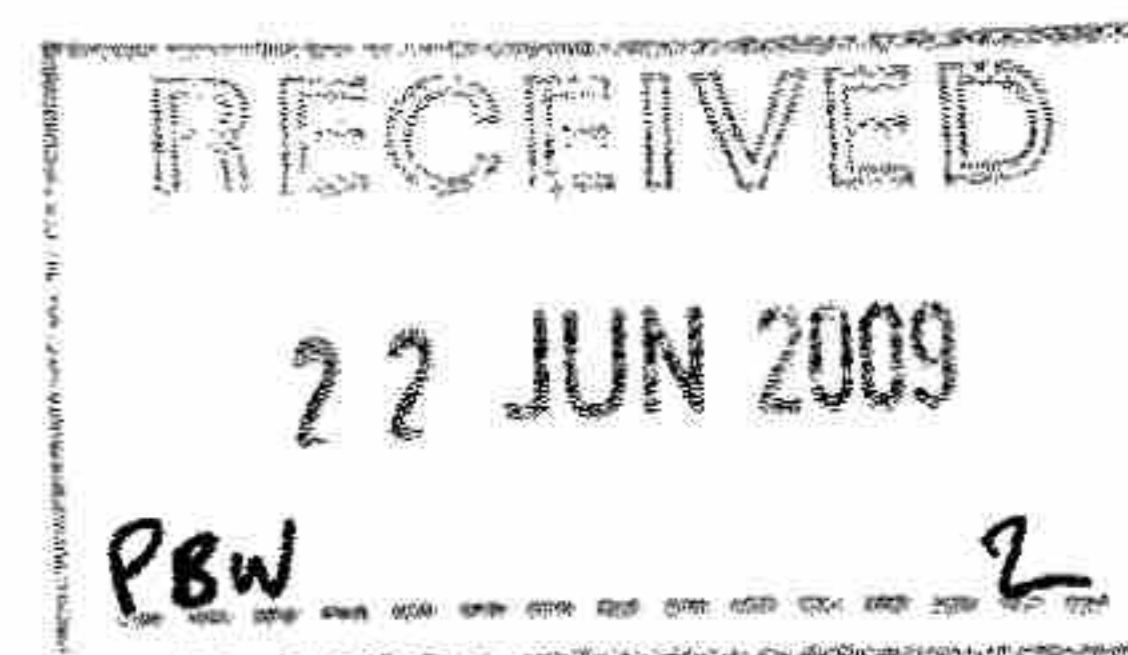


From Rt Hon Lord Lloyd of Berwick

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DPA

20 June 2009

002051

Dear Bishop

I have just heard from Peter Salt that he is due to undergo a "risk assessment" which may last anything up to four hours on Thursday of this week. I do hope that it is within your power to review the decision before it is too late, or at least post-pone it while he is so frail.

Let me explain my concern. He was, as you know, a very much loved Bishop, loved, not least by us. When he moved to Gloucester we kept in touch; so it was quite natural that, when the blow fell, he should seek my advice. He told me what he believed was the whole story, and we discussed what he should do, both in person and in the course of many letters. In my view he did the right thing by accepting

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a formal caution. I knew, of course, that he would have to resign. But I believed that so far as the Church was concerned, that would be the end of it. It might take time for him to be completely forgiven, as indeed it did. But it did eventually happen - and gradually Peter recovered his peace, and a little of his former happiness.

When he sent me a copy of the letter which he received from the Child Protection Officer in the Diocese I could hardly believe my eyes. It was the ~~most~~ coldest and most inhuman letter I have ever read from any "employee" - let alone the Church. How could the Church have been so cruel? I thought of writing at once to you, and, since I know that you too are "under authority" (as Bishop Bell of Exeter used to say) to Landette. But in the event -

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I did neither.

But I cannot now wait any longer. It could not be right for the Church to subject a frail old man to such torture, especially one who has served her, God so long and so well. A temporal wrong would show more mercy. Why not the Church?