



**Crown
Solicitor's
Office**

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15 July 2013

Mr Michael Bowman

By email:

Dear Mr Bowman

Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ("Inquiry") – request for statutory declaration

I refer to the summons to give evidence served on you on 12 July 2013 and your telephone discussion with Ms Jessica Wardle of my Office, on 15 July 2013.

Matters to be covered by the statutory declaration

The Commissioner would be assisted by the provision of a statutory declaration from you in relation to the matters listed below. I would be grateful if the following matters could be addressed in as much detail as possible and to the best of your recollection:

1. Your position and responsibilities as at 1996.
2. Your recollection as to whether you were contacted by Bishop Malone, whether in person, by telephone or in writing, in relation to whether:
 - a. you had concerns regarding Father James Fletcher and inappropriate behaviour with boys; or
 - b. you knew of concerns held by any of Patrick Roohan, Jim Callinan, Jim Finnuane and/or Colleen Timoshenko regarding Father James Fletcher and inappropriate behaviour with boys.

If you can recall such a conversation please set out the terms of any conversation to the best of your recollection.

3. Your position and responsibilities as at 2002, 2003 and 2004.
4. Details of any conversations between yourself and Bishop Malone in 2002, 2003 and/or 2004 regarding whether Father James Fletcher should be stood down or remain working as a priest, including any conversations about restrictions on Father Fletcher's activities when working as a priest.

5. Any knowledge you have about the "pastoral message" published by Bishop Malone in 2003, in relation to communications about Father Fletcher, and
6. Details of any other information you recall, that may assist the Inquiry's consideration of the above matters.

Timing of the Statutory Declaration

Given public hearings are currently being held, the Commissioner would be grateful for the provision of the statement by **Friday, 19 July 2013**.

Please contact Ms Emma Sullivan of my Office on (02) 9224 5029 should you have any queries in relation to any of the matters raised above.

Yours faithfully

Signed

Emma Sullivan
Special Counsel
for Crown Solicitor