

Regina v Peter Ball

Agreed Basis of Plea

1. This document is prepared to assist the Court with the facts of the case as have been agreed between the prosecution and the defence for the purposes of sentencing. It is not intended to restrict the way in which the Crown opens the case except that nothing inconsistent with this document will be opened.
2. The Defendant pleads ***guilty*** to;
 - Misconduct in Public Office
 - Indecently assaulting AN-A117
 - Indecently assaulting Graham Sawyer
3. The Defendant pleads ***not guilty*** to;
 - Indecently assaulting Philip Johnson
 - Indecently assaulting AN-A2
4. The Defendant pleads guilty on the basis of the facts as set out in the prosecution case summary dated 13th January 2015 (together with reference to background documents appearing in the exhibit bundle as they relate to those counts to which guilty pleas have been entered and the Defendant's role as a Bishop during the relevant period) subject to the further agreed additions, deletions and amendments to that summary as detailed herein below at paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Basis of Plea.

[References to paragraphs in the document are to those appearing in the prosecution case summary unless otherwise stated]
5. It is further accepted by his plea that the Defendant;
 - (i) obtained sexual gratification from the deliberate manipulation of vulnerable young men. The frequency of contact over a given period of time with most, but not all, of the complainants was of a kind consistent with 'grooming';

(ii) abused his position as a Bishop in the Church of England by making suggestions to the victims that either their religious life or their social life would be improved by engaging in the acts he suggested.

(iii) Insofar as the complaints relate to the Give a Year to Christ Scheme, whilst having established a genuine course of religious thinking and tuition for young people to study and follow under the Scheme, then took the opportunity to commit the acts comprising the misconduct under the guise of those acts being a further part of the austere regime of devotion and religious teachings, when they were not. That other conduct was for the Defendant's sexual gratification and was not part of the approved/received teaching of the Church of England, nor of St Francis of Assisi, and was nowhere else practised with approval. It was never expressed publicly, in writing or as part of the terms of attendance on the Scheme. The Defendant often told victims not to say what they had experienced with him.

6. It is agreed that the Defendant did not;

(i) (with reference to paragraph 1 of the case summary) offend;

"...over a period many years before [his appointment as a Bishop]..."

The plea is plainly confined to conduct whilst the Defendant was in the office of Bishop and in respect of the specific complainants identified in the Prosecution summary.

(ii) masturbate any complainant or cause them to masturbate him.

(iii) touch the genitalia of any complainant or cause any complainant to touch his genitalia.

7. The prosecution agrees not to open the complaints made by;

- Gary Johnson (paragraph 57 - a mis-numbered paragraph appearing between paragraphs 49 and 50),
- **AN-A98** (paragraph 66) or
- **AN-A106** (paragraph 67).

8. The following specific allegations are not accepted by the defendant and will not be opened regarding certain complainants in respect of the count of misconduct in public office;

- **AN-A108** - paragraph 16. The Defendant denies kissing the complainant on the lips or offering to masturbate him.
 - **AN-A96** - paragraphs 19, 39 and 40. The Defendant admits making an offer of re-baptism when the complainant was 13 years of age but denies that any naked rebaptism or naked contact between the two took place until after the complainant was 18.
9. The Defendant accepts that his consensual relationship with **AN-A97** (as described by **AN-A97** in paragraphs 43 and 44) at a time when the Defendant was not in Office, was one in which he took advantage of a vulnerable young man who looked upon the Defendant as his spiritual leader. Accordingly, the paragraphs will be opened by the prosecution as part of the relevant background of the facts to the case.
10. The Defendant pleads guilty to the count of indecently assaulting **AN-A117** **AN-A117** on the basis of the beating detailed at paragraph 14(c) and on the basis that whilst the conduct was not resisted by **AN-A117** he had not consented to the infliction of injury. The further conduct detailed in paragraph 14 is accepted as relevant to the context in which the offence took place.
11. The Defendant pleads guilty to indecently assaulting Graham Sawyer on the basis of paragraphs 51 and 52 but the defendant denies that he told the complainant that any failure to act in a particular way would result in the Defendant failing to support the complainant in proposed ordination.

Richard Smith QC Counsel for Peter Ball

Bobbie Cheema-Grubb QC Counsel for the prosecution.

8th September 2015