

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

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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

RECEIVED 07 FEB 1997

The Bishop of St Germans
The Rt Revd Graham James

Telephone: Truro
Fax:

DPA
DPA

DPA

6th February 1997.

The Rt. Revd. the Bishop at Lambeth,
Lambeth Palace,
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Dear Frank

Bishop Peter Ball

A brief reply to your letter of the 20th January, but I know that Peter has been in touch with you directly since then.

I told Peter that the Archbishop had made a very supportive statement to the House of Bishops about him and that I could not remember any other occasion when an Archbishop may have encouraged members of the House to use a particular retired bishop. So as a statement of support it seemed to me unique. I also told him that the Archbishop had specifically said that Peter could now exercise his ministry anywhere without reference to the Archbishop, but that if he was to perform episcopal acts such as confirmation then it would be wise to inform the Archbishop (rather than seek permission) so that this was known at Lambeth in case there was any difficulty raised by a third party or the media.

All this seems eminently reasonable to me on the part of the Archbishop, but I'm not sure I really understand what more Peter may want. If, however, you or the Archbishop feel I can be of any further help to you, I'll gladly do so.

Yours ever

DPA

I think things have moved on from the letter, but will let you know.

DPA