

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

31st March 1993

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Dear Mr Pacey,

The Rt Revd Peter Ball

First, I want to express my deep appreciation of the way in which your officers tackled the investigation into the allegations concerning Bishop Ball. They dealt with the matter sensitively and compassionately. I am personally very grateful.

As you will appreciate, now that the police investigation is over, I am left very much in a quandary concerning what action I now take with regard to the Bishop because so much depended upon the nature of the police investigation. One of the results of the confidential nature of the investigation is that I am somewhat in the dark concerning the nature of his misdemeanour. This, in turn, affects what kind of discipline I put him under and what form of pastoral care he should have. It is my intention to see him and his brother shortly and to go over the matter carefully. There are a range of options that I could take which go from a total ban on ministry to a gradual re-introduction of the Bishop into the ministry again. What would help very greatly would be an opportunity to see some of the evidence given by the witnesses which will be of enormous help in deciding how best to deal with the former Bishop of Gloucester. As you will appreciate, for a sensitive man, he already feels he has been punished - deprived of his bishopric, deprived of employment, and disgraced.

If you did feel you could approach some of the witnesses, seeking their permission for me to see their evidence, I can promise them total confidentiality and respect. I will fully understand, of course, if you are not able to help in this way; but for the good name of the Church, as well as simply for justice's sake, I believe myself to be duty bound to take every step possible to get to the truth of the Bishop's behaviour.

Once again, my very grateful thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Archbishop of Canterbury

Copy: Detective Chief Superintendent  
John Bennett

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