



**Children's Services**

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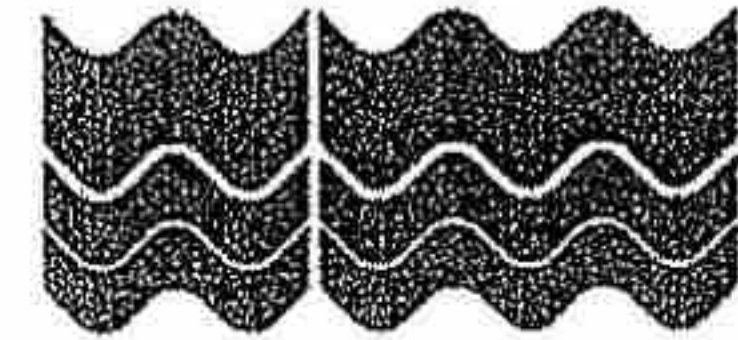
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W  
**East Sussex  
County Council**



**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Dr Rowan Williams  
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable  
the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury  
Lambeth Palace  
London  
SE1 7JU

date 30 January 2012

when responding please contact

Douglas Sinclair

**DPA**

our ref

your ref

Dear Lord Archbishop

**Re: Diocese of Chichester – Management of Children's Safeguarding Concerns**

We write this joint letter to you as Independent Chair of the East Sussex Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LSCB) and as Director of East Sussex County Council Children's Services in respect of the enquiry announced by Lambeth Palace on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 into the operation of the diocesan child protection policies in the Diocese of Chichester.

We are aware of previous concerns that led to the review conducted in 2008/9 by Roger Meekings and the subsequent review by Baroness Butler-Sloss which was published in May 2011. We are further aware of the complaint made to Lambeth Palace under the Clergy Discipline Measure by the Safeguarding Advisory Group of the Chichester Diocese in December 2011, specifically regarding Bishop Wallace Benn and the management of safeguarding practice in the Episcopal Area of Eastbourne and Lewes.

The Chichester Diocese is a major provider of services to children in East Sussex with church schools and the church related activity and youth work. We therefore feel that the operation of safeguarding in this Diocese, particularly the Episcopal Area of Lewes and Eastbourne, is rightly the concern of the LSCB and East Sussex County Council.

We welcome the appointment of Bishop John Gladwin and Chancellor Rupert Bursell QC to carry out the enquiry and agree that such an enquiry by Lambeth Palace is the correct way forward. However, given the stated concerns regarding the management of safeguarding by Bishop Benn, we would respectfully request that you clarify the following issues;

- The scope and timescale for the enquiry.
- Actions that have been taken by the Diocese to satisfy itself that the current management of safeguarding concerns, particularly in relation to Bishop Benn's management, is robust and is in accordance with the guidance under Working Together to Safeguard Children (DSCF, 2010) and the practice guidance Handling

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The East Sussex Children's Services Department has a policy of open access to records subject to safeguards to protect confidentiality. If you do not wish your reply to be seen outside the Department please mark it "confidential" and indicate briefly your reasons for doing so.



Allegations of Abuse made Against Adults who work with Children and Young People (DSCF, 2009), alongside the responsibilities set out in the Pan Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures (<http://www.proceduresonline.com/pansussex/scb>).

- The mechanism for communication with the LSCB and County Council regarding consultation and feedback on the enquiry and its results.

We are happy to meet with the enquiry team should this be deemed appropriate and necessary to assist the enquiry.

Yours Sincerely

**DPA**

**DPA**

Cathie Pattison  
Independent Chair of the LSCB

cc. Rt Revd John Hind, The Bishop of Chichester  
Keith Akerman, Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Group, Chichester Diocese  
Alan Bedford, Independent Chair of Brighton & Hove LSCB  
Jimmy Doyle, Independent Chair of West Sussex LSCB  
Terry Parkin, Director of Children's Services, Brighton & Hove  
Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services, West Sussex  
Robin Smith, Sussex Police, Divisional Commander for East Sussex





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 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

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LAMBETH PALACE

Mr Christopher Smith  
Chief of Staff

Office Ref: CS/DC:98835

13 February 2012

Mr Matt Dunkley  
Director of Children's Services  
PO Box 4  
County Hall  
St Anne's Crescent  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1SG

*Dear Mr Dunkley,*

**Diocese of Chichester – Management of Children's Safeguarding Concerns**

Thank you for the 30 January letter from you and your colleague Cathie Pattison regarding the above. I am sorry you have not had a response sooner, but I wanted to assure you that your letter was copied immediately to the Archbishop's Commissaries, Bishop John Gladwin and Chancellor Rupert Bursell. At a meeting with them on Friday 10 February, they asked me to make it clear to you that they are actively dealing with the matters that you raise, and would like to have the opportunity of a meeting with you. They will be in touch with you very shortly about this.

*Yours sincerely,*

**DPA**

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