

Child Abuse Investigation Unit  
Northamptonshire Police  
75 North Street  
Rushden  
Northants  
NN10 6BU

Dear **Mother of AN-A108**

You recently agreed to let the Church of England disclose, to Northamptonshire Police, a copy of the 1993 letter you wrote to them about Bishop Peter Ball. Let me thank you for your co-operation and explain why I needed to see the letter.

I have recently been involved in investigating allegations of child abuse by Rev. Colin Pritchard and Rev. Roy Cotton (deceased). The abuse happened in the early 1980's and occurred at the vicarages of St Andrew's Church, Wellingborough and St Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. As a result Rev. Colin Pritchard was sentenced on 28.8.08 to 5 years imprisonment after pleading guilty to indecent assaults and gross indecency.

The victims of Rev Colin Pritchard and Rev Roy Cotton said that they had been taken on visits to other vicarages, places of historical/educational interest and camping trips abroad. When Rev Colin Pritchard and Rev Roy Cotton introduced the boys to other members of the clergy the boys would be referred to as their "special friend". During the investigation one of Rev Roy Cotton's victims said that he had met Bishop Peter Ball who had his own "special friend". I am trying to identify anyone who may have been a victim of Rev Colin Pritchard, Rev Roy Cotton or Bishop Peter Ball.

I need to ask your son if he was ever introduced to Rev Colin Pritchard and Rev Roy Cotton and whether they abused him?

I respect your right to decide whether you speak to your son about this matter. I have no wish to cause any harm to your son . If your son wants to respond to my letter I will do all I can to help and support him.

You can write to me at the above address. E-mail me at DPA . Telephone me via the Northamptonshire Police switchboard at 08453 700700 ext DPA or mob. DPA

In relation to your original letter about Bishop Peter Ball I have in confidence shown this to the Crown Prosecution Service. They have advised me that the actions of Bishop Peter Ball may have been criminal but this would have depended on the age of your son at the time . The Sexual Offences Act 1956 covered offences of gross indecency with children under 16. This was law the in force at the time and under which any offences from 1993 would be judged. The law was updated in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and now provides far more protection for to children.

If your son was subjected to abuse that fell under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 he could make a complaint to the Police Force that covers the geographical area in which it occurred and ask for it to be investigated.

The actions of Bishop Peter Ball and the response of the Church of England are currently being investigated by an Independent Panel. I hope that the Church of England will contact you with their findings.

If you would like to discuss anything in this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely