

Strictly Confidential Memorandum

To: Archbishop

cc: Chris Smith
Marie Papworth
Kay Brock
John Rees
Elizabeth Hall

From: Andrew Nunn

Date: 6 February, 2012

Subject: **Bishop Peter Ball**

001540

- 1 I understand that the journalist Colin Campbell (BBC South East) intends to make Bishop Peter Ball (PB) the next focus of his investigative attention. I am told that he has been in touch with Neil Todd, the man against whom PB committed gross indecency when Bishop of Gloucester, for which he accepted a police caution in 1993, and that more victims are coming forward or are being contacted.
- 2 You will recall that, some while ago, we supplied the police with the allegations we have on file but that the Crown Prosecution Service decided that no crime had taken place under the law as it was at that time and so no charges were pressed. I am told however that the police intend to look again at the file, though whether this is in the light of new information or with regard to old information and simply at the encouragement of Campbell I do not know.
- 3 Whatever, the clouds are gathering around Peter Ball, and we need to prepare ourselves for the inevitable storm.
- 4 One of the difficulties is that there is so much information, spread across so many offices; no one has a full picture of the entire history – to the extent that it can be known by the Church. There will be information in Chichester, Bath and Wells, and Gloucester. There may also be information in Birmingham and Lichfield. There will also be information held by the Provincial Registrar in Oxford.
- 5 Following a telephone conversation with Elizabeth Hall (The Safeguarding Officer), **it is suggested that we call in all the files about Peter Ball (or copies of them) to Lambeth and consolidate them into a single record.** A single summary could then be made so that everyone shares the same history.
- 6 The advantage is:
 - i We at least will have a full picture of the history,
 - ii Everyone who needs to will share the same history,
 - iii The action will demonstrate that you are being pro-active and taking child protection seriously.

- iv We will be prepared and in possession of all the facts if a story breaks.
- 7 The disadvantage of this is:
 - i It will be a massive task;
 - ii It will put you firmly in the lead with regard to this particular case.
 - 8 The difficulty may be:
 - i There may be those who will resist this move.
 - ii There may not be time to do this before the story – if story there be – breaks.
 - 9 I have spoken to Marie Papworth who supports this proposal from a press management perspective.
 - 10 If we go down this route, I would propose contacting Kate Wood, who reviewed the file here as part of the 2009 review exercise, to see if she is available to assist. (There would be a cost involved here.)
 - 11 Marie and I are now clear that too much has been swept under the carpet for too long; the furniture in this particular room will no longer stand steady and may be about to topple. We feel quite strongly that for your own reputation you need to take the initiative and pre-emptive action.
 - 12 I would welcome comments and stand ready to discuss this proposal.

*I am content to
go with the proposal*

DPA