

**Statement from Mr M Dodd**  
**Received via email 08.03.16**

I have written a summary and put it on paper and it is below as I am getting older and memory fails a bit! (also I wanted in the case of my death for this information to be available.)

I thank you and Archbishop Welby for treating this matter in a very proper and serious manner. I was after leaving the church a children's officer in a private school and know the traumas that such matters can cause.

I now live retired in the south of France and do come back to the UK to visit family and should the inquiry wish to interview me I would like to try to link that with a family visit rather than a separate journey etc;

In 1982 I was the DY0 (Diocesan Youth officer) in Chichester Diocese and was approached on one occasion by two young people to ask if it was a good idea to go on a retreat to Peter Balls retreat house. (I pondered and asked why they had asked and they indicated that they had heard rumours of inappropriate behaviour). I did not follow this up with them as it was not part of my job but I was aware that such information circulates very easily in the teenage world and can also easily get distorted!

I thus approached the Suffragan Bishop Colin Docker Bp of Horsham who indicated to me that it would not be a good idea for them to go, and I asked him why and he indicated *in confidence* that there were problems of a sexual nature concerning the Bp Peter and young people. I decided not to pursue that, (knowing some of the difficulties of Bp Kemp's management I did not regrettably ask Colin Docker what the Bp of Chichester's position was then. but was aware of Colin Docker's discomfort at that time. I told the young people not to go on retreat. Bp Peter Balls wanted to be involved in youth work and to have his place used as a youth retreat. I stalled on any request for him to be involved in Youth work and did not invite him to address youth occasions in the Diocese. Nor did I recommend retreats to young people at Bp Peter's retreat;; Although I had no specific proven evidence of Peter Ball's behaviour I did trust the Bishop of Horsham in taking my decision in this form to exclude Bp Peter from Youth work..

My contract to continue as Youth officer was not renewed in 1983 and Bp Kemp must have known through Colin Docker of Peter Ball's position and I believe this was why my contract was not renewed (ostensibly they wanted to sell the rectory I was in!) And I suspect (also as a result of my marriage breakdown later on where I suffered Eric Kemp's extreme lack of pastoral care and fear of the press as he summarily dismissed me on Good Friday 1983). My suspicion was that I knew too much! He also told me to avoid the press. Reflections after the event only confirmed my suspicions.

Factual details re timing etc can be got from Diocesan records, but I doubt there is anything written about my interview with Bp of Horsham (who I know has since died) nor do I think there will be anything written about the reality of my dismissal! I am not in the business of wanting any compensation etc (there are young people who need that far more!.) I believe that came in the form when the Chancellor and Mr Nunn at the time of digitalisation of



Church records etc and the data protection acts enabled my licence to be renewed;

I hope this gives you some material to work with and regrettably I do not have any other personal records of that time. Please feel free to come back to me if you think I can help any further, and this info can be used within the confidentiality of the inquiry and your discretion!

With thoughts for your work which I know from above experience is both difficult but very necessary for the benefit of those harmed in any way by such events;

with all good wishes

M Dodd