

CURRENT
CHILD PROTECTION ISSUE

Wallace Benn

From: "Sellwood" [redacted] DPA
To: "Bishop Wallace" [redacted] DPA
Sent: 28 February 2003 15:31
Subject: Child Protection.

Hi,

I saw AN-A37 earlier this week. I did not see him earlier as the police had not interviewed him and I did not want to 'contaminate any of his evidence.'

The police have told AN-A37 that they will not be pursuing the matter with Cotton as they are of the view that he is too ill and too vulnerable to be interviewed and 'the public don't like people to be hounded when they are so ill.'

I have spoken to the police who also indicated that the Crown Prosecution Service do not like following up historical cases with 'people who are seriously ill.'

AN-A37 is disappointed by this. I think I am as well.

However, I had a good interview with him. He spoke of P.J. 'The People in Eastbourne' magazine artistic editor. I have given him a copy of the issue in question.

AN-A37 has not been to church since the abuse. Whilst I was there he found some photographs of the foreign trips that he was taken on by Cotton. Whilst upstairs seeking these photographs he became distressed and angry and threw some things around. He was polite and courteous to me.

Are you aware of any professional counsellors in the Eastbourne area that you have used in the past? I have offered AN-A37 a series of six counselling sessions. I do have a budget for such eventualities and I think that AN-A37 does need some help in this area. >

It would not be appropriate for AN-A37 to be counselled by a person in Holy Orders.

Thanks for this one!!!

DPA

Take Care,
Every Blessing,
Tony.

Tony Sellwood.
Bishop's Advisor for Child Protection.

Found by LJ
23.9.09

28/02/2003

WB/c

Tony Sellwood

From: lewes [redacted] DPA
Sent: 05 July 2005 10:42
To: sellwood [redacted] DPA
Subject: Fw: Rev. Roy Cotton



Sunday Night.doc
(81 KB)

Tony,

As mentioned to you on the telephone earlier today, below is a recent email received from Phil Johnson to Bishop Wallace, which includes an exchange of emailed correspondence between the Bishop and Mr Johnson from 2002, which he must have kept on his computer system. Mr Johnson also included an attached document with his current email.

Wallace asks if you could please get back to him as soon as possible with comment and advice, and if a reply is needed please could you provide him with a draft letter.

Many thanks for your kind assistance with this. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

kind regards
Sandy Medway (Mrs)
Secretary/PA to The Rt Revd Wallace Benn
Bishop of Lewes
Tel: [redacted] DPA

----- Original Message -----

From: "Phil Johnson" [redacted] DPA
To: "Wallace Benn" [redacted] DPA
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2005 3:37 PM
Subject: Rev. Roy Cotton

- > Dear Wallace
- >
- > You may find it strange that I am replying to this three years on but
- > I am sure that if you read the attachment thoroughly then you will
- > understand.
- >
- > Once again all of my troubles have been forced to the surface by a
- > high profile child abuse case which in many aspects is similar to my
- > own.
- >
- > ~~Most of the time I try to bury any thoughts and memories relating to~~
- > the abuse that I suffered but whilst I appreciate the need for
- > forgiveness I also feel the need for recognition of what happened. I
- > find it almost impossible to forgive whilst there is no real admission

- > of what happened - Fr. Cotton denied the allegations made by myself
- > and my brother - I still find this hard to comprehend, one of my
- > primary motivations for bringing this case to court was to see if he
- > would lie under oath or if this would force the truth out.
- >
- > Whilst I appreciate that Fr. Cotton as an individual was largely
- > responsible
- > for what happened I do hold the Church responsible at least in part due to
- > the collusion between Rev. Cotton and other Anglican (and Catholic)
- > priests
- > including the former bishop of Lewes, Peter Ball. I also feel that the
- > Church, even at that time had a duty of care towards choir boys and girls,
- > servers, scouts and guides etc who are in the care of clergy. I also feel
- > that the Church were irresponsible in allowing Fr. Cotton to take large
- > groups of children abroad when he was the only responsible adult, I
- > remember
- > some parents being concerned at the time.
- >
- > With regard to your comments below I feel that the Church should hold
- > internal investigations or at very least question and accused priest
- > or employee of the Church. This is for very good reason.
- >
- > Investigations made by the police need to have an extremely high
- > burden of proof in order to satisfy the CPS that the case is likely to
- > succeed in court. By the very nature of allegations such as this there
- > is very little, if any physical evidence, it generally comes down to
- > your word against his.
- > By the very nature of abuse such as this there are no witnesses and the
- > abuse takes place in a climate of secrecy and fear.
- > During the police investigation all the police officers that interviewed
- > me
- > believed what I said wanted the case to go to court.
- >
- > In the year or so that I was involved with the Child Protection Team
- > there were more than 1000 allegations of child abuse (both physical
- > and sexual) in the area, yet due to the burden of proof applied by the
- > CPS only 3 cases came to court - This does not mean that the other 99%
- > of allegations are not
- > true. There are similar statistics for rape cases as I am sure you are
- > aware.
- >
- > The attachment which I sent you is not the same as that which appeared
- > in Pie Magazine - it is much more in depth and contains much more
- > detail
- > - I assure you that the contents of the attachment are the truth.
- >
- > You can show this document to other people if you need a second
- > opinion or if it will help to prevent other people suffering as I have
- > and continue to. I do not know if the Diocesan Child Protection
- > Advisors have a copy, but if
- > they do not I suggest that you give them one as it may help them to
- > understand a little better.
- >

> I would be interested in their comments on this case.
>
> I am sorry to trouble you with this again but hopefully you understand
>
> Yours faithfully
>
> Philip Johnson
>

> **DPA**

> Tel: **DPA**

>> From: "Wallace Benn" **DPA**
>> Organization: Diocese of Chichester
>> Date: Tue, 25 Jun 2002 13:03:37 +0100
>> To: "Phil Johnson" **DPA**
>> Subject: Re: Help

>> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Phil Johnson **DPA**
>> To: **DPA**
>> Cc: **DPA**
>> Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2002 11:48 PM
>> Subject: Help

>>> Please can you read the attached document and advise me of your
>>> comments.
>>> You can reply to this e-mail address as only I have access to it.
>>> Please treat this document as confidential and do not show it to anyone
>> who
>>> does not need to see it - this is not to protect anyone mentioned in
>>> it
>> but
>>> to protect me.
>>> Thank you.
>>> Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail and the attachment.

>>> Phil.

>>>

>>

>> Dear Phil,
>> Thank you for your email and attachment of 6th June 2002. I have now
>> had
>> the
>> opportunity to discuss the contents of the attachment with the Diocesan

>> Child Protection Advisors.

>>

>> The attachment was familiar to us as we had seen the September 2000
>> edition
>> of PIE.

>>

>> I am deeply concerned for you and I realise how events and media
>> presentations will cause the events you have recorded to come to the
>> front of your mind.

>>

>> Thank you for telling me of your meeting with the choir boy all those
>> years
>> ago. When you next see this young man please tell him to go to the police
>> and tell them of his experience. He has made a very serious allegation of

>> a

>> criminal nature.

>>

>> I am sure that the police would be prepared to consider this matter
>> and these offences are frequently dealt with historically. Clearly
>> his experiences may allow the police to reconsider your earlier
>> allegation. Please speak with him and encourage him to speak to the
>> police, if at all possible.

>>

>> I am disappointed to learn that the police felt that the church were
>> 'not very forthcoming' in the investigations into your allegations.
>> The recollection of the Diocesan Child Protection Advisor at the time
>> is that the police did involve her and that she attended meetings
>> with the police.

>>

>> However, if you would let me know the name of the officer you spoke
>> with
>> I
>> would be prepared to address this issue further.

>>

>> Concerning your final sentence, I have to tell you that the church
>> does
>> not

>> conduct internal investigations into matters where a criminal offence has
>> been committed. In all circumstances where there is an allegation of a
>> crime
>> having been committed then the police and other relevant agencies are
>> contacted.

>>

>> For your information, Roy Cotton has retired, he does live in East
>> Sussex and at present he is unwell and not undertaking any church
>> duties.

>>

>> With prayerful best wishes.

>>

>> Yours sincerely,

>>

>> +Wallace Lewes

>>