

CANON JOHN FORD
Precentor



CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL

DPA

The Bishop of Chichester
The Palace
Chichester PO19 1PY

20th March 2004

Dear Father,

Terence Banks Case Review

Thank you for sending me the recommendations from the Review Group. Chapter greatly appreciate your sharing them with us before they are made public, and we discussed them at our meeting on 23 March. The police investigations revealed the manner in which Banks was able to ingratiate himself with the Cathedral community and victims' parents, without arousing suspicion. Chapter members are conscious of the lasting hurt caused to the boys who suffered and still suffer as a result of Banks' abhorrent acts and are keen to learn the right lessons from these deeply distressing events. These recommendations will help us in our determination to re-assess continually our child protection measures so they reflect best practice.

Chapter's responses to the various recommendations from the Review Group are as follows:

- 10.13 The previous Dean, John Treadgold, wrote to the victims in May 2001 expressing sorrow at what had occurred. The letter was passed to the police who agreed to forward it to the victims since they, entirely properly, have never released their identities or addresses. Later the current Dean also expressed his sorrow and sympathy for the victims in an interview to the Chichester Observer that was published on 8 May 2003. These actions are considered to have already fulfilled this recommendation.
- 10.14 In hand.
- 10.15 Already done but training records will be centralised into one document.
- 10.16 In hand
- 10.17 Assuming the aim here is to maintain awareness of child protection matters in the Cathedral Community, it is planned to make periodic mention in the Cathedral Newsletter of some item connected with child protection.
- 10.18 An independent person outside the normal Cathedral channels has already been appointed as a suitable contact for anyone wishing to report incidents, allegations or suspicions, and her name is promulgated on the notices advertising Chapter's policy. A note to this effect will be included in the policy document.

The recommendation on avoiding delays is already implicit in the Cathedral child protection policy but the point will be emphasised in continuation training.

- 10.19 This is and has always been Chapter's practice and has recently been demonstrated as such. Chapter policy states that members of the Cathedral staff follow diocesan procedures and this is a matter of practice rather than policy.
- 10.20 A centralised record of child protection incidents and concerns is already kept
- 10.21 Chapter is alert to the potential dangers alluded to in this recommendation and will strive to ensure that a culture of openness and transparency is maintained.
- 10.22 In hand.
- 10.23 Already policy.

Chapter would ask whether, in view of these comments, you would consider removing recommendation 10.13 from the list when the recommendations are made public. This in no way reflects a lessening of Chapter's sadness at what occurred nor their concern for the plight of the victims but the action recommended has in fact been carried out to the best of our ability.

Yours truly,

DPA