
Memorandum

To: Richard Llewelin
cc: Andrew Nunn
From: Archbishop
Date: 12 September 2000
Subject: Bishop Peter Ball

000930

Thank you for your memorandum of 4 September. As I read this carefully it seems over-critical of me – when I am sure that was not the intention!

It is saying or suggesting:

1. I took Peter's side to an excessive degree;
2. I gave him money, and a great deal too;
3. I gave him assurances that were not justified;
4. I did not put him on the Caution List;
5. I was gullible.

What the memo does not take into account is:

1. The acute anguish, despair and pain of both Bishops. There was a real need to hold them both and support them.
2. It was very difficult to get to the truth of the matter. Even to this day, I have not seen the Police Report. So much of the claims (para. 3) depend on various people's interpretations of incidents. It was – and remains – difficult to find out what actually happened.
3. I did not put him on the caution list because:
 - i) He resigned immediately and was too ill to exercise ministry;
 - ii) I made it clear to him that he could not exercise a ministry for some time and you will see letters from him asking me to allow him back. I refused and then after consultation, allowed him to exercise a priestly ministry. First, to the convent in Truro, then gradually wider.

In short,

- a) I am sure it was right to be compassionate and tender. I don't have any qualms in this area. Peter Ball lost everything : I stand by a man who, overall, has been a wonderful priest and bishop. So many men are in the ministry today because of him. I believe the senior staff at Gloucester behaved disgracefully and did not support him.

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- b) Although I take full responsibility for actions taken and decisions made at Lambeth, I did have the full support of Bishop John Yates and later Bishop Frank Sargeant. Frank Robson was kept in touch and his opinion constantly sought.
- c) However, I find myself asking from time to time: Could I have done more for him? Should I have insisted on seeing the Police Report?

If your memo is going into his file, then I insist on this memo being included!

000931

LAMBETH PALACE