

S → 24.11.08

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

Dear **AN-A10**

You recently agreed to let the Church of England disclose, to Northamptonshire Police, a copy of the 1992 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 if you were ever introduced to Rev Colin Pritchard and Rev Roy Cotton and whether they abused you?

Please contact me, as I need to know the answer. I can then work with you to decide what action you would like the Police and the Church of England to take.

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. You only spoke about "a private meeting and talk which (you) had with Bishop Peter 10 ½ years ago". You do not refer to anything criminal. If anything of a criminal nature did happen then you could contact the Police Force that covers the geographical area in which it happened 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

Detective Constable 459 David Charman