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INDEPENDENT REVIEWER
JANUARY 2009

CONFIDENTIAL ADDENDUM

Criminal proceedings against Rev Colin Pritchard took place during the course of the Review and were subject to discussion between the Bishop, Bishop's Chaplain, IR, Safeguarding Advisor and former Safeguarding Adviser.

Pritchard was convicted of offences of 4 counts of indecent assault on a child and 3 counts of gross indecency on a child. The offences took place between 1979 and 1983 and involved two victims aged 12 and 15 years.

He had been investigated for these offences together with Rev Roy Cotton who died in 2006.

Pritchard and Cotton were the subject of allegations made by a man from East Sussex that were investigated by the Police over a protracted period from 1997 to 1999. The CPS decided not to pursue the case arguing that there was a lack of independent evidence.

However, the investigation re-commenced in 2006 when a man living in DPA made identical allegations against Pritchard and Cotton.

Cotton was convicted in 1954 for indecent exposure to a child and the court sentenced him to one year's probation. At that time he was an ordinand and, as a result, he did not proceed to ordination at that stage; instead he went into teaching and became a reader in the Oxford Diocese. He was ordained in December 1966.

Cotton was arrested in 1997 in connection with sexual abuse with a minor between 1976 and 1983.

At the time of the investigation in 1999 the policy did not allow the Child Protection Advisor access to the Blue file [which held relevant information concerning Cotton's previous conviction].

The Area Bishop who was involved at that time, also, did not have access to the Blue file.

It is reported that the Police also were not aware of the previous conviction due to a computer error.

The consequence of the lack of awareness of and sharing of this critical information was that the investigation was unable to be sufficiently thorough and was flawed.

Cotton retired and was granted PTO in May 1999, This decision appears to have been made, again, without reference to the Blue file.

Whether it was wise to have granted PTO, even without access to the Blue file, after the very recent Police investigations is an issue.