



Briefing Note for Archbishop of Canterbury

Operation PERRY

Sussex Police investigation of historic sexual abuse allegations.

The investigation is being conducted by officers from Specialist Crime Directorate, Headquarters CID. It has been running for 5 months. It centres on the historic offending of three retired East Sussex priests. Their offending is not linked - and in each case has been subject of previous police investigation.

An Investigative Management Group has meet at regular intervals and includes representatives from East and West Sussex local authorities, Barnardos, and the Chichester Diocese.

At this stage the investigation is operating under the assumption that none of the individuals are aware of this renewed investigation into their past offending, although there is a possibility that this information has been leaked to them or adduced as a result of other, Church or media lead, activity.

This investigation is being undertaken in the context of sustained internal and external scrutiny of the safeguarding practices of senior members of the clergy within the Chichester Diocese. Specifically I refer to:

- A confidential historic cases review compiled by Baroness BUTLER SLOSS, commissioned by the Bishop of Chichester. This was an independent review of a number of cases of historical sexual abuse involving members of the clergy. Receipt of the review prompted the current Bishop of Chichester to apologise for the '*institutional failings that have caused deep and profound pain to victims of sexual abuse in the Diocese of Chichester*'.
- An 18 month journalistic investigation into the safeguarding failings of senior clergy within the Chichester Diocese that remains an ongoing campaign being pursued by a BBC South East reporter. (The most recent televised broadcast took place on Monday 13th February 2012).
- The decision taken, in October 2011 by the Diocese's own Safeguarding Group, to recommend that the current Bishop of Lewes is subject of a Clergy Discipline Measure. This in relation to his alleged failings to take appropriate safeguarding action where concerns of sexual abuse have been levelled at priests in the diocese.
- The ongoing 'Visitation' of the Diocese - to review past failings and current safeguarding arrangements.

A brief summary of the matters under investigation relating to the three individuals is as follows

Suspect 1 - Gordon Trevor RIDEOUT

Circumstances

The case is one of multiple allegations of sexual assault of young children ranging from indecent assault to attempt rape. The offences are historic and occurred in the 1960's and 70's. The offending took place in three locations the suspect was associated with;

- Barnardos' children home, Ifield Crawley
- Barnardo's children home, Barkingside
- Middle Wallop Army Air Corps Base, Hampshire.