

ARCHDIOCESE OF MOUNT HAGEN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Box 54
Mount Hagen WHP
Phone: 542 1285
Fax: 542 2128

April 24, 2013

Emma Sullivan
Special Counsel for Crown Solicitor
Crown Solicitor's Office
GPO Box 25
Sydney 2001

Dear Ms Sullivan,

Re: 201203450, Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police Investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Thank you for your letter of 27th March. Unfortunately I did not receive the faxed version of your letter and I have been absent from the diocese for the last two weeks. The letter was here on my return last Sunday.

Please be assured of my complete willingness to cooperate with the Inquiry and assist it in any way that I can, in accordance with the laws of Papua New Guinea. In this Archdiocese we have had to deal with credible allegations against other nationalities, and we have not hesitated to bring such matters to the attention of the local police.

I became aware of Father McAlinden's presence in the Archdiocese through a letter of Bishop Malone last year asking me to bring to his attention any report of misconduct by Fr McAlinden. I have not been able to locate this letter.

There are only a few priests still in the diocese who knew of his presence in that period. Two report only a vague recollection of him as he was reclusive. One reports some social contact through a lay missionary from Newcastle. All say they are not aware of any complaints against Fr McAlinden.

Despite an extensive search of our archives, I have not been able to locate any file or any reference to Fr McAlinden at all.

The Catholic Mission at Megenapol is very remote and I believe that Fr McAlinden had very little contact with the bishop at the time, and with other priests, during his tenure there. I asked the parish priest to inquire whether anyone at Megenapol has any recollection of Fr McAlinden. I also made it a point to visit there briefly while passing through to another location. I asked some local leaders whether they had any recollection of Fr McAlinden and they could recall nothing about him. Currently the area is deserted due to tribal fighting and the population is dispersed.

You are probably aware that Fr. McAlinden was previously stationed in the neighbouring diocese of Mendi for a longer period.

If credible allegations against Fr. McAlinden do come in the future, the Archdiocese will not hesitate to take any necessary legal action in accord with PNG law.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

Douglas W. Young, SVD
Archbishop of Mount Hagen

Crown Solicitor NEW SOUTH WALES T12 13 MAY 2013
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D2013/198368

201203450

CrownSol/CSO/NSW_AG
Sent by: Ann
Thompson/CSO/NSW_AG

22/04/2013 08:13 AM

To Emma Sullivan/CSO/NSW_AG@NSW_AG, Maria
Lagoudakis/CSO/NSW_AG@NSW_AG

cc

bcc

Subject: Fw: 201203450 - D2013/161495 : Attention Emma Sullivan

History:  This message has been forwarded.

fyi

Received on crownsol

----- Forwarded by Ann Thompson/CSO/NSW_AG on 22/04/2013 08:12 AM -----



Douglas Young
<dwyoung.hagen@gmail.com>

To crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au

cc

>
20/04/2013 04:40 PM

Subject: 201203450 - D2013/161495 : Attention Emma Sullivan

Please respond to
dwyoung.hagen@gmail.com

Dear Ms Sullivan,

I have only just received your letter with its requests for information concerning the presence of Fr McAlinden in the diocese in 1972-1973. Unfortunately I did not receive a faxed copy on 27th March and I have been absent from the Archdiocese from April 4 until today. Please be assured of my willingness to cooperate in any way that I can.

I have had a quick look through the files and archives but did not find anything related to Fr McAlinden. I will meet with my consultants on Tuesday, some of whom were in the diocese at that time. I will ask them whether they were aware of any complaints against Fr McAlinden and reply in more detail then.

Best wishes,
Douglas Young

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Douglas W. Young, SVD
Archdiocese of Mount Hagen
Box 54
Mount Hagen, WHP
Papua New Guinea



Crown
Solicitor's
Office

Your Ref:

My Ref: 201203450

T20 Emma Sullivan

Tel: (02) 9224-5029

Fax: (02) 8224-5355

Email: crownsol@agd.nsw.gov.au

25 March 2013

Most Reverend D Young SVD
Archbishop of Mt Hagen
PO Box 54
MOUNT HAGEN
Western Highlands Province 281
Papua New Guinea

By facsimile: (0011) 675 542 2128

Dear Archbishop Young

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")

Pursuant to letters patent dated 21 November 2012 and 25 January 2013, issued by the Governor of New South Wales in accordance with the *Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 (NSW)* (copy **attached**), Ms Margaret Cunneen SC has been appointed as Special Commissioner to inquire into and report on the investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, specifically in relation to allegations of sexual abuse against Father Denis McAlinden.

I assist the Commissioner in relation to the Inquiry.

Inquiry's terms of reference

Pursuant to the Letters Patent, the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry require that the Commissioner inquire into and report on:

1. the circumstances in which Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox was asked to cease investigating relevant matters and whether it was appropriate to do so; and
2. whether, and the extent to which, officials of the Catholic Church facilitated, assisted, or co-operated with, Police investigations of relevant matters, including whether any investigation has been hindered or obstructed by, amongst other things, the failure to report alleged criminal offences, the discouraging of witnesses to come forward, the alerting of alleged offenders to possible police actions, or the destruction of evidence,

“**relevant matters**” means any matter relating directly or indirectly to alleged child sexual abuse involving Father Denis McAlinden or Father James Fletcher, including the responses to such allegations by officials of the Catholic Church (and whether or not the matter involved, or is alleged to have involved, criminal conduct).

A copy of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference are **attached** for your reference.

Request for documents relating to Father Denis McAlinden

As you may be aware, Father Denis McAlinden spent some time in Mt Hagen from 1972 to 1973. Specifically, I understand that:

- from about April 1972 to October 1973, Father McAlinden was on loan from the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese to the Diocese of Mt Hagen, based at the Catholic Mission, Megenapol, Western Highlands District.

During the whole of this period, Father McAlinden remained incardinated to the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. Father McAlinden died in Western Australia in November 2005.

As part of its investigations, the Inquiry desires to obtain copies of certain documents that may be held by the Mt Hagen Diocese relating to Father McAlinden. In effect, the documents sought are:

- (i) the 'Bishop's file' relating to Father McAlinden (or comparable file, howsoever named, containing records of complaints, misdemeanours, etc relating to Father McAlinden);
- (ii) documents regarding any complaints, reports or recorded suspicions of child sexual abuse by Father McAlinden; and
- (iii) documents recording communications between the respective Diocese (Mt Hagen) with Police (Papua New Guinea or New South Wales), and/or the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese regarding Fr. McAlinden, including any documents referring or relating to any complaints, reports or recorded suspicions of child sexual abuse by Father McAlinden.

The Commissioner would be most assisted if you could undertake a review of documents held by the Mt Hagen Diocese (including in the diocesan archives) to ascertain whether any such documents are held, and if so, to provide copies of the same.

As the Inquiry will be holding public hearings in May and June 2013, your expedition in this matter would be much appreciated.

Please contact Ms Sullivan of my Office on (02) 9224 5029 should you have any queries relating to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Signed

~~Emma~~ Sullivan
Special Counsel
for Crown Solicitor

Encl. (2)