

25 JAN 1993

The Chief constable  
Gloucestershire Constabulary  
Police Headquarters  
Holland House  
Lansdown Road  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL51 6QH

21st January 1993

Dear Sir,

The Rt Revd Peter Ball, Bishop of Gloucester

We are aware that the Bishop is at present under suspicion concerning the alleged indecent assault of a minor.

The Bishop has made a number of visits to this School over a period of more than ten years to preach and to give spiritual and pastoral guidance to boys and girls. In that time we and many others here have come to know him well.

Cranleigh is a School of approximately 550 pupils aged 13 to 18 years, most of whom board. It is our opinion that the Bishop's work and influence here have been wholly trustworthy. To put it directly, if bluntly, he has obviously spoken to many boys privately and confidentially yet they have never intimated later that anything was in any way untoward. Our boys are not notably reticent on these matters, and our work suggests that they would be quick to sense - and to report to others - the possibility of an unhealthy presence. On the contrary, the Bishop is popular among them and greatly respected for his humanity and his obvious strength of character.

We think that any investigations would usefully consider the Bishop's work in schools, which is very highly regarded by both teaching staff and pupils.

The Headmaster, who knows the Bishop equally well, has seen this letter and asks us to say that it has his fullest endorsement.

Yours faithfully,

**DPA**

Revd A.J. KEEP, BA STM  
Senior Chaplain &  
Head of Theology

**DPA**

Revd N.A.T. MENON,  
MA, DipTheol  
Chaplain & Housemaster

21 January  
1993.

Dear Sir,

The Rt Rev. Peter Ball.

When I was Archbishop of Canterbury, I consecrated Peter Ball as Bishop in 1977.

Since then we have kept in touch & I have seen a good deal of the excellent quality of his work.

I know nothing of the events which have recently brought his name to the attention of the press. But I understand that in the near future the Bishop's papers will be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

I write, therefore, to say that I have always had the highest regard & respect for the Bishop. I have known him as a godly man, totally devoted to his Church & to the people whom he has loved & served since his Ordination 37 years ago. He has had an unblemished record.

If I can be of further help, I should count it a privilege.

Yours sincerely

DPA

The Chief Constable  
Police Headquarters  
Cheltenham