q. I also understand that you didn't know but somebody else
 6 knew that in fact Robert Coles had gone on tour with
 7 a group of schoolchildren from a local school, to
 8 Salzburg?
 9 **A. I didn't know anything about that.**
 10 Q. When did you find out about it?
 11 **A. I think probably during this hearing, I think; either**
 12 **that or the CDM. Probably this. I'm not sure.**
 13 Q. Okay.
 14 **A. But I didn't know about it at the time.**
 15 Q. Can I take you to somebody else, a Reverend Samways, who
 16 was in a parish in Bristol, telephoned you and then
 17 wrote you a letter which is at ACE022138_008. This is
 18 in 2002. It is behind tab 42, chair and panel, of your
 19 bundle. Is it coming up? No. If we could come back to
 20 that.
 21 In effect, it said that two parishioners had made
 22 allegations that they had been sexually assaulted by
 23 Reverend Coles when those parishioners were between the
 24 ages of 8 to 10 and 9 to 11. When you received that
 25 information in 2002, what did you do about it?

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1 **A. I told Tony Selwood immediately and I asked John Samways**
 2 **himself to contact Tony Selwood with all the information**
 3 **so it wasn't second-hand. So Tony Selwood knew about it**
 4 **immediately and Nicholas Reade confirms in his witness**
 5 **statement that that was done.**
 6 Q. But, again, we are now in a situation where there are at
 7 least sort of three different -- from three different
 8 sources, there are allegations that Reverend Coles had
 9 engaged in sexual activity with children. Again, I ask
 10 you the same question that I have asked you a couple of
 11 times before: did you not consider at that stage
 12 reporting this to the police?
 13 **A. And I'm afraid I give you the same answer as I gave you**
 14 **before: it was the DSA's responsibility, as I understood**
 15 **it, to do that, who was fully informed about it. He was**
 16 **not -- as far as I knew, he wasn't an active -- you**
 17 **know, he wasn't either a licensed or active clergyman.**
 18 Q. Okay.
 19 **A. I mean, in a sense, this is an escalating issue against**
 20 **Robert Coles. Tony Selwood took it very seriously and,**
 21 **I believe, talked to the police about it at the time.**
 22 Q. Could I turn now to the Reverend Gordon Rideout. Your
 23 explanation of this is at paragraph 86 onwards of your
 24 witness statement. Chair and panel, pages 76 onwards.
 25 Paul, could we get up, please, WPB000043, which is

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1 a note which Shirley Hosgood sent, which I think is
 2 quite a good precis of the situation. As we identify
 3 it, in 1998, a confidential declaration was received
 4 from Gordon Rideout, which, chair and panel, just for
 5 your reference, is behind tab 17 of your bundle, and for
 6 everybody else's reference is WPB000004_042. That
 7 confidential declaration identifies that he was accused
 8 of indecent assault but the charge was dismissed and he
 9 was not required to resign, but actually that
 10 confidential declaration in fact wasn't entirely
 11 accurate because we now know that, following his
 12 acquittal, further allegations were made. When you saw
 13 the confidential declaration in 1998, did you consider
 14 asking for a risk assessment in respect of
 15 the Reverend Rideout?
 16 **A. No, again, asking for a risk assessment would be the**
 17 **advice of the DSA and the DSA was informed and the form**
 18 **sent to the palace.**
 19 Q. So you sent the form to the palace. Did you pass this
 20 information about the blemished -- the soft information
 21 that Reverend Rideout had given you about his acquittal,
 22 did you send that to -- it would be Mrs Hind at the
 23 time?
 24 **A. Yes, I believe so.**
 25 Q. Did you share this information with anybody else?

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1 **A. Nicholas Reade would have known about it.**
 2 Q. Did you share this information with -- was he a governor
 3 at either Bishop Bell's school or St Mary's School,
 4 Bexhill, at the time in question? Could you remember?
 5 **A. I can't remember, I'm afraid.**
 6 Q. In 2002, Gordon Rideout was then arrested?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Prior to his arrest, what did you know of the previous
 9 allegations made against him and the court martial,
 10 other than that which he'd declared in his confidential
 11 declaration?
 12 **A. I didn't know any more than the confidential**
 13 **declaration.**
 14 Q. Given the terms of the confidential declaration, did you
 15 ever consult the blue file, or ask Bishop Eric or
 16 anybody else to consult the blue file, in order to see
 17 if there was more information which could have assisted
 18 you?
 19 **A. No, I didn't have access to the blue file, but it was --**
 20 **the issue with Gordon was completely openly talked about**
 21 **at senior staff meeting and known by Tony Selwood and**
 22 **earlier known by Janet -- sorry, Mrs Hind.**
 23 Q. That's fine. In 2002, he was arrested and upon his
 24 arrest you went with him to the police station; is that
 25 right?

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1 **A. Yes, but not inside. I was the taxi driver.**
 2 Q. So you didn't sit in on the interview?
 3 **A. No.**
 4 Q. Did you ask him about what the nature of the allegations
 5 were and did he tell you anything about them?
 6 **A. No, I didn't. I left that to -- he told me generally,**
 7 **but it was left to Tony Selwood to do a thorough**
 8 **investigation, which he did post the 2002 incident.**
 9 Q. Now, I understand that the nature of allegation which
 10 was non-recent was that, whilst he was at Barnardo's, he
 11 had sexually assaulted a teenage girl.
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. You had a -- after -- I understand he was arrested,
 14 I understand charges were then not brought against him
 15 in 2002.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. You then had a meeting with him and Mr Selwood, as
 18 I understand, this is WPB000004_039 and 040. This is an
 19 email from 2011 because, as I understand it, there are
 20 no records or there are no records of this meeting that
 21 anybody has been able to find; that's right, isn't it?
 22 **A. Really? Okay.**
 23 Q. This is Philip Jones really filling everybody in:
 24 "In 2002, when GR was arrested and Bishop Wallace
 25 accompanied him to the police station, there was in fact

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<p>1 a seemingly proper and appropriate investigation carried 2 out by the then DSA Tony Selwood. Bishop Wallace had 3 completely forgotten what took place and has been 4 reminded by GR that Tony Selwood arranged to interview 5 both GR and his wife at Bishop's Lodge ... Tony Selwood 6 interviewed each of them separately and then together. 7 Bishop Wallace recalls that, after that interview, 8 discussing the case with Tony Selwood, but with what 9 conclusion is not recalled." 10 I don't think there is anything we have been able to 11 find on the file through the researches that we as the 12 inquiry have undertaken and nobody else has drawn it to 13 our attention, which doesn't necessarily mean to say it 14 is not there somewhere. 15 So you knew that there had been a court martial 16 which was to do with his time in the army. You also 17 knew that there had been separate allegations -- 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. -- in respect of his time at Barnardo's? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Did you not consider a risk assessment after two sets of 22 allegations? 23 A. The paragraph that you have just quoted is not quite 24 accurate. 25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. -- until 2006, as I understand it. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Without any restrictions or anything, really? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. In 2008 -- 7 A. Because the police had said the issue was closed. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. It seemed a bit stronger than usual, and Bishop John 10 felt that as well. 11 Q. Did you have any discussion with the police or discuss 12 why things were dropped or why things weren't carried on 13 with at that time? 14 A. No, the police never came to me directly about anything. 15 Q. In 2008, Roger Meekings saw his blue file, but did not 16 see his area file, which is where the blemished CRB 17 would have been kept. Is it the case that the CRB that 18 we were talking about from 1998 would only have been 19 seen if they'd looked on your files, or should it also 20 have been on the blue file at the palace? 21 A. No, it was actually found on the blue file at the palace 22 by, I think, Colin Perkins, actually, if I remember. 23 I'm not sure who, but I think by him. But it was found 24 in the palace blue file -- no, it would have been sent 25 on. The blemished CRB would have been sent on at the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 A. Because the last sentence particularly is not accurate. 2 "But with what conclusion is not recalled". What 3 actually happened was that Tony Selwood said to me, 4 "I would like to see them away from their own home" -- 5 Q. Hence the meeting with you at your house? 6 A. And I said, "Well, you know, would you like to use this 7 house and my wife and I will go out?", and he saw them, 8 I think on a Sunday afternoon, and interviewed them 9 individually and then together, or the other way around. 10 We came back in, and he didn't discuss it with me then 11 immediately, quite rightly, and I didn't press him. But 12 subsequently he rang me up and he said, "I've concluded 13 my investigation into Gordon Rideout, and I believe 14 him". 15 Q. Okay. 16 A. That was reported to Bishop John. Everybody knew about 17 that conclusion at the time. 18 Q. Okay. 19 A. Okay? So it wasn't just me. It was the DSA, the staff 20 team and the diocesan bishop. 21 Q. Reverend Rideout retired, as I understand it, in 2003, 22 but he remained as a rural dean, as I understand it -- 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. -- which, as we have already talked about, was 25 a position of some responsibility --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 time and a copy of it would have gone in our file on 2 Gordon Rideout on his retirement in 2003 to the palace. 3 So there was two means of them having it. 4 Q. So you wouldn't have had anything in your area in 2008 5 which would have shed any further light on the 6 situation? 7 A. No. It should have all been on the blue file. 8 Q. In -- 9 A. In actual fact -- I'm sorry -- when I saw the blue file 10 for the first time in the course of this investigation, 11 there in the middle of it is our yellow file, which 12 was -- our Lewes clergy files were yellow, and inside -- 13 you know, inside it is all the information about him. 14 Q. Is that another set of files, the yellow files? 15 A. No, no, that's our -- 16 Q. Just to make sure -- 17 A. No, no, that's the Lewes files. That's my files. 18 Q. So in 2010, then, on or around the beginning 19 of September, a CRB was found which again had those 20 issues, and Ms Hosgood examined it and decided that 21 permission to officiate would be withdrawn? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Paul, could you get up WWS000060. This is Ian Gibson's 24 note from December 2010 of what he says happened after 25 the staff meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 A. Yes. Part of what happened after the staff meeting. 2 Q. "On September 6, Bishop Wallace spoke to Bishop John 3 about a blemished CRB disclosure his office had received 4 on Gordon Rideout. He asked Bishop John if he could not 5 disclose the information to the safeguarding adviser for 6 the diocese as 'He is a friend and a much respected 7 person!'" 8 Bishop John and you then had a room, et cetera, 9 et cetera. Bishop John's evidence, when asked whether 10 or not you did that, said that he was shocked beyond 11 measure. Do you remember that conversation and do you 12 remember asking Bishop John that? 13 A. I remember that conversation, but I don't remember 14 Bishop John being shocked beyond measure. I think the 15 shock seemed to have come later. 16 I wonder if I could explain what happened at that 17 meeting -- 18 Q. Yes. 19 A. -- which I think is very, very important. I need to say 20 that I really regret having asked Bishop John about the 21 first -- about the not further investigating what came 22 through. I really regret that, and it was a mistake. 23 But let me try to explain to you what actually 24 happened, because this is really important. 25 In the witness statements, this inquiry has not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 This document that arrived contained no new 2 information of which the diocese was not already aware. 3 It is this document which I discussed with Bishop John 4 on Monday, 6 September. I asked him whether it was 5 necessary to pass it on to the DSA for investigation -- 6 not for information, but for investigation -- as it 7 contained nothing new and Tony Selwood had investigated 8 all that was in this already. Because all it contained 9 was '98 and 2002; okay? 10 Q. So you would say, "Well, why should there be a different 11 position? He's carried on regardless. Why should there 12 be a different situation?" 13 A. Yes, "It's been investigated once, does it need to be 14 investigated again?" 15 Q. Okay. 16 A. The second return was a sensitive information letter 17 which I saw for the first time on 7 September. So on 18 the 6th, the second bit hadn't come. 19 Q. Right. 20 A. And John said to me, "As soon as the second bit comes, 21 let me know, and write a covering note explaining 22 anything you know about the situation". So I saw it for 23 the first time on September 7. This document contained 24 new information. It was immediately obvious that this 25 contained information that needed to be passed on to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 heard the proper or full story about this. So I wonder 2 if I can just explain it to you in a little bit of 3 detail. 4 Q. Please do. 5 A. There is significant confusion in relation to the 6 blemished CRB check received in 2010. In order to gain 7 an accurate understanding of the position, it is 8 necessary first to appreciate that two returns were 9 received in August/September 2010; second, to have 10 a proper understanding of the chronology; and, third, to 11 bear in mind that Bishop John and the DSA carried out 12 investigations in September 2010 of which I was not 13 aware. 14 The first return was an enhanced disclosure 15 certificate which I saw for the first time on Tuesday, 16 31 August; Wednesday, 1 September; Thursday, the 2nd; 17 and Friday, 3 September. I had been away. I came back 18 that week early on. Bishop John arrived back later that 19 week, from memory, from the diocesan synod. I told him 20 at the diocesan synod that I'd had a new enhanced 21 disclosure certificate telling me that there was 22 a second part going to come. 23 I said, "I need to talk to you about it", and he 24 said, "Talk to me after the staff meeting on Monday", 25 which was 6 September.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 DSA for investigation. 2 Q. And you set this out at paragraph 101 of your witness 3 statement? 4 A. Yes. I sent it to Bishop John on 9 September and 5 understand that he passed it on to the DSA the following 6 day when he received from me a covering note which gave 7 background information again because there were some 8 gaps on the blue file, he said to me. So I tried to 9 fill those in. 10 But at no time -- at no time whatsoever, and 11 Bishop John's statement bears this out -- did I try to 12 prevent the second part, the sensitive letter which 13 contained new information, being either passed on or 14 investigated. 15 Q. Can I put to you, Ian Gibson was asked about his note, 16 and he identified -- this is the question that 17 Ms McNeill asked: 18 "Question: Did Bishop Wallace accept the accuracy 19 of your recollection about the note that I took you to? 20 "Answer: No, he called me a liar. 21 "Question: Did he say this conversation didn't 22 happen at all? 23 "Answer: He called me a liar and said it didn't 24 happen." 25 Do you remember that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

1 **A. I didn't think I used the word "liar". I said, "Look,**
 2 **you have written this three months afterwards. You are**
 3 **not remembering. You've stoked it up." Actually, the**
 4 **Archbishop of York said it was the kind of conversation**
 5 **that should happen between bishops, however foolish.**
 6 **I acknowledge that the first request was foolish, but**
 7 **please understand that it was on the basis of no new**
 8 **information that wasn't already widely known. I did not**
 9 **in any way try to hinder the second new information that**
 10 **was coming in.**
 11 Q. Bishop Hind in fact wrote a letter on 9 September
 12 identifying that, irrespective of your affection and
 13 concern -- I'm not going to take you to it, chair, but
 14 just for the record, ACE022300, behind tab 25, chair and
 15 panel, of your bundle, but just for your reference.
 16 So despite the affection and concern you may well
 17 have had for Reverend Rideout, in effect, he wasn't
 18 going to do what you asked, and then I understand that
 19 Ms Hosgood then withdrew his permission to officiate,
 20 and that was that?
 21 **A. Yes, which I didn't resist or disapprove of or object to**
 22 **in any way whatsoever.**
 23 Q. Lady Butler-Sloss criticised you in her addendum report
 24 on additional matters, and, again, I don't think I need
 25 to take you to that.

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1 **A. No.**
 2 Q. I think you have identified in what you have already
 3 said to us what your criticism is of her report, in
 4 effect, by the evidence that you have just given us.
 5 But just again, chair and panel, for your record,
 6 ACE022140, and that's behind tab 28, and her conclusions
 7 are at 13.
 8 In effect, she identified that by September 2010,
 9 you'd all had enough experience of problems, and, shall
 10 we say, significant concerns in respect of safeguarding
 11 that this was an unwise matter and a matter of great
 12 concern, was in effect what she said?
 13 **A. I fully hold up my hands and say it was unwise to ask at**
 14 **all. I just need to add to what you have said one**
 15 **thing, and that is that the tone of Bishop John's email**
 16 **to me shocked me because it seemed that at that point he**
 17 **was quite cross.**
 18 Q. Yes.
 19 **A. He had become cross, but the tone of our conversation**
 20 **together wasn't cross. I rang him up and I said, "I'm**
 21 **really alarmed by the tone of your email to me. I hope**
 22 **you understand that I would not let friendship get**
 23 **between me and safeguarding procedures". I wrote on the**
 24 **side of his email, which is on my records, "Bishop John**
 25 **knows I have the same view as him", which I wrote on the**

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1 **same email. But I reiterate again the confusion about**
 2 **this -- there's been enormous confusion -- it is**
 3 **a confusion because there is a lack of understanding**
 4 **that something came in two parts, the second part of**
 5 **which was far and away more -- alerted us to much**
 6 **more -- to further and more serious allegations.**
 7 Q. Thank you very much. Can I now turn to AN-F2. AN-F2
 8 was somebody whose wife had found out that he had what
 9 I am going to call abuse images of teenagers. It wasn't
 10 something which amounted to a criminal offence, but
 11 a risk assessment and safeguarding plan was put in place
 12 which included what was called a conditional deferment.
 13 So disciplinary action was taken, as I understand it.
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. That was the case in March 2009.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Can I just ask, what is a conditional deferment? It is
 18 what it says, but ...?
 19 **A. You'd better ask Bishop John. I'm not sure myself.**
 20 Q. Okay. That's fine. In early 2010, AN-F2 left the
 21 diocese to take up a position as a chaplain within
 22 Salisbury.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Now, as we're aware, that involves -- you have to have
 25 a licence from the bishop.

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Although your employment would have been -- in this
 3 case, it would have been -- I think it was some sort of
 4 hospice or care home or something?
 5 **A. Yes, hospice.**
 6 Q. Within the diocese.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. There was a process operating at the time. It's now
 9 called something different. At the time, I think it was
 10 called "Safe to receive". Now it's called SSSL, or
 11 something along those lines, where in effect you write
 12 to the receiving diocese with a reference.
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. Can I get the reference up, please, Paul, behind tab 31,
 15 chair and panel: WPB000035. This is obviously
 16 a reference in 2009:
 17 "I have known AN-F2 ... Having read through the job
 18 description ... [he] meets the essential and desirable
 19 criteria ...
 20 "... relating to absence ... was subject to CRB
 21 action due to a messy divorce and complaints from his
 22 wife, which led to him being suspended for almost
 23 a year. This was due in part to a protracted process
 24 but he was happily reinstated and is now ministering
 25 again in his own parish."

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1 Now, the concerns that are identified by this are,
 2 firstly, it wasn't really because he was having a messy
 3 divorce, it was because it was identified that he had
 4 abuse images of teenagers on his -- he had pornography
 5 on his computer, on his work computer, that those
 6 matters were put in place, and furthermore that there
 7 was also a risk assessment and a safeguarding plan which
 8 had been implemented by Ms Hosgood.
 9 So I think it would be clear to say that a messy
 10 divorce might be a tactful way, but not an accurate way,
 11 to put what had happened in respect of this individual?
 12 **A. Please look at the line -- no, the whole letter, if it**
 13 **could be big again. Sorry to be ...**
 14 Q. No, no, I couldn't read it either, Bishop Wallace.
 15 **A. "Relating to absence and disciplinary action". There**
 16 **was disciplinary action and absence, first of all. He**
 17 **"was subject to a CRB action", it should have been "CDM**
 18 **action", "due to a messy divorce and complaints from his**
 19 **wife". The complaints from his wife were about the**
 20 **pornography on the computer. So that actually included**
 21 **that.**
 22 Q. Well --
 23 **A. But --**
 24 Q. But I have to say --
 25 **A. The messy divorce is actually very -- can I just**

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1 **explain?**
 2 Q. Of course.
 3 **A. The immediate issue on writing this thing was the**
 4 **possibility of a further CDM against him because of**
 5 **a relationship that the church wardens believed he was**
 6 **having with the organist, which he had been forbidden to**
 7 **pursue.**
 8 Q. From having, yes.
 9 **A. He could have actually had -- the most immediate issue**
 10 **was that she was not only -- it was only -- not only an**
 11 **issue of not having significant space between a divorce**
 12 **and a new relationship, she was, if not technically**
 13 **a vulnerable adult in safeguarding terms, somebody very**
 14 **vulnerable in a messy divorce situation herself. So**
 15 **there could have been a further CDM against him.**
 16 Q. I'm not entirely sure why that would lead you to write
 17 the reference in the way that you did. Wouldn't it have
 18 been more sensible or more accurate -- could you get up,
 19 please, Paul, WPB000035, behind tab 31, chair and
 20 panel -- sorry, WPB000031, behind tab 34, sorry. This
 21 is the safeguarding adviser's comments of 2009:
 22 "... [X] does not pose any significant risk to
 23 children ...
 24 "... [but he's] not truly reflected on his behaviour
 25 and ...

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1 "... [he] needs to take time to reflect on his
 2 actions ...
 3 "In terms of safeguarding, I would recommend:
 4 "1. [No looking at] pornography on [work] computer
 5 ...
 6 "2. ... zero tolerance ..."
 7 If he is using any of that for the next three years,
 8 and that his computer will be regularly screened. As
 9 I understand, that was what had to happen:
 10 "... that the information will remain on his
 11 personal file and that should any complaints involving
 12 vulnerable people ...
 13 "The concerns relating to maintaining appropriate
 14 professional boundaries in his pastoral relationships
 15 with adult women who could be described as
 16 'vulnerable' ... are ones which are outside my remit ...
 17 "... however, [I would not identify] ... that, given
 18 that his work could bring him into contact with women
 19 who are in the midst of difficult marriages ..."
 20 **A. That's fine and good, and necessary for any employer to**
 21 **know, and very helpful. There are several sort of**
 22 **issues with this. He'd had a risk assessment which he'd**
 23 **flown through. He was a very popular parish priest.**
 24 Q. Right.
 25 **A. No problem with the risk assessment. When the issue**

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1 **came up about the computer, Shirley Hosgood said to me,**
 2 **"That's nothing to do with me. That's outside my area.**
 3 **I'm not interested in pornography", and I said, "Well,**
 4 **I am, in terms of it being viewed by a clergyman on**
 5 **a regular basis". So I actually paid for the**
 6 **investigation of the pornography from my discretionary**
 7 **account, and it was because of me pressing the issue**
 8 **with Shirley that actually that was pursued at all.**
 9 Q. Okay.
 10 **A. But it was a very -- it was sort of, at that stage, very**
 11 **inconclusive investigating because what it said, as you**
 12 **see here, was that he had not broken the law, he had not**
 13 **looked at any child porn, he had looked at adult porn,**
 14 **which still remained an issue -- a concern for me, but**
 15 **possibly with some adult women dressed in teenage garb.**
 16 **That was the issue, which the police weren't sure about**
 17 **or there was uncertainty about.**
 18 **But there were so many issues going on. You could**
 19 **have written a small pamphlet on what was going on. It**
 20 **seemed to me the best thing, and Bishop John actually**
 21 **agreed with the reference, that the best thing was to**
 22 **write a general reference but to flag up that there had**
 23 **been suspension for a year, the general difficulties,**
 24 **and follow them up with a phone conversation, which is**
 25 **what I offered and was taken up.**

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<p>1 Q. I understand that Elizabeth Butler-Sloss -- again, 2 I don't think I need to take you to that -- was 3 concerned about the reference, and in effect makes the 4 critique that I have just made to you, that a full 5 account should have been given.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Ms Hosgood as well was unhappy because she felt that you 8 should have told her that he was leaving the diocese and 9 going into another diocese, so that she could have 10 contacted her counterpart to let her know about the 11 terms of the pornography which you had imposed?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Because that was for the next three years, as 14 I understood it?</p> <p>15 A. Absolutely.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you speak to Mrs Hosgood before writing the 17 reference at all?</p> <p>18 A. No. That wouldn't have been normal practice to do that. 19 But in terms of -- I handed -- sorry, I took any 20 information I had, and remember that Bishop John, 21 Bishop Lindsay -- I mean, in this particular case, all 22 the bishops were involved.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. And all the bishops knew everything about what was going 25 on. My main concern was the effect on the parish and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 him within days. I asked Ian Gibson, would he do that 2 and would he tell Shirley that he was leaving the 3 diocese.</p> <p>4 To my utter astonishment and horror, I discovered 5 in April that the blue file hadn't been passed on, and 6 Shirley hadn't been told. But I passed it to Ian, whose 7 job it was to pass the blue file on. It wasn't -- the 8 blue file wasn't in my possession, but to pass on the 9 blue file with all the information. He promised he 10 would, and that he would inform Shirley that he was 11 leaving the diocese.</p> <p>12 So, as far as I was concerned, all the boxes had 13 been ticked.</p> <p>14 MS SCOLDING: Chair, I note that it is now 4.15 pm. 15 I probably have a few more questions for this witness, 16 which may well take it beyond 4.30 pm. I don't know 17 whether or not you would wish, in the circumstances, to 18 sit later or whether or not you would prefer to finish 19 at 4.30 pm and to have this witness return for a short 20 period of time tomorrow? I'm entirely in your hands, 21 chair.</p> <p>22 THE CHAIR: Ms Scolding, will you be complete by 4.45 pm, do 23 you think?</p> <p>24 MS SCOLDING: I will do my absolute best. Thank you very 25 much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 the CDM and disciplinary action against him was taken by 2 Bishop John and held by Bishop Lindsay, who passed one 3 particular complaint to the tribunal.</p> <p>4 So it was -- what was going on was widely known. 5 Any information I had I took to the senior staff meeting 6 in the December, whenever he left, whichever December it 7 was -- sorry, I can't remember the year. But --</p> <p>8 Q. It was 2010 that he left. 2009 was the disciplinary 9 action. 2010 he left to take another job up?</p> <p>10 A. Thank you. 2010. I'd already had a conversation with 11 the archdeacon where I flagged up all the problems, 12 including the pornography, and the worry about the 13 relationship with a vulnerable -- a sort of vulnerable 14 adult, and the CDMs that had been taken out. I flagged 15 that all up with the archdeacon. I took my information 16 at the senior staff meeting and asked Ian Gibson to make 17 sure that the promised blue file went to the archdeacon, 18 because I'd say to him, "This is the most complicated 19 issue I have had to deal with in the years I have been 20 here as a bishop. You really need to read the blue file 21 because he's a very popular priest who's passed with 22 flying colours the risk assessment, but there are all 23 sorts of issues around him. You really need to read the 24 blue file".</p> <p>25 As far as I was concerned, the blue file would go to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 Could we turn now --</p> <p>2 A. I will try to be brief.</p> <p>3 Q. As you have heard, the clock is ticking now, 4 Bishop Wallace.</p> <p>5 A. Sorry.</p> <p>6 Q. That's fine. Jonathan Graves. He was granted 7 permission to officiate on 2 February 2005 despite the 8 fact that there had been significant rumours, shall we 9 say, and he had been arrested, as I understand it, in 10 2005 but no further action was taken.</p> <p>11 Why didn't you think about not granting him PTO or 12 revoking his PTO, given that he was arrested in 2005?</p> <p>13 A. I didn't know about that and he had an unblemished CRB.</p> <p>14 Q. So you didn't know that he'd been arrested?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. In 2008, a CRB check arrives for him which outlines both 17 the 2004 and 2005 allegations.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. There had been previous allegations from another 20 diocese --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. -- which you wouldn't have known about?</p> <p>23 A. I didn't know about.</p> <p>24 Q. What do you do about this?</p> <p>25 A. I pull the PTO immediately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 Q. In 2007, you wrote a positive reference for 2 Jonathan Graves saying that he works well with children. 3 This was said despite the fact of both the 2005 arrest 4 and the previous rumours that his behaviour with 5 children was inappropriate? 6 A. Well, as I have just said, I didn't know about either of 7 those things. 8 Q. Okay. 9 A. But his reputation -- if you had asked anybody in 10 Eastbourne, "Who do you want to come to the school to 11 talk to the children on a farewell celebration?", they 12 would have had Jonathan Graves. 13 Q. Okay. You say you didn't know of his arrest? 14 A. No, I didn't. 15 Q. Is that because Tony Selwood didn't pass it on or 16 because Jonathan Graves didn't tell Tony Selwood or you 17 have no idea? 18 A. I have no idea. All I can tell you is I didn't know 19 anything about it. 20 Q. Can we now pass on to AN-F3, who is somebody else. 21 Again, this was an individual who is coming into your 22 diocese. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. There are a large number of allegations against him, 25 including that he'd given nude counselling and that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 took place in June 2011. I have taken various people to 2 them. We can see what the identification is. What 3 I really want to know from you is, is the tone and tenor 4 of these minutes -- does this accurately reflect the 5 relationship between senior individuals at the time? 6 Because we have got the majority of senior individuals, 7 other than Mark Sowerby, who would have been the Bishop 8 of Horsham, there at that time. 9 On that page, Paul, can you go down to a passage: 10 "Bishop John began with a quotation from 11 Richard Baxter ..." 12 I don't know who he is, so I can't assist there: 13 "When Bishops Wallace and John had met the previous 14 week, Bishop Wallace had requested: 'a council of war, 15 a common purpose on which to move forward; how we stand 16 together as the diocese and more and more as the whole 17 of the Church of England!.' 18 Does that reflect that you were on a little bit of 19 a war footing at that time? 20 A. Yes. What was happening at the moment was -- at that 21 particular time was that there was a barrage of 22 reporting in the TV, a lot of it with inaccurate 23 information, which was mostly focused in my direction, 24 and it seemed like as if the diocese had withdrawn and 25 left me as collateral damage to deal with it, so that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 there was a speedy departure from a girls' boarding 2 school with a suggestion of nudity and overly frank 3 discussions with pupils. He moved into the Chichester 4 area and was granted PTO. He was coming in solely for 5 the purposes of PTO. So he was retiring, I would 6 imagine, down to your area. But he was granted PTO 7 before the blue file came from the other diocese. 8 Should that have happened? 9 A. No. But not by me. 10 Q. Who was responsible for that, in your view? 11 A. Well -- 12 Q. If you have a view. 13 A. He was granted PTO by the diocesan office -- by the 14 palace. 15 Q. Now we have gone through individual cases, I am just 16 going to ask you to discuss from sort of -- say, 17 December 2009 so the publication -- well, the 18 non-publication of the Meekings Report or the final 19 version of the addendum onwards. It seems that you felt 20 very strongly that you were being scapegoated. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. And you felt that other individuals, to use 23 a colloquialism, didn't really have your back. Can we 24 turn up a set of minutes, please, WWS000061, behind 25 tab 40, chair and panel. These are some minutes which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 there wasn't much support. I was desperate, really, and 2 the -- 3 Q. I think we can see -- 4 A. -- our legal team to get people to engage with the 5 issues and work through them. Sorry. 6 Q. That's fine. I was going to say, at the top of page 2 7 you identify this, because you say you were wearing the 8 brunt of everything at the moment, and you needed some 9 support. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. On page 3, Paul, if we could go to page 3, you 12 identify -- it identifies that the safeguarding group 13 had no trust in you, in effect, which explained the 14 concerns held by the safeguarding group. So you have 15 Colin Perkins saying that intelligence could be an 16 individual matter, Roy Cotton was very dangerous but 17 there were other people who deserved -- at the top, it 18 says "AS", Ms Sibson, from whom we heard last week, 19 there was a discussion of Sharon Shoesmith, it was 20 apparent that Bishop Wallace was at risk: 21 "There was perhaps a lack of confidence in 22 Bishop Wallace in terms of safeguarding." 23 Are you of the view that the senior group lost trust 24 in your ability to carry out effective safeguarding 25 during this period of time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

47 (Pages 185 to 188)

<p>1 A. Well, Bishop John himself hadn't lost -- in fact, his 2 witness statement says that. There was a professional 3 relationship between the members of the senior staff 4 team. We carried on -- there was no personal aggro or 5 argument between us, but it was very, very difficult. 6 Q. You say that it wasn't very -- that the relationship was 7 very difficult but there wasn't an animus. Could I ask 8 you to turn up page 6, please, Paul? 9 A. No, it was professional but strained. 10 Q. On page 6, Bishop John says that he felt paralysed 11 regarding the Meekings Report: 12 "He had handled the situation badly ... he had spent 13 more time agonising ... he had been forced into 14 a situation ..." 15 So we have a situation where your boss, in effect, 16 is saying, "I feel completely paralysed by this 17 situation". You then say -- if I could just identify 18 the top of page 14, I think you were -- although things 19 were professional, I think things plainly were strained. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Paul, if you could get up page 14, please. This is the 22 first paragraph: 23 "... it was difficult for others to see the other 24 side of himself, to see beyond the fact that he was 25 a Celt and a pastor. He accepted that he was not good</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 paralysed and bogged down. It was a rabbit in the 2 headlights moment for about two years. 3 Q. Do you think that dysfunctionality was caused in part by 4 the sense of betrayal you felt in respect of 5 the Roger Meekings report and that you may have reacted 6 overly defensively at the time which then created 7 a reaction amongst others? 8 A. Well, you know, you may be right. Maybe I was 9 overdefensive. But I think it's a strange thing if you 10 are told by all the legal opinion that the conclusions 11 of a report are unsafe and then you can't as a diocese 12 admit that and then it goes on to have another report 13 built on that and the diocese is unwilling at that 14 point -- I mean, it was really unwilling to face the 15 fact that there were some inaccuracies in the 16 Meekings Report and then the Butler-Sloss Report. Who 17 gets affected by this in the end? It is victims. It 18 doesn't help curing systemic problems. Truth is what 19 matters in the end. 20 So I care little -- honestly, this is true: I care 21 little for the reputation -- my own personal reputation. 22 I care a lot about the well-being of victims and I care 23 a lot that the church of Jesus Christ behaves the way he 24 wants it to. 25 Q. It would be fair to say that the combination of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 at record keeping, mistakes had been made ... and he had 2 made mistakes ... recognised that he was the problem and 3 used the analogy that he resembled a lightning 4 conductor." 5 On the basis of the fact that, at this senior 6 meeting involving senior staff, you were saying you felt 7 unsupported, the diocesan bishop was saying that he felt 8 paralysed and you were saying, in effect, that you felt 9 that people were attacking you personally, not just 10 professionally -- 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. -- do you not think that the entire relationship between 13 all of you became dysfunctional, I think was the term 14 that the visitation subsequently used? 15 A. Well, I think it's quite hard to answer that, really. 16 I suppose the most straightforward answer is, yes, it 17 was dysfunctional because it was paralysed. There was 18 a paralysis and then there seemed to be a panic. 19 I mean, that sentence you've quoted is -- I look back 20 and wish I'd kept better records. I'm surprised, 21 actually, going through all this stuff, the amount of 22 records that were kept, but I wish I'd kept better 23 records. Mistakes were made in the diocesan office, and 24 so on. 25 Yes, there was dysfunctionality in terms of getting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 paralysis, but also you have already identified there 2 was a series of very critical reports in the media and 3 in the national press. I think the word sometimes is 4 that you became the story, Bishop Wallace, and that you 5 became the problem. Given that, during this period of 6 time, do you not think that you should have given some 7 consideration to stepping aside, not because you in and 8 of yourself were a safeguarding risk, but just because 9 the perception of others was damaging to the diocese as 10 a whole? 11 A. I did give consideration to that, but I will say again: 12 the truth matters. Unless you work through what's 13 actually happening properly, there won't be ultimate 14 progress. 15 I mean, the real story of the problems in the 16 Diocese of Chichester goes back to Peter Ball and things 17 around him. That's the real story. 18 Colin Perkins said to me -- in a reconciliation 19 meeting which was long overdue, he said to me, "You can 20 never have known what you were getting into in coming 21 down to live in Eastbourne. None of this should have 22 landed on your doorstep. It's very unfair that it's 23 done so", and I said to him, "Colin, why have you signed 24 a CDM against me, then?", to which he didn't say 25 anything. So it seems like as if the diocese at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>

<p>1 a point, because of paralysis, wasn't willing to face up 2 to mistakes, unsound conclusions, and simply allowed me 3 to be the scapegoat, and that's not helpful. It's not 4 helpful to the victims, it's not helpful in progress and 5 safeguarding, it's not helpful for the church to be as 6 good as it can be in the protection of children. 7 Q. Can I simply identify, just for the purposes of 8 the record, that Bishop Ball has not in fact ever been 9 convicted of any criminal offending against children? 10 Can I just identify that? 11 A. Okay. 12 Q. As a result of all this Sturm und Drang, I suppose might 13 be one way to call it, the Diocesan Safeguarding 14 Advisory Group brought a Clergy Discipline Measure 15 against you? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Now, we have got copies both of the complaint and of 18 your response. You identify in some detail your 19 concerns at paragraph 129 of your witness statement 20 onwards. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. I don't want to cut you short. However, I think it is 23 clear that, firstly, a large number of those complaints 24 were not proceeded with because Lord Justice Mummery who 25 sat on them said that they were out of time, and,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 Unless there is anything else, Bishop Wallace, thank you 2 very much. I have no further questions. Thank you. 3 THE CHAIR: Ms Sharpling? 4 Questions by THE PANEL 5 MS SHARPLING: Thank you, Bishop Wallace. Could you just 6 clarify something for me which I don't think I quite got 7 when you spoke about it. 8 A. If I can at this time of the day, I will do my best. 9 MS SHARPLING: When you received the comments in the 10 Meekings Report, Mr Meekings' report, I think you put in 11 a detailed response. 12 A. I did, yes. 13 MS SHARPLING: Were all or some of those responses included 14 in the next version of the report? 15 A. One substantial one was changed, which was the 16 acknowledgement that Nicholas Reade and I hadn't known 17 about the conviction of Roy Cotton in '99, but in 2001. 18 Roger Meekings acknowledged that. But he didn't include 19 all our concerns, which -- he wrote a final report 20 either the day we sent in some more considerations or 21 the day before, I can't remember which, but he didn't 22 engage with -- he knew they were coming, but he didn't 23 engage with some of the final concerns. 24 MS SHARPLING: Could you just, in a nutshell, describe those 25 final concerns from your perspective that he did not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 secondly, the other safeguarding complaints were all 2 dismissed on the basis that you had not breached any 3 relevant canonical matters. Those safeguarding -- just 4 to be clear, the Clergy Discipline Measures were all 5 about whether or not you should or shouldn't have 6 reported Robert Coles to the police and Gordon -- what 7 you should have done in respect of Gordon Rideout. 8 It is clear -- and chair and panel I don't think 9 I need to take you to it, but just for the purposes of 10 the record, WPB000005 sets out the relevant conclusion 11 of the individual. 12 So you would say you were completely vindicated at 13 the end of the Clergy Discipline Measure process? 14 A. It is important to say that Lord Justice Mummery didn't 15 allow an extension of time. He could have allowed, 16 I understand, an extension of time. 17 Q. Yes. 18 A. But he didn't, because he didn't believe that the 19 complaints were substantial enough for that to be the 20 case. 21 Goodness, I would hesitate to use the word 22 "completely vindicated", in the sense that I could have 23 done some things better, and I wish I had, but "cleared" 24 I think is the word I would use. 25 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much for correcting that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 include? 2 A. I wish I could find the right piece of paper. 3 MS SHARPLING: Not to worry if you can't. Can you tell me 4 in general terms? 5 A. Really, the issue was -- the huge issue was where he had 6 surmised some things and guessed some things and then 7 they became facts. So opinions became facts. 8 MS SHARPLING: I see. 9 A. Therefore -- which really became very dangerous because 10 kind of there was -- there was opinions about what -- 11 I think I talked about one much earlier in the day, 12 where he had drawn the opinion that Roy Cotton had told 13 me about the conviction, but had covered it over by 14 saying it was a false allegation. But then he said, "He 15 told him," he told me that there was a conviction. That 16 was his opinion of what happened in the conversation. 17 It isn't what happened in the conversation, but that 18 opinion then became conviction. That began to build an 19 edifice of misinformation which the TV was picking up 20 and the victims were hurt by and the church was damaged 21 by, but a lot of it was based on insecure foundations 22 and all the legal people were saying that, but the 23 diocese wouldn't admit to mistakes in the 24 Meekings Report or even in the Butler-Sloss Report that 25 was built on it but much better.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 MS SHARPLING: Thank you very much. 2 THE CHAIR: Mr Frank? 3 MR FRANK: Going back a long way to the beginning of your 4 evidence, you were asked about a letter that was written 5 certainly in your name, I think. If we could turn this 6 up, it's WPB000008_001. I think it is dated 7 2 November 1998. It is addressed to Roy Cotton and it 8 is in relation to the licence to officiate, which you 9 said that you would be happy to grant. 10 A. Yes. 11 MR FRANK: Do you remember saying in response to a question 12 from counsel that you thought that that was infelicitous 13 language -- 14 A. Yes. 15 MR FRANK: -- and that actually you thought it might be 16 a standard letter? 17 A. Yes, it was a kind of standard letter, yes. 18 MR FRANK: I want to ask you just if you could help us by 19 reference to what is behind tab 9, WPB000009_001, which 20 is, I think, the letter that gave rise to that response 21 on 2 November. It is dated 28 October. Do you see it 22 is addressed to you, and it is from Roy Cotton. At the 23 foot of it, there appears to be a draft which exactly 24 corresponds with the first paragraph of the letter you 25 then wrote on 2 November.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 a standard letter being topped and tailed. It appears 2 to imply a response being drafted specifically in 3 relation to the first letter. 4 A. But the problem in the letter is, as I understand it, 5 that has been pointed out to me -- there isn't a problem 6 in the letter. The problem in the letter is the word 7 "happy". 8 MR FRANK: Yes. 9 A. But that paragraph, "As regards the licence to officiate 10 when you have retired, I would be grateful if you would 11 apply for this when you have retired ..." that will have 12 been put in by my PA as a standard answer to people 13 applying for PTOs. So the first bit is personal, the 14 second bit is what would be on many letters of 15 a similar -- 16 MR FRANK: So it is a partially standard letter, is it? 17 A. Yes. 18 MR FRANK: I see. Let's move on. 19 A. I'm sorry, that's what I meant by "topping and tailing". 20 MR FRANK: All right. The second thing I want to ask you, 21 please, is this: in relation to an answer you have just 22 given, you said you care little for your own personal 23 reputation but you care a lot for that of the church. 24 I just want to ask you a question in relation to that 25 answer that you gave, particularly in respect of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 MR FRANK: What I wanted to ask you is, can it be right to 3 describe the letter of 2 November as a standard letter, 4 because it appears to have been drafted directly in 5 reply to the letter that you had earlier received? 6 A. Yes. You perhaps need to understand that, in terms of 7 some things going out, you sometimes top and tail 8 a letter. If you look at the original letter, which was 9 two paragraphs, the second one is much more generic and 10 the second one is not there in this draft. It is the 11 sort of thing -- I mean, you wouldn't write to anybody, 12 "Dear X, I am -- you can have PTO but I'm very unhappy 13 to give it". It's difficult to know exactly what else 14 you would say, particularly when you haven't got any 15 evidence to say anything different. 16 MR FRANK: What I'm -- 17 A. I'm sorry, you seem slightly bothered by that. 18 MR FRANK: Well, I'm, if I may say so, perhaps better 19 informed but none the wiser as a result of your answer. 20 A. Sorry. 21 MR FRANK: Because the first paragraph of the letter of 22 2 November appears to correspond exactly with the draft 23 at the foot of the letter of 28 October. 24 A. Yes. 25 MR FRANK: That doesn't appear to imply, as it were,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 the document we have just seen, which is behind tab 40, 2 which is the minute of the meeting of 27 June 2011. 3 Particularly in relation to the paragraph on page 1. 4 I don't know whether you have that in front of you or 5 whether it can be brought up for you. 6 MS SCOLDING: It can be brought up. 7 MR FRANK: It is WWS000061_001. At the foot of the page, 8 that paragraph that begins, "Bishop W stated ..." Do 9 you see on the third line down: 10 "Bishop W stated that he did not wish to be 11 a 'sacrificial lamb' ..." 12 I'm just wondering whether that gives the impression 13 of someone who is more concerned about their personal 14 reputation than that of the organisation that he 15 represents? 16 A. I'm not sure I ever used that phrase "sacrificial lamb". 17 I think the phrase I continually used was "collateral 18 damage". 19 MR FRANK: We see on the head of that document the note was 20 taken by Ian Gibson. 21 A. Yes. 22 MR FRANK: Is that the same Ian Gibson who claims that you 23 called him a liar? 24 A. Yes. 25 MR FRANK: Yes. Well, are you suggesting that Ian Gibson on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 200</p>

50 (Pages 197 to 200)

<p>1 this occasion has put something in the note that's 2 inaccurate to your detriment? 3 A. No, I wouldn't go that far. I would certainly be 4 willing to acknowledge that there might have been times 5 when I was concerned about my own reputation. But 6 I hope that wasn't the overarching concern. I hope that 7 the concern for the well-being of victims and for the 8 church of Jesus Christ that I know takes the care of 9 children seriously, the one we are supposed to follow, 10 that we behave as best we can. That I'm deeply, deeply 11 concerned about. There may have been times when I was 12 simply concerned for my own skin, but I hope it wasn't 13 the predominant concern. 14 MR FRANK: Thank you very much, indeed. I have nothing 15 further. Thank you. 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Bishop Wallace. 17 MS SCOLDING: I'm so sorry, chair. A note was passed to me 18 after I had sat down which asked to ask a supplementary 19 question. Again, this is on behalf of Mr Hofmeyr, I'm 20 so sorry, chair. 21 Examination by MS SCOLDING (continued) 22 MS SCOLDING: Bishop Wallace, just before you go, you ceased 23 involvement in safeguarding when? 24 A. I'm sorry? 25 Q. When did you stop having day-to-day involvement with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much. 2 (4.45 pm) 3 (The hearing was adjourned until 4 Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 10.00 am) 5 6 I N D E X 7 8 BISHOP WALLACE BENN (sworn)1 9 10 Examination by MS SCOLDING1 11 12 Questions by THE PANEL106 13 14 Examination by MS SCOLDING (continued)107 15 16 Questions by THE PANEL195 17 18 Examination by MS SCOLDING (continued)201 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 safeguarding? 2 A. Actually -- well, I'm very grateful for Mr Hofmeyr 3 raising this. I should have mentioned. All PTOs, first 4 of all, were done from 2009 onwards, so I didn't do 5 them. They were done centrally. 6 Q. Okay. 7 A. So for the last three years of my time, PTOs were done. 8 Secondly, in December 2010, I relinquished any -- 9 how can I put it, because we all have a responsibility 10 for safeguarding? -- particular responsibility for 11 safeguarding in 2010. 12 Q. Who did that go to? Was that Archdeacon Philip? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Was that voluntarily or at somebody else's request? 15 A. No, it was -- I was a bit surprised by it, but I thought 16 if it helps, fine, if it helps. 17 MS SCOLDING: Thank you very much. I'm so sorry, chair and 18 panel, about that. Thank you. 19 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Bishop Wallace. 20 A. Thank you, madam chair. 21 (The witness withdrew) 22 MS SCOLDING: Chair, as we have no other business, may I ask 23 that we adjourn, I believe, until 10.00 am tomorrow. Is 24 that right? 25 THE CHAIR: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	

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