

# NEWS RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY  
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DPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bishop of Gloucester

Lambeth Palace has issued the following statement on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury following further questions about the Bishop of Gloucester:

As soon as the allegations made by Neil Todd were brought to the Archbishop of Canterbury by two of his Bishops, the Archbishop launched an investigation of his own. In this, there has never been any question of a cover-up by the Church.

Virtually simultaneously, the Bishop of Gloucester was arrested, and therefore Neil Todd's allegations became a matter for police investigations.

Until the police investigations were fully complete it would not be proper for the Archbishop or anyone else to have assumed the Bishop was guilty.

The Archbishop did, however, immediately agree with Bishop Peter that he should cease his duties until the end of the police investigation.

When the outcome of the police investigation was made known, the Archbishop not only expressed his great sorrow, but also made it clear that the Bishop's resignation was the correct decision.

He also asked for prayers for all concerned, not just the Bishop. He made this statement knowing of the Bishop of Gloucester's own public expression of penitence for the circumstances leading to his caution.

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The Archbishop has, on many different occasions, upheld the principle that leaders of the Church must seek to model high standards of Christian morality, and should take full responsibility in cases where they fail to live up to it.

The Bishop of Gloucester has faced up to his responsibility in this case and resigned.

Any other allegations of criminal behaviour would have been matters for the police, who conducted a most thorough and wide-ranging investigation before concluding that the caution should be issued in relation to one offence only.

The Church's continuing pastoral investigations, which are outside the police domain, are private and will remain so.

**The Press Office, Lambeth Palace:**

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