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12 July 2012

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Dear John

**Archbishop's Visitation**

I refer to your letter dated 5 July 2012 attaching (1) a document headed "Note from Commissaries to Bishop of Lewes" and (2) a revised draft of an "extract" from the Commissaries' report to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The comments of the Bishop of Lewes on the revised "extract" provided by you are set out on the attached document, which I hope the Commissaries will find of assistance. You will see that the Bishop of Lewes remains concerned both about issues of factual inaccuracy and about the respects in which the extract continues to be written in a manner designed to reflect and protect Bishop John Hind's position in the matter – the pointed statement on page 3 of the extract that the diocesan bishop's understanding and commitment to safeguarding is of the highest order (with all that it implies to single him out with this comment) is just one example. As you know, the Bishop of Lewes is determined that there should be accurate and fair reporting on the progress made within the Diocese of Chichester in the implementation of and in the actions taken upon the Diocesan Safeguarding Guidelines, the current House of Bishops' Guidelines and the recommendations made in the Butler-Sloss Report dated 19 May 2011. His comments are made with this end in mind. He is concerned, however, that the efficacy of the Commissaries' report, which is so important to everyone within the diocese and beyond, may be seriously undermined if a significant group of people within the diocese do not recognise and accept the report's principal diagnosis, at least as reflected in the extract provided, that the cause of safeguarding problems has been the Area Scheme.

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