

To: Andrew Nunn [DPA]
From: Fiona Gardner
Sent: Thur 08/07/2010 12:07:47 PM
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: re PB situation

Thanks Andrew that's very helpful and good advice... I'd like nothing more than to back off and let things lie. I will forward your reply to Tim Berry and we will compose a gracious exit strategy, thanks again best wishes Fiona

From: Andrew Nunn [DPA]
Sent: 08/07/10 11:38
To: Fiona Gardner
Subject: RE: re PB situation

Fiona - At the time of the offence, the man involved in the incident for which Ball received the caution was 17. (The confusion may be because he was 19 by the time the matter came to light and Ball was cautioned.)

I think Fiona we need to take care here. This is starting to feel like persecution of Peter Ball and, I and I think the Archbishop are starting to feel uncomfortable about it. As I said at the meeting we had here recently, in the hierarchy of these things, the alleged offences on file and the one for which Ball was cautioned, are not of the most serious sort. There was a betrayal of trust by a man in a position of authority, but changes in the law would now put those involved over the age of consent and no offence would have been committed. As I understand it, the police are interested in Ball because of his links with other more serious offenders, not because of anything he may have done. Furthermore he is now old, ill and pathetic. Surely the danger he poses to young people is minimal. True, there might be others in his circle who are a greater danger to Rupert Little's children, but that is true whether the Balls live in his barn or across the street.

Rupert Little now knows the Church has concerns about Ball. It seems to me he must decide what to do in relation to his own property and his own friends. My advice for what it is worth is that we should back off now.

I'm not here this afternoon but will be next Tuesday if you want to talk.

Andrew