

The Right Reverend Frank Sargeant  
Bishop at Lambeth & Head of Staff

Lambeth Palace  
London SE1 7UH  
tel: 0171-928 8282  
fax: 0171-261 9836

5 February 1997

To all members of the House of Bishops

My dear Colleague

Following a verbal statement to the members of the House of Bishops on Thursday 16 January the Archbishop of Canterbury has asked me to inform you in writing that

"Bishop Peter Ball may now be regarded in the same way as any other retired bishop, but should he be invited to do any public episcopal acts, for his own protection, it would be helpful if you would let me know."

The Archbishop asks me to convey his best wishes and to say that he recommends sabbatical leave for bishops!

*Yours sincerely,*

**DPA**

DPA

Generally speaking it is expected that the diocesan and/or parish clergy where they live will take responsibility pastorally. In this case was, I understand, offered pastoral counselling though the Southwell diocese. Your own diocesan undertook responsibility for the two ordinands from Cambridge.

Perhaps we can do better than that. If people's diaries will ever allow it I would be attracted to the idea of having a short consultation here at Lambeth with the handful of people who have been most involved in the Peter Ball case, including of course yourself, to compare notes and see whether we can be better prepared for what we hope will never happen again. Looking at the timetable this might be possible perhaps in June or early July. If so, I will be in touch again with a suggested date or two.

In case it is helpful, I will send a copy of this to Roy Williamson at Southwark.

Yours ever

The Rt Revd the Bishop of Huntingdon

**DPA**

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

April 20 1993

The Rt Revd the Bishop at Lambeth  
Lambeth Palace  
LONDON SE1 7JU

RECEIVED 23 APR 1993

Dear John

In the aftermath of the discussion about the Peter Ball case, Stephen raised the question of the continuing pastoral care of those who claimed to have been abused. In a conversation with I put this matter to her and her reply was that as far as she knew, there had not been much. I asked if there was any way in which we could help, to which she replied that if one of us would be willing to listen to any of the people involved, that would be a help to them. As a result of that rather vague offer, I had a telephone call from who fixed up to see me this week, and came and had a long talk with me.

As a result of the very long conversation, two practical points emerged, which I undertook to put to you.

The first concerns the process to be followed in the future, in the unlikely event of this sort of complaint against a Diocesan Bishop. By his account of things (and I have only his account to go by), if there had been some procedure for investigating the complaint within the church, and if this procedure had been known to the complainants, it is much less likely that complaint would have been made to the police. He wondered why it was not possible for the Archbishop to appoint another bishop to undertake an enquiry of the complaints on his (the Archbishop's) behalf? Is it envisaged that in the future something of that sort might happen? As you know, there seems to be a general resentment among those involved in the matter and a feeling that there is a cover-up. agreed with me that there probably wasn't a cover-up, but that there did not seem to be a clear procedure which was being followed. I think that it would be a help if there were some reassurance about that for the future.

The other point concerned those who claimed to have been abused. Is anyone responsible for over-seeing their pastoral care? Although some of them have been interviewed by the police, he says that there is a general feeling that no-one in the church is concerned for them as people who have suffered in this particular way.

I realise of course that I have no direct responsibility in the matter (except to ) and that I have only heard and side of the story. But I did get the impression of a straight-forward and caring person who had a real concern for the vulnerable. Is there anything you can tell me on either of those two matters which might help to reassure

I realise of course that own position is a peculiar one and that, as you pointed out to me in your last, very helpful, letter, he is under the care of Roy Williamson. I am also writing to Roy to say that I have seen and to pass on to him some of his anxieties. It is all very sad, but I am concerned that we should do what we can to deal with difficulties that still remain.

Yours ever

DPA

cc The Bishop of Ely

DPA

MEMORANDUM

To: The Archbishop

Date: 10 March 1993

From: Bishop John

---

Peter Ball

I took two telephone calls yesterday which reflected something of the expected aftermath of the Peter Ball affair. They both claimed to be on behalf of the alleged victims of the sexual abuse. The rather suspect phoned on behalf of Neil Dodd and the woman deacon, on behalf of the two unnamed young men in Cambridge.

Both were making two points in different ways. First, that, in their view, some kind of apology, acknowledgement, or reparation was due to those whom they would describe as victims. Moreover, they wanted to suggest in different ways that this should come in some way from 'the Church' on the grounds that Peter was misusing his power and authority as a Bishop of the Church in taking advantage of these young men and not acting simply as an individual.

Secondly, they wanted to make the point that action should be taken to ensure that Peter is not entrusted with pastoral responsibility for young men in the future.

I made one or two obvious points to them about the limitations on your own knowledge about the situation, and on your powers now that Peter has retired and said I would pass on their concern to you.

Would you like me to take up informally with the police the question of whether any of their information can be made available to you and/look again at the letters from young men which you received yourself in case you now want to write to any of them in the light of what has now happened?

1. I would like to speak to a Senior Policeman about Peter.
2. We resist such demands

DPA

DPA