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<b>Title</b>	Response from DCI Peter FOX (per IN-111 & IN-113)		
<b>Type</b>	TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note	<b>File Number</b>	IN-114
<b>Date Created</b>	17 Apr 2012	<b>Status</b>	Accepted
<b>Created By</b>	DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE	<b>Reviewed By</b>	DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE
<b>Date of Note</b>	17/04/2012		
<b>Electronic or Scanned Copy</b>	<a href="#">Church Os.doc</a> (189.0KB)		

**Brief Description**

About 14:26hrs on Thursday, 12 April 2012, D/Sgt LITTLE received an email response to questions per IN-111; email per IN-113. Email attached.

Response attached.

**Category**

- POLICE
  - Internal Communications \*

\* *category contains this product*

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Hi Pete,

Thanks for your email. This has been a complex and protracted investigation and to ensure completeness in this regard, I just need to clarify some points raised in your email. To ensure all points are properly and thoroughly clarified, and not lost in translation, I believe email is the best option. You mention, "There are lots of important bits I have collected over the years, most of it in my head." In the event of any legal proceedings, I'm sure you'll appreciate my determination to properly get to the bottom of this matter. So, just to clarify:

1. You mentioned that "Before Malone retired he commented there was a paedophile network of priests in the Newcastle/Maitland Diocese. Nice to know what he knew & meant by that."

1.1. Who did MALONE make this comment to?

I was advised this comment was made by MALONE to a number of persons including BS. BS has relayed the comment to a number of other persons. I didn't think it was that big a surprise considering what MALONE said about 'Inheriting a Poison Chalice' in the media and not being told by Leo CLARKE of the extent of allegations within the Newcastle-Maitland Diocese when he took over the Bishop's role in the mid 90's. I think anyone looking at the Newcastle-Maitland Diocese in the past 15 years would have come up with the same conclusion as I did considering the number of priests charged. MALONE of course may have more to base his comment on. CLARKs involvement with AS, AK & AL are good examples which is also corroborated when CLARK lied to Ann JOY and myself.

- 1.2. With such a serious allegation, what supportive statement or evidence did you obtain from him?

I was directed by Superintendent MITCHELL 18 months ago to cease any investigation. I was directed not to speak with Joanne Macarthur and surrender all statements and documentation. Mr GRALTON has indicated those directions are still enforced and ongoing.

I had investigated McALINDEN over a number of years from the start, interviewing victims & witnesses, some of whom are now deceased. I had experience with similar investigations. Despite all this I have never been given any clear reason for the directions other than it is highly protected? Nevertheless I have adhered to the directions. I made it clear to Mr MITCHELL that I had a wealth of information but was never approached or permitted to take matters like this further.

2. You mention, *"There is a lot of info on past priests (now deceased) that the church knew were paedophiles that were never charged, but victims in the Hunter paid compensation."*

2.1. From where does this information come?

That comes from a lot of sources over the years. I cannot now specifically recall them all but they would include people you have spoken to like *BI* and Helen KEEVERS. I would imagine Joanne McARTHUR would assist if you want to pursue that. I spoke to someone who has close friends/victims that disclosed to this person some incidents involving & I have asked this person if they will speak to you but they declined – sorry I did try.

2.2. What specific priests are you referring to?

Where do we start?

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

Denis McALINDEN of course with many victims. (He also abused in Western Australia by the way)

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2.3. Did you take any action regarding same?

As per 1.2 I would love to investigate these matters further if allowed. I am keen & I know of a lot of persons prepared to talk with me. I am pretty confident that charges can be identified.

3. You mention, "That was clearly evident back in the late 90's as I mentioned in reports I sent to SCC in 2003-4 & the Intell reports from back then. FLETCHER used to have gatherings at Muswellbrook of a little group that included NP HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN,"

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. That collection is incredible considering their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them."

- 3.1. In reference to "...their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them." and resultant of your investigations, what charges were laid relating to "concealing"?

To date I haven't charged any of them. BURSTON & SAUNDERS went with MALONE when all three met with FLETCHER, not only forewarning FLETCHER that he was under investigation by NSW Police but also disclosed to him which of his victim's had complained. This allowed FLETCHER to dispose of images and other material in his possession before police could execute a search warrant. HARRIGAN later admitted taking possession of homosexual pornographic material and videos from FLETCHER

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

J. HARRIGAN

admitted to me they were homosexual Redacted at Commissioner's direction  
'. He had destroyed them all by the time I spoke to him, claiming they were his property. He was drunk off his face when he spoke to me and never tried to hide the bottle of vodka. I don't have evidence but like many others believed he was in a homosexual relationship with FLETCHER & is probably a co-offender for other victims.

What I was saying here is that these gatherings were highly suspicious and further investigation may turn something up. FLETCHER and RYAN are now convicted paedophiles,

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When I got statements from SAUNDERS and BURSTON they had an incredible lapse of memory that was identical in respect to the same conversations with FLETCHER about the allegations. There is no doubt in my mind these two and a third held a 'scrum down' before coming in to see me with identical memory lapses.

I did prepare a brief against Bishop MALONE and spoke to the ODPP but we decided against charging him on the basis of keeping him & others on-side to give evidence against FLETCHER. Documents I seized during the search warrant at the Diocese showed he was concerned about charges against him and others for their actions and he got legal advice on behalf of all from. One of those was LUCAS (Mr Fix It). I wouldn't mind having a closer look at BURSTON & SAUNDERS with their dealings with other matters to see if there is enough to put something together. They have been involved with so many of those charged and are often in the background.

4. You mention, "I spoke to Vince RYAN who would be well worth interviewing".

4.1. When you spoke to him, what information / evidence did Vincent RYAN offer relative to victims AL, AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ - ?

I did not know any of these victims when I spoke to RYAN. Where does Peter GOGARTY fit in? I know about the offences against him by FLETCHER but didn't know he was in your inquiry.

4.2. What specific evidence do you believe RYAN can offer relative to AL, AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ - ?

I don't know if he could offer anything in relation to their specific matters. My point in interviewing him is that he was from the Hunter and admitted offences, which is rare amongst paedophile priests. He may have information on the network of priests and concealing of offences if he is approached the right way and prepared to speak. He opened up to me a decade back. We cannot just keep sitting back waiting for victims to turn up – we should be pro-active in stopping these crimes.

5. You mentioned, *"Troy GRANT who locked him up has some really interesting stories too."*

5.1. What information / evidence do you know / believe he possesses relative to this investigation?

I spoke to Troy years ago in confidence whilst I was charging FLETCHER. I don't wish to breach that confidence and he of course is still available should anyone wish to speak with him. I am unaware if he has anything knowledge of this matter.

6. You mention, *"There are a lot more victim's of McALINDEN that can be tracked down. I would suggest in excess of 10."* REDACTED

REDACTED

7.

REDACTED

7.1.

REDACTED

7.2..

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

7.3. What is it about the "Healing Program" do you say is "questionable"?

If you are only asking about AL, AK, AJ this does not 'directly' relate. REDACTED & LUCAS were instrumental in putting together the Towards Healing Programme. I have had a number of dealings there with Sister Angela RYAN and Evelyn WOODWARD.

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8. You mention,

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*I doubt you will be allowed to pursue all that because of the scale. That's why I did the reports to SCC 8 years back."*

8.1. On what do you base your assertion pertaining to "

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

REDACTED

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

8.2. In light of the seriousness of their content, would you be so kind as to provide relevant copies of your "...reports to SCC 8 years back." as they relate to this investigation.

Ma'am YORK asked for those 3 years ago and despite my calls to State Crime no one can discover what happened to them. (I should have kept a copy) Two Intelligence Reports I 107133494 & I 21949203 were referred to in those reports and for that reason I made sure the intelligence reports were disseminated to SCC Sex Crimes Squad. I did say 8 years ago but looking at the reports it was 6-years ago - 2006.

9. You mention, "*The Fletcher & McALINDEN matters should be filed at Maitland, there may be some documents there worth looking at, in particular the stuff we seized on warrants from the diocese office.*"

9.1. Do you mean MAITLAND Police Station or somewhere else?

Yes - I filed them at Maitland Police Station years ago. They should be there. I know some police went looking through my office for the material I was later directed to surrender -

NP

9.2. To ensure I go straight to the relevant item/s, of this material, what documentation do you know is contained within it that specifically relates to . AL , AK , Peter COGARTY or

AJ

AL?

AK



Peter GOGARTY's earlier statement is there but I don't know how he relates to this matter or why you keep mentioning him. If you are allowed please enlighten me. The statements of MALONE x 2, statements of BURSTON, SAUNDERS, HARRIGAN. They relate to their conduct mentioned above with FLETCHER. There should be copies of seized material from the Diocese where AD is mentioned. (That's where I first came across her name in the 1<sup>st</sup> place but didn't speak to her until this matter)

10. You mention, "There was also material filed at the court from the trial."

10.1. Of this material, apart from GOGARTY's tendency evidence as it supported victim AB, what specifically supports allegations of concealing offences by clergy formerly & currently attached to the MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE Diocese of the Catholic Church relative to AL, AK, Peter GOGARTY or AD?

What I supplied with the statements implicates REDACTED CLARK, HART & LUCAS. Clearly they concealed McALINDEN. I was prepared to run a brief on that alone. I can only think evidence from Sister Paula REDGROVE and other peripheral witnesses would firm that up and of course lead into more offences.

11. You mention, "... LUCAS is really a linchpin with his previous OS, Vatican connection, training & being a qualified lawyer. He's been involved in the background of so many over the years, as set out by AK, AL & AJ. He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country."

11.1. I understand LUCAS' alleged involvement as it pertains to this investigation, however, would you specifically clarify your assertion, "He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country." and point me in the direction of actual evidence or anything else upon which you base this please.

His involvement with AJ, AK and AL is clearly documented. There is so much on LUCAS a book could be written.

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In the early 90's LUCAS and others interviewed - NP2 over allegations that he sexually assaulted young boys. NP2 admitted the offences and similar to McALINDEN, LUCAS caused him to be removed from ministry for a time, but kept the matter from police.

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12. You mention, *"You should jump on the net and have a read of his evidence during the Wood Royal Commission in the middle of the Hunter matters, it makes interesting reading."*

12.1. I have read his evidence. Is there evidence I'm not seeing or something specifically the Royal Commission didn't act upon? Jeff I could type for hours on this but clearly you need to sit down with me so I can go through this with you. You need to read his evidence carefully in conjunction with what *AK*, *AL* & *AJ* say in their statements. I thought it was pretty straight forward.

13.. You mention, *"I don't have any more documents off the top of my head ... Diary entries I'd have to check, but mostly it is in my head."*

13.1. If you would, please let me know the outcome of checking your diary entries including book and page numbers for any relevant entries. Is it possible this could be done with some priority?

I have a lot more documents but I don't think they relate to the matters you are looking at. Mate if I was on the investigation I would have the time to go through diaries and everything else, which is why I did the reports and asked time and again to be involved in this. I don't have time to go through everything, certainly not with priority with everything else on my plate at present.

Jeff I gather from the comments here you have been told to confine the investigation only to the matters in the statements I supplied. Clearly this needs a Task Force commitment to look at all matters properly, but for some reason beyond my comprehension the Department is reluctant. Over the past 15 years priest after priest has been charged in the Hunter and Blind Freddy can see the problem goes much deeper. Every time they are investigated it is done piecemeal by different commands.

NP . She has called witnesses in my FLETCHER matter to give evidence in NP . The same names are cropping up continually with priests charged and those supporting them – Does our hierarchy just put that down to coincidence? I have successfully investigated and prosecuted similar matters, set precedent law to such a degree the ODPP has requested police with similar matters elsewhere in the state to contact me to assist in putting their briefs together, which I have been happy to do. I don't want to sound big-noting but I do have some experience which you appear to know from the amount of questions you have asked. I am still at a loss why this was directed out of my hands in the first place and not returned after the 3 police given it (TAYLOR, QUINN & STEELE) left the job in quick succession.

Jeff I know you walked into this & cannot help whatever has been going on behind the scenes. I do appreciate the job you are trying to do and hope you are being given a free hand. Please feel free to ring me any time for assistance.

Thanks for you assistance Pete. I look forward to your response email.

Kindest regards,

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Jeff LITTLE  
 Detective Sergeant  
 Newcastle City Local Area Command  
 Crn Church & Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300  
 Phone: (02) 4929 0004 | Eaglenet: 70004  
 Fax: (02) 4929 0634 | Eaglefax: 70634  
 Email: [jlittle1@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jlittle1@police.nsw.gov.au)

From: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Cc: John Gralton/25360/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 05/04/2012 14:01  
 Subject: Re: Fw: Church Inquiry

Graeme  
 Without knowing where your matters have gone it's hard to say what else can be done. There are lots of important bits I have collected over the years, most of it in my head. Where would I start? For instance:

Before Malone retired he commented there was a paedophile network of priests in the Newcastle/Maitland Diocese. Nice to know what he knew & meant by that. That was clearly evident back in the late 90's as I mentioned in reports I sent to SCC in 2003-4 & the Intell reports from back then. FLETCHER used to have gatherings at Muswellbrook of a little group that included ~~ND HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN~~.  
 Redacted at Commissioner's direction That collection is incredible considering their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them.

I spoke to Vince RYAN who would be well worth interviewing. He has been tucked away by the Catholic Church since his release. Troy GRANT who locked him up has some really interesting stories too.

There is a lot of info on past priests (now deceased) that the church knew were paedophiles that were never charged, but victims in the Hunter paid compensation. That was mostly in the time of Leo CLARK & his predecessor but some residue was handed over to MALONE. I don't know if anyone approached him before he left as I remember at some stage him stating publically he was prepared to hand 'everything over' to police if asked.  
 There are a lot more victims of McALINDEN that can be tracked down. I would suggest in excess of 10.

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I could go on but it is really something that needs a major investigation beyond a LAC as it expands  
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direction I doubt you will be allowed to pursue all that because of the scale. That's why I did the reports to SCC 8 years back.

I don't have any more documents off the top of my head - I was directed by Max to surrender it all - which I did. (The reasons for which I am still at a loss) Diary entries I'd have to check, but mostly it is in my head. The Fletcher & McALINDEN matters should be filed at Maitland, there may be some documents there worth looking at, in particular the stuff we seized on warrants from the diocese office. There was also material filed at the court from the trial.

Before finishing can I just say LUCAS is really a linchpin with his previous OS, vatican connection, training & being a qualified lawyer. He's been involved in the background of so many over the years, as set out by AK AL & AJ. He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country. You should jump on the net and have a read of his evidence during the Wood Royal Commission in the middle of the Hunter matters, it makes interesting reading.

Graeme I could go on but so would any investigation, not that I am saying it shouldn't. As with Kristy's inquiries, I still have contact with a lot of families & people with extensive connections in the church & am only too willing to assist with any aspect you might want to pursue.

Peter Fox  
Detective Chief Inspector  
Crime Manager  
Port Stephens LAC  
0418 201581