



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
Human Resources Unit

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14 December 2004

Ms S Phelan
Senior Investigation Officer
NSW Ombudsman
Level 24, 580 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

COPY

Dear Sue

I write in response to your letter, dated 17th November 2004, forwarded to the Catholic Schools Office by Mr M McDonald, CCER, in which you have requested additional information regarding Father James Fletcher.

As you may be aware Fr Fletcher was found guilty of eight counts of homosexual intercourse with a child between ten and eighteen years and one count of indecency with the same boy aged thirteen years. Fr Fletcher was remanded in custody until 10th March 2005 for sentencing.

Whilst there are other charges pending, following from a discussion with Anne Barwick on 13th December 2004, it is our intention to close the file as it is considered that due to his incarceration, Fr Fletcher will not be in contact with children and therefore does not present a risk.

The allegation in relation to the UR76 matter arose when a person, whose details are not known to me, contacted Maitland Police Det. Sergeant P Fox and expressed concerns about the relationship which existed between Fr Fletcher and UR76. P Fox confirms that he has spoken with both UR76's parents who have no concerns about the matter. No other information is available at this time.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and should there be any change in Fr Fletcher's status the file will be reopened.

Please contact me on (02) 4928 7800 should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely


Anne Gleeson
Child Protection Advisor

cc. Michael McDonald, CCER