

+ Peter Ball

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Archbishop

From: Frank

Date: 21 December 1994

000414

With regard to Peter Ball's letter as to whether you would write to those who wrote to you with alleged incidents in his past life. It would be possible for me to draft a letter saying that is now two years since the incident happened and Peter resigned from being Bishop of Gloucester, and that we review the cases after two years, that you were consulting them as to whether they would see it as being appropriate to allow him a very restricted ministry - one which did not bring him in to touch with young people and children - as he does have a valuable ministry to perform. If they had any doubts to that then obviously you would bear that in mind. I think the danger of doing this is they may say yes they do object, and therefore we have lost the initiative. The benefit in that case would be that Peter could not say that we haven't followed his wishes in order to clarify the situation and give him proper protection.

I have written to Michael to ask him if he thinks it is right that, with the consent of his senior staff, Peter should be allowed to have this restricted ministry, and I attach a copy of the aide-memoire of our meeting with him when he was last at Lambeth. When I receive a reply from Michael I will write to the vicar of the parish to gain his agreement before setting the thing in motion. My own feeling on the matter is that Michael is beginning to withdraw a bit now because he realises the dangers and I think all that we can do is to handle the matter in a very gentle and incremental way. I am quite prepared to draft a letter to the folks who wrote against him, if you think it is worthwhile for us to look at together.

DPA

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The feeling is - don't contact the people above yet. Preferably, advance PB's min a little, then see what further steps to take after that.

Notes
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LAMBETH PALACE