

RECEIVED - 7 APR 1993



The Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Constabulary

A. H. PACEY, QPM

*Faxed to Canterbury
7/4*

**Police Headquarters
Holland House
Lansdown Road
CHELTENHAM
GL51 6QH**

CHELTENHAM 521321

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

5 April 1993

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
Lambeth Palace
LONDON SE1 7JU

DPA

Dear Archbishop,

THE RT. REVD PETER BALL

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 1993. It was very kind of you to write expressing your appreciation for the way in which my officers dealt with the recent investigation in respect of Peter Ball. I will convey your remarks to them and I am sure they will be very grateful to hear what you said.

I have given considerable thought to releasing the evidence of the witnesses in the investigation. I am not able to release their evidence as it was provided to us strictly for criminal investigation purposes and on a confidential basis. While it might be possible to approach some of the witnesses, in the way you suggest, I feel that to do so would be fraught with danger. Inevitably, our action would leak to the press and there would be a renewed focus on the whole matter which may be counter-productive. This, in turn, may lead to fresh allegations which I would be duty bound to investigate and thereby re-open the whole business.

A further problem arises that even if we manage to persuade the witnesses to release some of the evidence to you, you would be faced with the problem of determining which parts of their evidence and to what extent it was accepted by Peter Ball. Our experience over the years is that witnesses frequently change their accounts either substantially or marginally when put to the test under cross examination. Therefore, you may find yourself in a position where the evidence is disputed by Peter Ball or his advisers and you will be left in no stronger position than you are at the present time.

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LAMBETH PALACE

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