

00Highly confidential

Briefing Note

This briefing note is prepared for the assistance of the attendees at a meeting at the offices of Winckworth Sherwood on 9th May 2014. It summarises the key features of the case to be discussed. Due to the sensitive nature of the material, it will be provided to attendees on the day and not in advance.

- The complainant was born in 1942. S [REDACTED]
- Her allegation is that on visits to the Bishop's Palace in Chichester with [REDACTED] between 1947 and 1950, +GB regularly sexually abused her. The abuse was serious and included digital penetration, forced masturbation and, on more than one occasion, attempted rape. There were religious overtones to the abuse (use of language to describe abuse, "if you tell anyone God will be angry", etc). This occurred every two to three months (on every occasion that the complainant visited [REDACTED] DPA). The abuse ended when she moved with her family away from Sussex.
- The complainant wrote to the Bishop of Chichester (Eric Kemp) in 1995. She names +GB in the letter as her abuser. The letter details the abuse in quite graphic terms; it makes clear that she was very young at the time and that the abuse has caused her lifelong distress.
- +EK replied to the complainant, expressing sorrow for these 'distressing memories' and offering to suggest the names of counsellors, and also to put her in touch with her parish priest, whom he also wrote to.
- Handwritten notes from +EK's Chaplain give evidence for other responses at the time. For instance, her address is described as 'where the 'Council house problem people'. A further note states that '+Chichester suggested contacting social services to see if they could tell us anything about [the complainant]... Not knowing anyone in social services, I spoke to M..... B..... [unknown] to ask for his advice...he was concerned because any mention of child abuse might set alarm bells going before we really wanted them to...He also thought it might be useful to have C.... H....'s [Registrar?] reaction...CH thinks the Executors should be informed as they might be able to take out an injunction to prevent [complainant] talking to the press'. A further note details work done on identifying these Executors (with little apparent success).
- All of the above paperwork was held on +GB's file at Bishop's Palace, Chichester. This file was not subject to the 2008/9 Past Cases Review. A brief perusal of files held at Lambeth Palace has yielded no equivalent information, nor evidence that would corroborate or refute this allegation.
- There is no evidence of any further contact between the complainant and either +EK or anyone else in the Diocese of Chichester.
- In April 2013 the complainant emailed Lambeth Palace, saying that she had been abused by the Bishop of Chichester and giving equivalent details to those in her '95 letter.
- This email was forwarded to me; I entered into a short series of emails with the complainant, during which she confirmed she was talking about +GB (I

did not mention the name, but waited for her to do so). I offered the services of Gemma Wordsworth (Independent Sexual Violence Adviser, on secondment to the Diocese at the time), which was accepted. Gemma contacted and met with the complainant.

- The complainant met with a detective from Sussex Police, organised through Gemma, and made a statement. The complainant has also received counselling from a local specialist provider, again arranged through Gemma and paid for by the Diocese of Chichester.
- Sussex Police have confirmed that in their view the complainant presents as making a genuine and credible complaint, and that, were +GB still alive, he would be arrested on the basis of this complaint. They are obviously unable to speculate about what might then occur. They have yet to write-up their enquiries, given other demands on the team involved (Operations Perry and Dunhill).
- Gemma has spoken to the complainant recently. She is happy with the response she received from the Diocese on this occasion – particularly being referred to the Police and counselling and Gemma's support. She is not seeking further support – however, previous conversations with Gemma have led her to conclude that the complainant would not oppose an effort to put +GB's name in the public domain in connection with this allegation.
- We have now received a notification of claim from the complainant, detailing the allegation in terms consistent with her 1995 letter, 2013 email, and her interviews with Gemma and Sussex Police.
- For completeness, I have included below Gemma's assessment of this case:

Dear Colin,

I am emailing to provide you with my professional opinion in regards to my work with X.

I have had numerous telephone calls and a single face to face meeting with the above lady since her referral in May 2013. I have assisted X into counselling and in making a statement with Sussex Police following her allegation of childhood abuse.

I was unable to go into detail in regards to X's account of abuse when we spoke as I work in accordance to Pre Trial Therapy and I was aware that X had not made a formal statement with Police. However, from what was described to me and the emotions expressed, there is little doubt in my mind that X was recalling trauma from childhood. X has expressed to me that she was wanting closure on past events and help as she had not received therapeutic support in the past. X stated that she had told h[REDACTED] at the time and had written letters to the Diocese of Chichester but that she had never really been listened to, believed or supported.

If you require any further assistance with this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Gemma

- It should also be noted that +GB was instrumental in efforts to bring refugees from Nazi Germany to the UK during WWII. It is believed that he had some Kindertransport children staying with him during the War. This is obviously at roughly the same time as the alleged abuse.
- I have (at Elizabeth Hall's suggestion) discussed this with [REDACTED], an independent media consultant and former senior communications officer at CEOP,