

**Statement of John Henry Gralton**

**Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

On 15 February 2013, I say:

**Preliminary matters**

1. My full name is John Henry Gralton and I currently hold the rank of Superintendent in the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF). I currently also hold the position of Commander within the Newcastle City Local Area Command.
2. This statement is prepared by me for the sole purpose of responding to a summons dated 12 February 2013 issued on 13 February 2013 by the Special Commission of Inquiry (established by way of letters patent dated 21 November 2012 and varied by letters patent dated 11 January 2013) for me to produce a statement in relation to a number of defined issues. This statement is produced by me to the Special Commission of Inquiry pursuant to the said issued summons unwillingly and only on the basis that, without exception, section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 applies to restrict the use of this statement and the documents referred in it, and attached to it. Pursuant to section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 I object to the information contained within this statement, and the attachments to the statement, being used in any criminal, civil or other proceedings or inquiries or investigations of any kind.

**Background**

3. I was attested as a police officer on 17 June 1988. Since the date of attestation my first seven years as a police officer were spent with my being engaged in general duties in the Central Coast area of NSW. The bulk of my work involved me being engaged in general duties, intelligence as well as some general plain clothes work of a police officer. I also performed the role of Patrol Intelligence Officer at Toukley Patrol.
4. Thereafter, I took up a position with the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence in Canberra where I was on a three year secondment – which was extended to four years. The work carried out in Canberra was more related to the activities of the policing agencies from an intelligence perspective on a national basis.
5. After completing my secondment at Canberra I then took up the position of Research Intelligence Co-ordinator in the Hunter Region. I was engaged in those duties from 1999 to 2001. I also relieved as the Hunter Region Operations Manager during this period as an Acting Inspector.
6. Thereafter, I commenced in the position of Human Resources Manager for the Hunter Region carrying on these duties for approximately one year.
7. Following that position, in 2002 I undertook the responsibilities of Operations Manager, Northern Region for a period of approximately five and a half years.

Signed

8. In 2007 I took up the position of the Hunter Valley Local Area Commander, being principally stationed at Muswellbrook.
9. Approximately one year later, in October 2008, I became the Commander of the Central Hunter Local Area Command.
10. On 3 May 2011, I commenced what was going to be a 6mth secondment at the Newcastle City Local Area Command as the Commander. The secondment was extended until I was formally transferred to the Newcastle City Local Area Command in July 2012. I took up the substantial position of Commander at that time, however had been there since 3 May 2011. During periods of annual leave other officers relieved for me in the position on various occasions. I remain in that position at this time.
11. In my role as Commander at the Hunter Valley Local Area Command, I was responsible for a number of areas including Muswellbrook, Singleton and Scone. There were 14 sector police stations in all. The area covered some 22,000 square kilometres.
12. In my role as Commander of the Central Hunter Area I was responsible for areas such as Maitland, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Beresford. There were some nine sectors attached to that command.
13. The role of a Commander in a Local Area Command is an extremely busy, diverse and complex one. It involves a number of different functions for which the commander relies heavily on others in support roles to ensure the smooth functioning of the command. Notwithstanding, the Commander takes overall responsibility.
14. Primarily, these functions include the human resources function within a command. This involves the Commander being overall responsible for the management of police officers on sick leave, the welfare aspects of the police officers working within the command, as well as other associated human resources matters. The commander is primarily supported by the human resources Duty Officer and Local Area Manager in relation to the human resources function.
15. Secondly, a Commander is responsible for crime within a particular area or footprint. The Commander sits above the level of a Crime Manager within a command, and is responsible for matters such as appropriate police responding to crimes committed within the area, the gathering of statistics in relation to crime, the general investigation of crime and initiates strategies to prevent crime within the area. The Commander is supported by the Crime Manager in relation to crime. In Newcastle there is a unique situation where the command has two senior officers who split the functions of a crime manager due to the sheer size of the command. One officer primarily oversees major investigations and oversees the detectives and drug squad. The other officer deals with more administrative matters as well as oversees crime prevention and response initiatives and oversees the Crime Management Unit and the Special Operations Group. There is also an Inspector in charge of 'operations' portfolio.
16. Thirdly, the Commander is responsible for the overall financial running within the command. He is supported by the Local Area Manager (Business Manager) in that regard.

Signed

17. Fourthly, a Commander's duties also involve those of undertaking responsibility for appropriate community response to matters raised within the command. There is a duty officer charged with responsibility for community engagement from the Customer Service Portfolio.
18. Fifthly, the Commander is responsible for the Professional Standards in relation to the appropriate dealing with any complaints made relating to the command. Again, the Commander is supported with this function by the Professional Standards Duty Officer and the Executive Officer (Administration Officer).

#### **My knowledge of Strike Force Lantle and other Newcastle LAC investigations**

19. I am aware that a meeting took place relating to Strike Force Lantle on 2 December 2010. Annexed to this statement and marked with the "A" is a true copy of the investigators note made with respect to that meeting. I will deal with the circumstances in which I came to know that such a meeting was held, and when I first became aware of the investigators note, later in this statement. At the time of the meeting, I was attached to the Central Hunter Local Area Command as Commander, and was not familiar with the investigations that were taking place within the Newcastle City Local Area Command. It was only as and from 3 May 2011 when I first commenced working within the Newcastle City Local Area Command, initially on secondment, that I became aware of what investigations were being conducted within the command.
20. When I first came to the Newcastle Local Area Command, the first focus of my attention related more to the human resources environment within the command, although I undertook and was responsible for the other aspects relating to a Commander's duties. In terms of investigation issues, in the initial period at least I relied heavily on my senior officers to ensure that investigations were properly undertaken and finalised within the command. However, it was left to those senior officers to report to me in my position of Commander with respect to all of the investigations on foot, and to keep me briefed on developments especially relating to the more substantial investigations within the command.
21. I would say that I first became aware of Strike Force Lantle in around May 2011. In May 2011, I attended a meeting involving Assistant Commissioner Carlene York, Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey, Detective Inspector Graeme Parker and Detective Sergeant Jeff Little. This meeting provided an overview of the investigation and where things were up to with regard to the investigation. I attended a similar meeting in August 2011 where I believe Sergeant Alan Janson was present. I also received regular briefings in relation to the operations of Strike Force Lantle from Detective Sergeant Little and in my discussions with Detective Sergeant Little it was understood that in terms of the investigations every effort was to be made to ensure that appropriate efforts were being made and investigation was being carried out thoroughly and professionally.

#### **5 September 2010 memorandum**

22. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "B" is a document under the hand of Detective Sergeant McKey dated 5 September 2010. In point 3 of the document it can be seen that the document was seen by me in my capacity as Commander of the Central Hunter Local Area Command, and I signed off on the document as follows:

"Given this file relates to matters specifically referred to Det Insp FOX as the OIC, I am forwarding the file to Pt Stephens Local Area Command where he is currently attached for attention as requested."

I signed off on this document on 9 September 2010, and as can be seen from the document it was to be forwarded to the Port Stephens Local Area Command where the Commander at that time was Superintendent Haggett. Superintendent Haggett was listed as point 4. In policing terms, this is known as following the chain of command to ensure that the Commander is aware of correspondence coming into the command. It was my understanding that Superintendent Haggett was then to pass on the document to Detective Inspector Fox. That this was to be so can be seen from the fact that Detective Inspector Fox is noted in point 5 of the document. I also indicated on the document that it should be copied (cc'd) to Detective Superintendent John Korlatic - in his capacity as Director, Serious Crime Directorate - State Crime Command as the document had been forwarded by an officer from within his command.

23. After forwarding annexure "B" to the Port Stephens Local Area Command, I had no further involvement in the matters the subject of the document. I left it to Superintendent Haggett to deal with the issues raised as would be the case with any other document forwarded to another command.
24. Upon taking up my position at the Newcastle City Local Area Command, in the initial stages I did not have very much involvement in the day to day workings or management of Strike Force Lantle. It was only after I was at the Newcastle City Local Area Command for a period of time that my knowledge of Strike Force Lantle grew and I started to discuss issues in relation to Strike Force Lantle with Assistant Commissioner York. As the matter progressed, I endeavoured to make sure as far as possible that I was sent status reports by Detective Sergeant Little in relation to Strike Force Lantle. I also relied upon Detective Inspector Parker, who at this time was a Crime Manager of the Newcastle City Local Area Command and the overseer of Strike Force Lantle, to oversee the investigation and to also keep me briefed of its progress and any major developments.

#### December 2011 Ministerial Search

25.

REDACTED

26.

REDACTED

27. on 15 December 2011 I had, by that stage, become aware that Detective Chief Inspector Fox was suggesting that he had information within his possession and knowledge that only he could elicit and which was relevant to Strike Force Lantle. I was advised of this by police officers including Detective Inspector Parker and Detective Sergeant Little. However, when discussing this aspect with those police officers I was advised by both Detective Inspector Parker and Detective Sergeant Little that they had spoken to all witnesses known to them at that stage and as far as they could ascertain they had uncovered all relevant information relating to the subject matter of the investigation of Strike Force Lantle. It was indicated to me by those police officers that they were satisfied that the investigation trail undertaken revealed all the available information. I was further aware at that time that attempts had been made by officers attached to Strike Force Lantle to obtain documentation and information from Detective Chief Inspector Fox. I was provided with a general briefing by Detective Inspector Parker and Detective Sergeant Little that when attempts had been made by them to obtain any documentation or information from Detective Chief Inspector Fox, no such documentation or fresh information had been provided. I was also made aware that some of the information that Detective Chief Inspector Fox asserted he had, had been information which was contained within "his head" as he had described, and had not been documented. Further advice given to me at the time was that all attempts to extract information from Detective Chief Inspector Fox revealed nothing new over and above the information already held by the Strike Force.

**Detective Chief Inspector Fox email of 26 March 2012**

28. In relation to the meeting that was held on 2 December 2010 in relation to Strike Force Lantle, I became aware of the investigator's note in the following circumstances.
29. On 26 March 2012 at 15:57 hours Detective Chief Inspector Fox forwarded to me (and others) an email with the subject listed as **NP** (sic). In that email he asked for answers in relation to 3 issues raised by him.
30. After receipt of Detective Chief Inspector Fox's email on 26 March, and so as to allow me to provide an informed response to the matters raised, I commenced to make enquiries with a number of police officers. This led me to discussing the matter with Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey. The reason I consulted with Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey was because it was my understanding that he had previously been filling the role of Commander at the Newcastle City Local Area Command during lengthy periods of relief (replacing the then Commander Mitchell who was on leave) and he had some knowledge of Strike Force Lantle. In those discussions I requested information as to what the direction referred to by Detective Chief Inspector Fox related to and the circumstances surrounding the provision of any such direction. I also made enquiries of Detective Inspector Parker in relation to the matter. It was in those circumstances that a copy of the investigator's note dated 3 December 2010 was provided to me. At this point in time I cannot recall specifically whether it was provided to me by Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey or Detective Inspector Parker.

Signed

31. Upon being provided with a copy of the investigator's note I read the contents of same in order to understand what occurred at the meeting. Once I had satisfied myself that I was sufficiently familiar with the matters raised by Detective Chief Inspector Fox in the email, I responded to his queries. Before responding to those queries, however, I also consulted with Assistant Commissioner York so as to ensure that any response provided by myself was both appropriate and accurate, and, given her seniority, so as to ensure that she was comfortable with my response.
32. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "E" is a true copy of the email forward to me by Detective Chief Inspector Fox at 3:57 on 26 March together with my response forwarded to him at 3:36pm on 30 March 2012.
33. In terms of the response provided by me to the specific matters raised by Detective Chief Inspector Fox, I can make the following comments:
- (a) In terms of my first response that he should contact Detective Inspector Parker in relation to the first issue raised, it was my view that given that Detective Inspector Parker was oversighting Strike Force Lantle he was a person who was in a far better position than myself to guide Detective Chief Inspector Fox as to what he should do. As far as I was concerned Detective Inspector Parker was a man in whom I could place trust and was sufficiently responsible to be able to properly and adequately guide Detective Chief Inspector Fox in terms of any assistance that he could provide to the investigation.
  - (b) In terms of my second response, my reading of the investigator's note of 2 December 2010 together with discussions had by myself with other police officers indicated to me that in essence there were 2 matters raised within the meeting brought to the attention of the police officers.
  - (c) Firstly, it was my understanding that Detective Chief Inspector Fox was to provide any documentary material in his possession and further was to disclose any information that he had relating to matters relevant to the Strike Force Lantle investigation. In that sense, it was my view that any such instructions or directions given by then Commander Mitchell at the meeting of 2 December were both appropriate and necessary for the purposes of protecting the integrity of the investigations being carried out by Strike Force Lantle and to progress any investigations required. It was also necessary and proper if it was the case that Detective Chief Inspector Fox did in fact have information in his possession which may have been relevant to the investigators. The second matter related to confidentiality. I was informed that Supt Mitchell directed that no police officer (including Detective Chief Inspector Fox) was to engage with the media without his (Supt Mitchell's) knowledge. So far as I was aware, based on my review of the case conference note and what I had been told as a result of my enquiries of Detective Chief Inspector Humphrey and Detective Inspector Parker, the direction given by Assistant Commissioner Mitchell was limited to the two matters referred to in this paragraph.
  - (d) For reasons which have been in part referred to previously in this statement, Strike Force Lantle was a highly protected, and in some respects sensitive investigation, and accordingly it was my view that the instructions or directions should remain in force so as to ensure the investigation was not compromised in any way whatsoever. That is the reason why I advised

Detective Chief Inspector Fox in the terms that I did in response to question 3.

- (e) In terms of the final paragraph of the email forwarded by me to Detective Chief Inspector Fox, I refer to the fact that information did come to me at the time from Detective Inspector Parker and Detective Sergeant Little (as well as possibly others) that Detective Chief Inspector Fox had been requested on a number of occasions to provide documentation which would assist the investigators of Strike Force Lantle. I was aware that Detective Chief Inspector Fox had not provided any such documentation to the Strike Force Lantle investigators. Because of this information not being received, I considered it appropriate to again refer to the fact that he was to provide such documentation in my email forwarded to him on 30 March. In his response to the email, Detective Chief Inspector Fox said, *'Mr Gralton Tks for the response. I will contact Graham today'*. From this I took it that he was satisfied with my response and would also contact Detective Inspector Parker in relation to point 1 and also in relation to my comments about him providing any other information he had to the Strike Force so that it could be assessed and pursued if necessary.
- (f) Although I did not consider it necessary to make this point in the email to Detective Chief Inspector Fox, it would be extremely unusual and in fact impractical for a neighbouring local area command Crime Manager to come into a neighbouring local area command to work on a strike force where that strike force was already being oversighted by the local Crime Manager. It would only serve to complicate the chain of command and leave the other command vulnerable in terms of major crime oversight and crime prevention strategy. Local area commands regularly share information concerning major crime issues when it is discovered there is cross-over between those commands without the need to have a senior officer relocate or be re-assigned to the strike force.

#### April 2012 enquiries of Detective Chief Inspector Fox

34. On 2 April 2012 Detective Chief Inspector Fox forwarded an email to Detective Inspector Parker and Detective Sergeant Little at 12:25 hours. Thereafter, there was a flow of communication by way of email from that date until 10 April 2012 (at 6:45 hours) between Detective Chief Inspector Fox, other police officers and myself. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "F" is a document being a 10 page document setting out this flow of emails between the various police officers. As can be seen from those emails, I did not receive all of those emails at time of sending, however when the final email was forwarded at 6:45 hours on 10 April 2012, I had access to all of the emails that had been previously forwarded, as they were part of the final email of 10 April 2012.
35. It is my understanding that Detective Sergeant Little received an email response from Detective Chief Inspector Fox on 12 April 2012. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "G" is a true copy of an eagle/entry relating to the response provided by Detective Chief Inspector Fox. My recollection is that, at the time, I did not see Detective Chief Inspector Fox's response as provided to Detective Sergeant Little. However, I was advised by Detective Sergeant Little that he had received a response, and it is my belief that I was advised in general terms of the substance of that response, that is – that he had responded but there was no fresh information that would assist the strike force. I am aware that there had been several attempts by Detective Sergeant Little seeking information from Detective

Chief Inspector Fox but he advised me that there was never anything that would assist the Strike force or that investigators were not already aware of.

**September 2012 correspondence with Detective Chief Inspector Fox**

36. Having regard to the difficulties which were emerging in terms of obtaining documentation from Detective Chief Inspector Fox later in 2012, I drafted a letter dated 24 September 2012 in anticipation of such letter being forwarded to Detective Chief Inspector Fox. The letter as drafted by myself came about as a result of an article published in the *Newcastle Herald* on Monday, 17 September 2012. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "H" is a true copy of the letter as drafted by myself. Annexure "H" never came to be formally sent to the attention of Detective Chief Inspector Fox for reasons which I will set out later in my statement. However, the contents of the letter were brought to the attention of Detective Chief Inspector Fox on a formal basis.
37. As at 24 September 2012 Detective Chief Inspector Fox was, to my knowledge, on leave from the NSWPF having regard to his then state of health. He was allocated an officer namely Detective Inspector Kerrie Lewis as his contact officer and also as his welfare officer. Any communications which were to take place with Detective Chief Inspector Fox were to go through Detective Inspector Lewis. The reason why this procedure was in existence was to ensure that Detective Chief Inspector Fox's health was not jeopardised in any way.
38. After I drafted the letter of 24 September 2012, I contacted Detective Inspector Lewis by phone and advised her of the fact that a letter had been drafted and the circumstances surrounding the letter. After contact with Detective Inspector Lewis by telephone, I then forwarded to her an email with a copy of the draft letter attached. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "I" is a true copy of the email forwarded by myself to Detective Inspector Lewis at 12:38 on 24 September 2012. Also contained within annexure "I" is a true copy of the email forwarded by Detective Inspector Lewis to myself at 13:36 on 24 September 2012 in response to my email. Also as part of annexure "I" is a copy of an email forwarded by myself at 15:01 hours on 24 September 2012 to Assistant Commissioner York. Further, as part of annexure "I" is a copy of an email forwarded by Assistant Commissioner York to myself at 15:10 on 24 September 2012. Having regard to the matters raised by Assistant Commissioner York in her email forwarded to me at 15:10 on 24 September 2012 and the concerns about Detective Chief Inspector Fox's welfare and health, it was determined that the draft letter prepared by me would not be formally forwarded to Detective Chief Inspector Fox. However, as indicated within the body of the emails themselves, the contents of such letter were brought to his attention. I was told by Detective Inspector Lewis that she had read the contents to Detective Chief Inspector Fox and she recorded in a return email to me that Detective Inspector Fox had said that he did not want to receive the letter.
39. Insofar as I have been able to, I have set out in the body of this statement the substance of my involvement with Strike Force Lantle and any instructions and/or directions said to have been given by any police officer to Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to the Strike Force Lantle investigation. As far as I am aware and able to recall, there has been no other instruction and/or direction given by any other police officer to Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to the subject matters of the Strike Force Lantle investigation.

Signed



40. I relieved as the Crime Manager from 7 November 2004 until the 28 January 2005. In terms of any investigation carried out with respect to activities involving Father James Fletcher, as far as I am aware, I have had no involvement in such investigation, whether directly or indirectly. I do not have any recollection of having spoken to Detective Chief Inspector Fox about that investigation, and as far as I am aware there would have been no reason for me to have spoken to him about any investigation he may have been carrying out in relation to Father Fletcher.

Signed

Signature of John Henry Gratton

15/2/13  
Date

"A"

NSW Police

**INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE**

**Investigation:** S/F LANTLE  
**Title of Note:** Case Conference in relation to S/F LANTLE

**Narrative:**

At 12.26pm on Thursday 2 December 2010, a meeting was held at Waratah Police Station in relation to S/F LANTLE. Officers present were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- Supt. HAGGETT
- DCI TAYLER
- D.I. FOX
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Def. Sen. Con. FRENEY
- Def. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Detective Inspector PARKER (Northern Region) arrived midway through the meeting.

Superintendent MITCHELL outlined that Newcastle City LAC has carriage of investigations relating to AK, AL and GOGERTY. This was at the direction of the Region Commander. Mr MITCHELL identified that the investigations presented a high level of risk to the organization and needed to be managed well. He acknowledged that Detective Inspector FOX had a strong background in relation to the nature of the complaints, and that for the investigation team to perform their function, it was essential that he disclose all relevant information to the team.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had compiled all relevant documents held by him, but had mistakenly left them behind. He indicated that he had no problem disclosing information held by him to the investigation team. He indicated that he would make arrangements for the documents to be presented to the investigation team. He indicated that the information available would indicate that the clergy abuse/cover up is widespread and that there is a need for a broad ranging task force to be established to investigate it. He indicated that he had recently documented this in a report to the Region Commander.

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "A"  
 ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Grafton  
 SIGNED THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF Feb 2013

[REDACTED]

In order to control confidentiality in relation to the investigation, Supt. MITCHELL indicated that nobody was to speak to the media (including Joanne MCCARTHY) without his knowledge. Mr MITCHELL indicated that in the event police are contacted by MCCARTHY, he was to be advised.

Inspector FOX indicated that in addition to his knowledge of the AK and AL cases, he had interviewed another lady named AJ. FOX indicated that AJ had only wanted to deal with him. She is a victim and a witness and has information dating back to the 1980s about offending behaviour by high ranking members of the Catholic Church including REDACTED, HART, CLARKE and LUCAS. He indicated that she was from an inter sanctum of the Church and had been privy to a lot of conversations. She is born in 1951 and was ten when offences occurred against her. He indicated that she was very fragile.

Inspector FOX also indicated he had a statement from a Mike STILLWELL who was a teacher at Merriwa.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had begun obtaining a statement from AK who resides in Queensland. He indicated that a loose arrangement had been made to complete that statement when AK returned to the Newcastle area over the Christmas break.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had interviewed Leo CLARKE after his retirement, primarily in relation to his investigations concerning FLETCHER and RYAN. He did however speak with CLARKE about MCALINDEN. He believes that CLARKE deliberately lied to him when CLARKE advised him that he knew of no other incidents involving MCALINDEN.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had come into the investigations on and off over the years. He indicated that in 2004 he submitted two reports to SCC calling for a far reaching investigation of the incident. He had also submitted a number of information reports. He indicated that he had informants in the form of a former priest and sister. He indicated that he had no doubts that there was collusion in the Church.

Det. Insp. PARKER arrived at this stage of the meeting.

Insp. FOX indicated that due to the scale of the investigation it was imperative that a task force was established.



Supt. MITCHEL indicated that there was a need for LAC investigators to collate available information at this stage in order to allow further assessments to be made.

Insp. PARKER indicated that the Region Commander's firm view that the file was to remain with the LAC. It was a matter for the LAC to collate the information and present that to S.C.C. if that was appropriate. Insp. PARKER indicated that if the information gathered went beyond the Terms of Reference, the L.A.C. would need to identify why.

Insp. FOX outlined that the information given by *AS* discloses other witnesses and potential witnesses. He reiterated his earlier view that a task force needs to be pursued.

The meeting was concluded at this point and Supt. HAGGETT and Insp. FOX departed.

Inspector TOWNSEND arrived at this time and was briefed by Sgt. STEEL. Present for this briefing were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- DCI TAYLER
- Insp. PARKER
- Insp. TOWNSEND
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Det. Sen. Const. FRENEY
- Det. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Det. Sgt. STEEL indicated that she had spoken with Helen KEEVERS earlier that morning. KEEVERS was the Manager of Zimmerman House for 30 years. She indicated that she had a high level of knowledge about MCALINDEN'S offending and other priests and victims. She indicated that she has seen numerous critical documents outlining such conduct.

She indicated that the most crucial documentation had been forwarded by Zimmerman House to the Catholic Church's insurance body. She made reference to a document authored by Monsignor COTTER where he indicated that it was fortunate that MCALINDEN'S offending was on children and not adults and females. She also indicated that MCALINDEN had engaged in a course of conduct regularly used by Catholic Priests where children were taken swimming in deep water so that they would need to hold onto the priest for assistance.

[REDACTED]

STEEL outlined the 'Encompass' program that was set up by Archbishop PELL to treat priests who have problems (primarily child abuse). The program maintained files outlining the problem behaviours and identified treatment plans. KEEVERS indicated that PELL had closed the program down without notice. She indicated that the files relating to the program had been moved by a man known to her for storage.

STEEL indicated that senior clergy moved MCALINDEN to P.N.G. for a period after his offending behaviour was discovered.

REDACTED

Other Senior Clergy (BURSTON/HART and LUCAS) were involved in cover ups.

KEEVERS told STEEL that police would only get one chance at a search warrant because she is certain that Church members would destroy documents.

Supt. MITCHELL indicated that the issue for the L.A.C. is the scope of the investigation. Inspector TOWNSEND agreed that the scope of the investigation had greatly broadened since it was first allocated to the L.A.C. It was agreed that the following would occur:

1. Inspector PARKER would contact Insp. JACOBS of S.C.C. to invite an Investigator(s) from Sex Crimes to attend a debrief to be held with KEEVERS.
2. Det. Sgt. STEEL to conduct the debrief in the week commencing 6 December 2010.
3. Det. Sgt. STEEL to collate all information available to date after the debrief and formulate a summary document to be forwarded to S.C.C. for their consideration as to whether or not the investigation would fit their charter.

Meeting Concluded 1.15pm



<b>Prepared By:</b>	Detective Senior Sergeant Justin Patrick Quinn
<b>Registered No:</b>	28028
<b>Date:</b>	3/12/2010

11

12

"B"

D/2010/133845

**ISSUE:**

Correspondence received from the Commissioners Office on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – regarding correspondence from *BC* -d/d 07/06/2010 – (possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church) (Annexure A)

**BACKGROUND:**

On the 20th August 2010 correspondence was received from the Commissioners Office at the NSWPF Sex Crimes Squad. The correspondence relates to information from *BC*. *BC* originally wrote to the Ministers office who has since replied to *BC* (Annexure B) and in turn forwarded her correspondence to the Commissioner of Police regarding a possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church.

REDACTED

Inquiries conducted by this office indicate that Father James Patrick Fletcher was convicted of child sex offences in 2005 and in 2008 passed away whilst serving his custodial sentence. *BC* and her siblings were involved in the criminal proceedings against Father Fletcher.

REDACTED

In August 2004, Detective Inspector Peter Fox, informant for the charges against Father Fletcher recorded difficulties encountered throughout the investigation of Father Fletcher and other priest sexually abusing young boys in the Lower Hunter. (refer 12494203 – Annexure C) Inspector Fox noted two members of the local clergy impeded police investigations through falling memories in relation to significant events and conversations. Detective Fox's stated.... 'there is concern that there may be a paedophile network within the Catholic Church & other clergy members are assisting to conceal this'. Inspector Fox subsequently notified the Ombudsman's office.

**COMMENT:**

The original investigation into the criminal offences of Father James Patrick Fletcher was conducted by Central Hunter Local Area Command – Detective Inspector Peter Fox was the informant. I recommend that this file be forwarded to Detective Inspector Fox for comment due to his intimate knowledge of the investigation, the hurdles encountered from the clergy possibly consistent with the issues highlighted by *BC*.

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED \*15  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *John Grafton*  
SIGNED THIS *15th* DAY OF *Feb* 2013

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The attached correspondence be forwarded to Central Hunter LAC - Detective Inspector Fox for his attention and response.

Signed

**RL McKey**  
Detective Sergeant  
Investigations Coordinator  
Sex Crimes Squad  
5<sup>th</sup> September 2010

- 1. **Commander, Sex Crimes Squad**

*NOTED. FORWARDED TO D/INSPECTOR PETER FOX (CENTRAL HUNTER LAC) FOR COMMENT*  
Signed

*Michael Haddon  
Detective Inspector  
5/9/2010*

- 2. **Director, Serious Crime Directorate**

*Forwarded for consideration and attention of Det Insp Fox for his best involvement in the 2004 investigation into Pasha Richey 7-9-10*

Signed **John KERLATTO**  
Detective Superintendent  
A/Division

- 3. **Commander, Central Hunter LAC**

*Given this file relates to matters specifically referred to Det Insp FOX as the OIC, I am forwarding the file to Pt Stephens SAC where he is currently attached for attention as requested.*

Signed **John Carroll**  
Superintendent  
Commander  
CENTRAL HUNTER LAC  
9/8/10

- 4. **Commander, Port Stephens**

- 5. **Det Insp Fox**

cc: Director, Serious Crime Directorate - SCC Det Stephens



Annexure C and  
D redacted

" E "

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - E -  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Gralton  
SIGNED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Feb 2013

John Gralton--30/03/2012 15:36:43--Peter, (cc: A/A/C Swilks, DI Parker and Sgt McDonald as req...

From: John Gralton/25360/Staff/NSWPolice  
To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
Cc: Gabrielle McDonald/26685/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Graeme  
Parker/24682/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, David  
Swilks/18560/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Ian  
Mathar/21728/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Craig Rao/22212/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
Date: 30/03/2012 15:36  
Subject: NP

Peter,  
(cc: A/A/C Swilks, DI Parker and Sgt McDonald as requested by AC York & others included in original  
email from you)

In response to the specific issues you raise (which I have highlighted in red):

1. It is highly unlikely the persons with whom I have sought information will deal with other police (I can elaborate on this if required) The information may assist in the criminal prosecution of sexual assault offences on children by a member of the Catholic Clergy but I am seeking permission before I take this further. Am I allowed to conduct more inquiries for D/Sgt FABER?

Please contact Det Inspector Parker in relation to this issue as he is overseeing Strike Force Lantle which relates to the investigation. He should be in a position to guide you in relation to who is best to respond.

2. Are all the directions given to me by Mr MITCHELL still in force & if so for what period?

Yes, until lifted the direction remains in place.

3. Am I yet able to be told the reason for these directions?

The investigation is highly protected and will be until finalised.

Further, I'm advised you were to provide documents that you had that may relate to investigations that were underway at Newcastle. Could you please discuss that when speaking with Det Inspector Parker.

Regards,

John Grafton  
Commander  
Newcastle City

Peter Fox—26/03/2012 15:57:22—In 2010 I made submissions to investigate paedophile activity by t...

**From:** Peter Fox  
**To:** John Gralton; Ian Mather  
**Cc:** Carlene York; Craig Rae  
**Date:** 28/03/2012 15:57 ZE10  
**Subject:** NP

---

In 2010 I made submissions to investigate paedophile activity by the Catholic Church following past prosecutions & approaches to me by victims through a newspaper reporter Joanne McCARTHER. I obtained statements before being aware of inquiries at Newcastle. I contacted investigators there & was then directed by Superintendent MITCHELL to surrender all the documentation I had, including victim statements, cease any involvement in church paedophile investigations or dealings with victims. I was also directed to not contact Joanne McCARTHY & report any contact with her immediately. I was further directed to hand over a separate non-related ministerial file sent to me as a

result of my past investigations into paedophilia in the Catholic Church.

Complying with my directions I am reporting I was contacted today by Det Sgt Kristy FABER requesting I assist in connection with the trial of <sup>NP</sup> which is currently underway. I was asked if I could obtain a photograph of Fr James FLETCHER from about 1980. I was also asked to ascertain the whereabouts of Fr FLETCHER & <sup>NP</sup> around that time & if they had access to Campbell's Hill Church at Maitland or any association between them.

I spoke to persons (But not Joanne McCARTHER) in confidence who are assisting. I may have further contact to secure photographs & other information. A number of those persons are in contact with Ms McCARTHER, one of them mentioned being aware I was not permitted to speak with McCARTHER. I did not discuss this further other than say that was correct.

Since Mr MITCHELL is no longer in North Region & the 3 police assigned the investigation reported off sick after my direction I have not been told what if anything has occurred with the matter.

1. It is highly unlikely the persons with whom I have sought information will deal with other police (I can elaborate on this if required) The information may assist in the criminal prosecution of sexual assault offences on children by a member of the Catholic Clergy but I am seeking permission before I take this further. Am I allowed to conduct more inquiries for D/Sgt FABER?
2. Are all the directions given to me by Mr MITCHELL still in force & if so for what period?
3. Am I yet able to be told the reason for those directions?

Peter Fox  
 Detective Chief Inspector  
 Crime Manager  
 Port Stephens LAC  
 Redacted

"F"

{In Archive} Re: Fw: Church Inquiry

Signed

Jeffrey Little

to:

Peter Fox  
10/04/2012 06:45

Cc:

Graeme Parker; John Gralton  
Hide Details

From: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "F"  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John

SIGNED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Gralton  
Feb 2013

To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Cc: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, John  
Gralton/25360/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Security:

To ensure privacy, images from remote sites were prevented from  
downloading. Show Images

Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

2 Attachments



Image.1334004308545.jpg Image.1334004308546.gif

Hi Pete,

file://C:\Documents and Settings\h27476\Local Settings\Temp\notes2F9760- web2.57... 12/04/2012

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

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?
- 2.2. What specific priests are you referring to?
- 2.3. Did you take any action regarding same?

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."*

Redacted

*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"?

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?

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

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?

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

6.1.

REDACTED



7.

REDACTED

7.1.

REDACTED

7.2.

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

8. You mention.

Redacted

*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

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.

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?

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

AK, Peter COGARTY or AL AJ ?

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

10.1. Of this material, apart from GOGARTY' 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, Peter COGARTY or AJ ?

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.

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?

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?

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

Kindest regards,

**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)

Peter Fox---05/04/2012 14:01:57---Graeme Without knowing where your matters have gone it's hard to say what else can be done. There ar

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

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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: AID HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN.

Redacted

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 victim's of MoALINDEN that can be tracked down. I would suggest in excess of 10.

REDACTED

I could go on but it is really something that needs a major investigation beyond a LAC as it expands

Redacted

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 & MoALINDEN 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  
 Redacted

Graeme Parker---05/04/2012 12:04:57---Pete I know we spoke on the phone yesterday, but I've only just read the report you sent through the

From: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Cc: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 05/04/2012 12:04  
 Subject: Fw: Church Inquiry

Pete

I know we spoke on the phone yesterday, but I've only just read the report you sent through the other day, and I just want to make sure that there's definitively no other statements, reports, diary entries or file notes etc that relates to either McAlinden or any concealment of offences relating to Fletcher AJ, AL, AK, or Gogerty. Our investigation is just about to finally and I just want to ensure we haven't missed anything.


Thanks mate

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Graeme

Signed

G. Parker | Detective Inspector | Crime Manager Investigations | Newcastle City

LAC |  NSW Police Force  
 Phone: 49290008 | Easynet: 70008 | Mobile: 0411117534 | Fax: 49290634 | Easynet  
 fax: 70634 | Email: parkgra1@police.nsw.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice on 05/04/2012  
 11:31 -----

From: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice  
 To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Cc: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
 Date: 02/04/2012 13:05  
 Subject: Re: Church Inquiry

Hi Pete,

Yes, I have that report dated 25/11/10 and am aware of that passage.  
 However, Graeme mentioned you interviewed CLARK???

Cheers: Jeff

Jeff LITTLE  
 Detective Sergeant  
 Newcastle City Local Area Command  
 Crn Church & Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300  
 Phone: (02) 4929 0004 | Easynet: 70004

file://C:\Documents and Settings\m27476\Local Settings\Temp\notes2f9760\web257... 12/04/2012

Fax: (02) 4929 0634 | Eaglefax: 70634  
Email: [lit1jef@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lit1jef@police.nsw.gov.au)

-----Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

To: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
From: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice  
Date: 04/02/2012 12:25  
Subject: Church Inquiry

*(See attached file: Church.doc)*

Gents here is a copy of the report I sent to region in December 2010. Para 4 on page 2 is the Leo Clark aspect I spoke to Graham about this morning. I am surprised they didn't forward my report to you but have a read and let me know if anything else may assist.

Peter Fox  
Detective Chief Inspector  
Crime Manager  
Port Stephens LAC  
Redacted

[attachment "Church.doc" removed by Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice]

"G"

[e@ple.IHELP](#)

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[Create Task related to this Product](#)

<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>	Church_Os.doc (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

[Back to Search Results](#)

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED \* 4 \*  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Curran  
SIGNED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF Feb 2013



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. CLARK's involvement with AJ, 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 McCARTHUR 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 REDACTED & REDACTED. 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

Redacted

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,

Redacted 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 HARRIGAN admitted to me they were homosexual but he believed the boys to be 'of age' which he felt made it 'ok'. 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.

Redacted

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, Redacted

Redacted

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, I, 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

6.1.

7.

Redacted

7.1.

7.2.

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

If you are only asking about AL, AK, AT 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.

Redacted

8. You mention,

Redacted

*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

Redacted

REDACTED

Redacted

REDACTED

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 MATTLAND 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 -

REDACTED

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

AJ ? AL , AK , Peter COGARTY or

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 <sup>AJ</sup> 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' tendency evidence as it supported victim <sup>AB</sup> what specifically supports allegations of concealing offences by clergy formerly & currently attached to the MATTLAND-NEWCASTLE Diocese of the Catholic Church relative to <sup>AL</sup> ; <sup>AK</sup> , Peter COGARTY or <sup>AJ</sup> ?

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.

Redacted

In the early 90's LUCAS and others interviewed 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. NP2

Redacted

Redacted

REDACTED

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, ALI & AT 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,

**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: [littlejef@police.nsw.gov.au](mailto:littlejef@police.nsw.gov.au)

**From:** Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice  
**To:** Graeme Parker/24832/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**Cc:** John Grallon/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 Infall reports from back then. FLETCHER used to have gatherings at Muswellbrook of a little group that included NP, HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN.

Redacted 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 publicly 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.

REDACTED

I could go on but it is really something that needs a major investigation beyond a LAC as it expands.  
 Redacted

Redacted 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

Redacted

"H"

24 September 2012

Signed



THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - H -  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John

SIGNED THIS 15th DAY OF *Grafton*  
*Feb 2013*

NSW Police Force  
www.police.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chief Inspector Fox,

On Monday, 17 September 2012, the *Newcastle Herald* newspaper published an article alluding to you having 'explosive' information concerning child sexual abuse by clergy. Specifically, the article quoted you as saying;

- "There is a lot more going on out there than anyone wants to admit. There is so much happening behind the scenes."
- "...to simply say the police have got it in hand is wrong."
- "Early in the 2000s I linked a number of paedophile priests I linked them in the Hunter Valley and I called on the Police Department to initiate a major inquiry. I've continued to make these calls of late and nothing has been done."

Whilst it is acknowledged that what is reported in the media is not necessarily entirely accurate, you'll appreciate it is critically important that you provide any further information so that it can be properly assessed.

Inquiries with Strike Force Lantle Investigators reveal email correspondence took place between you and Detective Sergeant Jeff Little, during April 2012, concerning information you may have that would assist Strike Force Lantle or other police investigations.

We take any form of child abuse very seriously. In the interests of addressing any such incidents, please provide all information or evidence to me immediately so that I can pass it onto Strike Force Investigators as is appropriate.

I look forward to your response to this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

John Grafton  
Commander  
Newcastle City

Newcastle City Local Area Command  
Waratah Police Station  
30 Harriet Street WARATAH NSW 2298

Telephone 02 49286515 Facsimile 02 49286511 ENat 80516 EFax 80511 TTY 9211 3776 (Hearing/Speech impaired)  
ABN 45 408 613 180

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From Det Insp Kerrie Lewis to Supt Gralton  
24/08/2012 13:38  
Sir

As per our telephone conversation, I have contacted Detective Inspector FOX at your request. I explained the content of the letter that you would like to send him via email and he has stated that he does not want to receive it.

He said, "You can tell John GRALTON that I have already provided a vast amount of material in the past, they would be aware what that is and if they have misplaced or lost it that is their problem".

I am sorry I could not assist but he was not about to be convinced otherwise.

Kerrie

\*\*\*\*\*

From Supt Gralton to Det Insp Lewis  
24/08/2012 12:38  
Good morning Kerrie,

You might recall a brief discussion we had last week about the finalisation of the investigation file (P1103692) and you were going to contact Peter Fox to let him know that it had been completed and submitted to the Region CMT. During that conversation I also discussed the fact that Peter was quoted in an article on the front page of the Newcastle Herald.

I now have cause to contact Peter in relation to the comments that were attributed to him as quotes in that paper. I understand that you still have contact with Peter.

I have drafted the attached letter and I would appreciate it if you could contact him and let him know that the letter is coming. You might also confirm that his email address is still

REDACTED

Once you have confirmed that he is aware that the letter is coming, I will scan it onto an email and forward it to him. Even though his comments were allegedly made in a community/public forum, we didn't want to blind side him with the letter given he is currently on sick report. We are mindful of his welfare. If you have any queries I can be contacted on 60500.

Regards,

John Gralton  
Commander  
Newcastle City

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED 'I'  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Gralton  
SIGNED THIS 15th DAY OF Feb 2013

EMAILS regarding:

**Chief Inspector Fox concerning media reports (17/9/2012) that he has 'explosive information' in relation to child sexual abuse by clergy.**

From AC York to Supt Grallon  
24/09/2012 16:10

John

Thanks for the update. I agree that we should not forward the letter. I accept the conversation with Det C/Inspector Fox, that he has been requested previously for any further information to be provided, although not clear from the summary of the latest conversation whether he has any further information to add.

In light of the need to ensure the officers welfare is addressed and his statement that his Doctor advises against further contact a file note should be made by Det Sgt Little to the effect that Mr Fox provided verbal confirmation that no further information is to be provided. As a result of this line of inquiry not providing any further evidence we should await the DPP advice.

regards  
Carlene York

\*\*\*\*\*  
From Supt Grallon to AC York  
24/09/2012 15:01  
Good afternoon Carlene,

**Re - Letter to Chief Inspector Fox concerning media reports (17/9/2012) that he has 'explosive information' in relation to child sexual abuse by clergy.**

I spoke to Insp Kerrie Lewis (see below email). Kerrie indicated that Peter Fox was adamant that he had provided all that he knew previously and he did not want to receive anything else from me or anyone else for that matter. He added that he did not wish to speak or communicate with anyone within the NSWPF regarding any complaint matter either as a subject officer or witness on his doctor's advice. Kerrie explained the content of the letter and told him it was not a complaint but an investigative issue (as per details in the letter). She said that he appeared quite irritated and agitated by it and responded as outlined below in Insp Lewis' email.

Given Peter is off sick with a psychological related illness, I do not think it is in anyone's best interest to send the letter. I think that we risk complaints from Chief Inspector Fox if we send the letter akin to us exacerbating his injury if we go ahead. He understands the content of the letter and does not wish to receive it. He has been requested before (at length via email) by Det Sgt Little concerning claims he had further information, and whilst he provided some information, no further 'evidence' was elicited. We have that recorded on E@gle-I and we can record this information on E@gle-I as well. I've spoken to Det Sgt Little and as the OIC of S/F Lantle he agrees with this course of action.

I see no good reason to forward this communication given that Insp Lewis has communicated the content to him and he has indicated that he does not wish to receive it and will not reply to it - particularly given his illness. I will leave it at that unless you direct otherwise.

Regards,

John.

\*\*\*\*\*