# SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY <br> INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE 

## At Newcastle Supreme Court

 Court Room Number 1, Church Street, Newcastle NSWOn Friday, 12 July 2013 at 9.30am (Day 9)

Before Commissioner: Ms Margaret Cunneen SC<br>Counsel Assisting:<br>Ms Julia Lonergan SC<br>Mr David Kell<br>Mr Warwick Hunt<br>Crown Solicitor's Office: Ms Emma Sullivan, Ms Kate Vale

MS LONERGAN: Good morning, Commissioner. Could Bishop Michael Malone return to the witness box, please.
<MICHAEL JOHN MALONE, sworn:
[9.30 am ]
<EXAMINATION BY MS LONERGAN:
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, could the witness be given access to exhibit 85,86 and 87 which are his statements and his police statement from May 2003?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Thank you.
MS LONERGAN: Q. Bishop, do you have those three statements in the witness box, the three statements I just talked about?
A. My three statements, I do, yes.
Q. Would you mind turning to your July 2013 statement, paragraph 6.2(i) where you address the steps you took upon becoming aware of the report or complaint about Fletcher in June 2002?
A. $6.2(\mathrm{i})$ ?
Q. Yes, do you see that you mention the origin of your becoming aware in the content of 6.2 and the various subparagraphs, and it is (v) that I'm directing your attention to where you say that you telephoned John Davoren, who was then director of Professional Standards Office, and sought his advice as to whether you should stand Fletcher down?
A. I did, yes.
Q. You have a clear recollection of making that call, do you?
A. I do.
Q. Why did you call him?
A. I called him because he was the head of the New South Wales Professional Standards Resource Group and, as one well experienced in these matters, I sought his advice as to what I should do.
Q. Can I suggest to you that, in your statement, you refer to him as the director of the Professional Standards Office. Is that what you mean, that he was the director -A. Yes, one and the same, yes.
Q. Mr Davoren, you say, said:

Father Fletcher does not have to be stood down at this point as there is a presumption of innocence in these matters. This is an allegation only. You don't have to stand him down at this time.
A. That is my recollection, yes.
Q. Did you make a note of that conversation with him at the time?
A. No, I didn't.
Q. Did you rely on what Mr Davoren told you in deciding what you would do regarding Fletcher?
A. It was certainly an influential factor, yes.
Q. Did you make that call to Mr Davoren before or after you offered Fletcher the option of standing down when you went to see him at Branxton on 20 June?
A. I think probably it would have been after that I had spoken to Fletcher, yes.
Q. I'm sorry, did I ask you, did you make a note of that?
A. No, I did not.
Q. Did Mr Davoren tell you whether he had spoken to anybody else to confirm that particular piece of advice he gave you?
A. No, I don't believe that he did.
Q. You're confident in your recollection that that conversation took place in June 2002?
A. Yes, I am.
Q. Did you have any other discussions with Mr Davoren subsequent to the one you say occurred in June 2002 about what you should do with Fletcher?
A. Not for a little while. Just as charges were about to be laid, I think there was contact then as well.
Q. Was that by you or by your vicar general or --
A. I think that was by him, Mr Davoren.
Q. Mr Davoren phoned you?
A. I think so.
Q. Do you recollect what you spoke about then?
A. No, I can't actually, no.
Q. But it was to do with Fletcher?
A. Yes, it certainly was, and I know that Mr Michael McDonald, who was the director of the Catholic Commission For Employment Relations, that had been in touch, I think, with Mr Davoren and all things - it was starting to get rather active as charges were about to be laid.
Q. I suggest to you that Mr Davoren actually suggested that Fletcher be stood down until the investigation was complete in a conversation that he had with you or your vicar general in February or March 2003. Does that accord with your recollection?

MR HARBEN: I object. That's in two parts, Commissioner.
MS LONERGAN: Yes. I'11 break it down. Mr Harben is correct.
Q. Do you recall having a conversation yourself with Mr Davoren where he made any suggestions or recommendations as to what you should do regarding Fletcher still being in ministry?
A. No, I don't, frankly.
Q. Did you have a discussion with your vicar general regarding any call he received from Mr Davoren relating to that issue?
A. No, I don't recollect that either.
Q. And do you know of any notes that you have seen in files or papers relating to Fletcher that deal with that subject matter; that is, a call from Mr Davoren or to Mr Davoren about what should happen regarding Fletcher's ministry?
A. I can't recollect that, other than the 20 June call that I've referred to.
Q. Thank you. In paragraph 7.1 of that same statement that you have with you in the witness box that's dated July 2013, you state, in answer to a question on what police investigations and inquiries you were aware of with respect to McAlinden and when you became aware of them, that during
your time as bishop, you were not aware of any investigations by police in respect of the activities of McAlinden?
A. That's correct, yes.
Q. You were shown the day before yesterday, however, some correspondence regarding [AE] that you participated in that referred to her having reported the matter to the police in late 1999. Do you recall that?
A. I recall that we spoke about it, yes.
Q. I will turn up those letters if you need to, but in one of the letters at least - I should turn it up for your assistance - you mention you were aware the police had been contacted by [AE]?
A. Yes, I think so.
Q. Yes?
A. I remember that, yes.
Q. And that, at some point, she withdrew her complaint?
A. Yes, I remember that.
Q. You didn't consider, did you, that particular knowledge that you had in late 1999, early 2000, to be knowledge or awareness about any investigation by police in respect of activities of McAlinden?
A. No, as I understood it, she'd only reported the matter to the police and then later withdrew. I didn't realise there was an investigation in train.
Q. That's a distinction you make --
A. Yes.
Q. -- that [AE] reported the matter?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you make an assumption that there was no investigation by police?
A. No, I knew it was a report, but I didn't know it was an investigation.
Q. I will take you to a document, it is tab 313. I will just give you the volume, volume 4. Before you turn it up, bishop, do you remember having any inquiry directed to the chancery by police about McAlinden in late 1999?
A. I remember there was an inquiry that came in from one
of the police persons from Charlestown looking for an address, I think.
Q. I want to suggest to you that that was in 2002 and we'11 come to that.
A. 2002, was it?
Q. Just have a look at the document behind tab 313 for me.
A. Right.
Q. You see that's a letter directed to the Maitland-Newcastle diocese chancery?
A. Yes.
Q. Just read that document to yourself. Do you see that includes a reference to [AE] having made a formal statement and complaint --
A. I can, yes.
Q. -- regarding sexual assault she suffered in 1953 to 1954 at the hands of McAlinden. Do you see that?
A. I can see that.
Q. You knew about that matter later in October 1999 at least, if not before 8 October 1999, because you were forwarded a copy of her statement of complaint?
A. Right, yes.
Q. I'm happy for you to turn up the letter that assists with marrying those two facts together. I don't want you to just accept what I say.
A. No, I think I can remember that.
Q. Do you think you can remember that?
A. I think so.
Q. Have a look behind tab 317 and satisfy yourself.
A. Yes.
Q. Do you see the letter to you dated 8 October 1999 doesn't just say that she's mentioned the matter to the police, but that she's made a complaint to them. Do you see that?
A. I can.
Q. Are you suggesting that you didn't understand that
comment in that letter to mean that there would be any police investigation?
A. No, obviously there would have been a police investigation in train, yes; it's just something that I've forgotten.
Q. All right. You know from reading, as you stated you would have, on Wednesday, [AE]'s statement of complaint for the Towards Healing process, that she intended to take the matter to the police?
A. She did. I knew that, yes.
Q. But you didn't include in your statement any investigation that the police were doing in respect of [AE]?
A. No.
Q. Did you forget about it?
A. My statement was purely made from memory. I had no documentation to consult; so that being the case, yes, I had forgotten about it.
Q. The letter that's behind tab 313 is addressed to the bishop's chancery?
A. Yes.
Q. The way things were being conducted in 1999 at your workplace, does that of necessity mean it would have been drawn to your attention?
A. I would have thought so, yes.
Q. Looking at the --
A. That's presuming I was there. As I mentioned yesterday, I usually have holidays in October and that's when this letter came in.
Q. You were able to send a reply to Mr Davoren's letter to you enclosing [AE]'s complaint --
A. Right.
Q. -- on - I'11 just turn it up for you - on 12 October 1999, and that's behind tab 320. Can we take it that, at least on 12 October, given this letter has your signature on it, that you were present on 12 October?
A. I can, yes.
Q. While we're looking at that letter, just have a look
down the bottom there on the left, there's a file reference, it appears to be, and if you can assist us with that, it says:

File: Sexual Abuse [AE] - re
McA1inden.Oct99.
Q. Do you see that?
A. Yes, can I see that.
Q. Are you able to assist with that file referencing system? Was that a system that you set up?
A. No. That was set up by my personal assistant, but that's the kind of system they used to identify correspondence.
Q. Does that denote that there was a separate file relating to sexual abuse of [AE] by McAlinden?
A. No, I don't think so. I think it relates to the fact that it was about sexual abuse by McAlinden. It would have been filed in the McAlinden file.
Q. Can we take it from evidence you've given earlier that you didn't personally access the McAlinden file at this point, that is, October 1999?
A. Well, it was certainly very limited, the access that I had to the file, yes, as we --
Q. Did you rely - I'm sorry?
A. As we saw yesterday.
Q. Did you rely on your secretary to file letters of this nature on the McAlinden file?
A. I'm not sure whether she or I filed it, but either of us could have.
Q. Your secretary was Ms Doyle, was she?
A. Correct, yes.
Q. Did you discuss these matters with Ms Doyle at any time?
A. No, I don't think so, no.
Q. Can we take it that Ms Doyle typed the letter, or did you?
A. No, she was Maree Lawrie, "ML". See down the bottom just above the reference, it's "+MM/m1".
Q. So "ML" means Maree Lawrie typed the letter for you?
A. Maree Lawrie, who was the assistant secretary, yes.
Q. Would she also do filing?
A. Yes, she would have, yes.

MS LONERGAN: I tender that letter of 12 October 1999 behind tab 320, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Ms Lonergan. The letter of 12 October 1999 to [AE] from Bishop Malone will be admitted and marked exhibit 98.

EXHIBIT \#98 LETTER OF 12/10/1999 TO [AE] FROM BISHOP MALONE (TAB 320)

MS LONERGAN: I'11 just flick back to the letter behind tab 313 and tender that also. That's addressed to the bishop's chancery dated 8 October 1999.

THE COMMISSIONER: Tab 313, the letter of 8 October 1999 to the bishop's chancery from Detective Senior Constable Watters of police will be admitted and marked exhibit 99.

EXHIBIT \#99 LETTER OF 8/10/1999 TO THE BISHOP'S CHANCERY FROM DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE WATTERS

MS LONERGAN: Q. Do you have the document behind tab 313 open, the letter to the bishop's chancery?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Do you see that that letter outlines that [AE] told her mother and father about the sexual assaults and her parents brought it to the attention of the bishop? Do you see that?
A. I can see that, yes.
Q. I appreciate your evidence is to the effect that you don't recall seeing this letter. Is that your evidence today?
A. Well, I can't recall seeing it, no, which doesn't mean I didn't see it.
Q. But your usual practice in 1999 would have been to read letters of this nature if they were addressed to the bishop's chancery?
A. Certainly, yes.
Q. And particularly given that it was concerning complaints of sexual assault by a priest of your diocese? A. Definitely, yes.
Q. If you had read this letter, and it mentions that this lady's mother and father had brought to the attention of the bishop what had happened, wouldn't you have gone to look to see if there was any confirmation that this had occurred?
A. Well, I didn't, no. You know, $I$ just took it as read. I mean, the police, when they write things like this, I didn't need to double-check whether it was true or not.
Q. You don't recollect having read this letter - that's the position, isn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. But you now say that you didn't look to see whether there was any information relating to the contents of this letter where it refers to [AE]'s parents bringing the matter to the attention of the police?
A. No, I didn't look, no.
Q. You're confident you didn't look?
A. I'm sure I didn't look.
Q. Are you saying therefore that you read this letter or are you just saying that you didn't look because you know in late 1999, you weren't familiar with the contents of McAlinden's file?
A. No, I can't recall reading this letter, but, as I say, it doesn't say that I didn't.
Q. Do you see the letter goes on to say:
[AE] states that with her parents, she went to the Bishop's house but sat in the car
while her parents met with the Bishop.
A. Yes, I can see that.
Q. There's also a specific request by the police as to whether there is any record of this letter allegedly sent to [AE]'s family regarding the incident. Do you see that? A. Yes, I can.
Q. Would you agree with me that that would require, if this was going to be answered with any proper attention, at least a look at the file on McAlinden that would have been present in your office?
A. That makes sense, yes.
Q. But you're unable to say whether that search was conducted, or are you?
A. I'm not able to say that it was conducted, no.
Q. Can we take it from your answers that you're unable to say generally whether any reply was given to the police officer who sent this letter about that issue?
A. I don't know. Was there - there may have been something on the file, if there had been a reply. And it is not the sort of thing that would be ignored; it would be acknowledged as least.
Q. If there was a reply, can we take it, given that that confidential file about McAlinden or confidential files about him would have had to be accessed, that you would have had to have authorised any such search?
A. Correct, yes.
Q. But you don't recollect?
A. I don't know. I probably would have done it myself.
Q. But you don't recollect actually doing it?
A. No, I don't.
Q. It says:

Police also request any assistance that may be offered with the current whereabouts of Father McAlinden.

Do you see that?
A. Sorry, where --
Q. The second-1ast paragraph?
A. Yes.
Q. At this time, October 1999, did you know where McAlinden was?
A. Yes, I think we did know where he was at that point.
Q. Do you know whether this particular officer, Detective Senior Constable Watters, was contacted, firstly, by you on that matter?
A. I can't remember having any dealings with detective senior constable, as he was then.
Q. Can you recall requesting any of your staff to contact him and give him information?
A. No, I can't remember.

MS LONERGAN: I have tendered that letter?
THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 99.
MS LONERGAN: Thank you, Commissioner.
Q. You've already given an and answer to the effect that you recall there being contact made by a police officer from Charlestown?
A. Yes.
Q. I want to suggest to you that that was Detective Senior Constable Flipo, in around about 2002?
A. Yes.
Q. I think your personal assistant, Ms Doyle, provided some information pursuant to a request by you that she do so?
A. Yes, she did.
Q. I'11 just turn up the relevant document. It's in volume 5. Just bear with me. Tab 353.
A. In volume?
Q. Volume 5. I think this might be the incident that you've referred to in your evidence.
A. 353?
Q. Yes, tab 353.
A. Yes, I see.
Q. Do you see that there's an email there from Ms Doyle --
A. Yes.
Q. -- to Mr Davoren saying that you had asked her to advise him of certain details?
A. Right.
Q. Do you see that?
A. I can see that, yes.
Q. Does that accord with your recollection?
A. It does.
Q. That you did that in July 2002?
A. Yes.
Q. Are you able to say whether, at that point, you were aware that the police wanted this detail at that time, July 2002, just ignoring the other writing on the page?
A. Yes, I believe so. There was - I seem to remember my personal assistant saying that the female police person from Charlestown, I think it was, was looking for this information.
Q. Is there any reason why you said that she should advise the PSO as opposed to the police officer from Charlestown?
A. No, I'm not sure about that.
Q. And then you see a little further down - in handwriting that I understand is probably Elizabeth Doyle's - 26 September 2002?
A. Yes, can I see that.
Q. :

This info (advice) to Jacqui Flipo,
Charlestown Detectives ...
Do you see that?
A. Yes, I can.
Q. At least at that time, 2002, you were aware, weren't you, that police were investigating McAlinden?
A. Yes, obviously I was, yes.
Q. And you'd forgotten about that?
A. I had, I'm afraid, yes.
Q. In relation to the addresses provided one of them it's been redacted out, but we can show you an unredacted copy if you need - is a relative's address in New South

Wales, that's [UR18]?
A. Right.
Q. The other one is an address in England, do you see?
A. I can, yes.
Q. Wasn't it the position, in September 2002 at least, that you were aware that he - he McAlinden - was back in Australia and living in Western Australia?
A. Well, yes, we'd talked about that yesterday.
Q. Yes?
A. Yes.
Q. So did you think that it would be important that you advise your assistant to tell Ms Flipo that there was actually some other updated information; that is, that you knew that he was still alive and living in Western Australia?
A. This was in July, not September.
Q. If you have a look at when the information was provided to Ms Flipo --
A. Oh, I see what you mean. Down the bottom.
Q. Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. That was September?
A. Yes, I see that.
Q. You knew by then, didn't you --
A. We probably knew around about that same time, yes.
Q. Did it occur to you that that was extra information that had come to you that ought to be advised to the police so they could find this man?
A. I'm sure if we thought of it, we would have provided that information to the police.
Q. You didn't think of it?
A. I don't know that we did. I - again it's hazy.

You're talking a fair few years ago.
Q. I should put this to you in fairness: do you think that the information about McAlinden being back in Australia and in Western Australia was conveyed to this
particular officer on behalf of the diocese at some point? A. I don't know.

MR GYLES: Commissioner, might I raise an issue with respect to this?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR GYLES: Bishop Malone was taken to a document yesterday, which was a document at tab 346 and, as I understand it, my learned friend is cross-examining this was the document that Bishop Malone referred to as "having been taken to this document yesterday", which uses the expression that he was "still alive and living in Western Australia". This is a document dated 20 June.

Commissioner, to be fair to Bishop Malone, if that letter is being used as his state of knowledge as at that time in connection with the question that's being asked, if you go forward to tab 352, there is a relevant communication that he wasn't taken to yesterday --

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, if I can be permitted to just continue with my examination, I am absolutely intending to take the witness to that letter. I can't take him to each letter at the same time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR GYLES: Yes, but the concern --
MS LONERGAN: I'm working through my analysis of one document at a time and I will take him to that letter. I'm asking him questions and getting answers and I should be permitted to continue doing what I'm doing.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, isn't that so, Mr Gyles?
MR GYLES: The issue I have is what's being put is his state of mind as at September 2002, and what the witness is drawing from is the letter he was taken to yesterday.

THE COMMISSIONER: Without reference to letters in between or other letters saying different things.

MS LONERGAN: The letter to which Mr Gyles is drawing attention is a letter from the Archbishop of Perth saying
he has lost all trace of him at a certain time. I am still permitted to ask Bishop Malone whether he knows individually other information.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS LONERGAN: They are different things, with respect.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Lonergan. I will permit you to proceed as you were doing.

MS LONERGAN: Thank you, Commissioner.
Q. Bishop Malone, I was making inquiries with you as to whether you thought it was important to tell Ms Flipo or tell Ms Doyle to tell Ms Flipo that you had information suggesting at least enough information to cause you to write to [AC] in June 2002 that McAlinden was alive and living in Western Australia. Do you recall that?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you think to inform Ms Flipo or Officer Flipo that you had also tried to find out from the bishop in Western Australia in June 2002 - that is, the Archbishop of Perth whether he knew where McAlinden was?
A. No, that was not communicated as far as I know. If we had known that he was back in Western Australia, that would have been communicated, I'm sure.
Q. Is the position that you say, although in June 2002 you communicated to [AC] that McAlinden was still alive and living in Western Australia --
A. Yes.
Q. -- that that information wasn't correct at the time she was told that?
A. No, I'd say that was correct. I wouldn't have written it otherwise.
Q. Are you able to say what the source of your information was for that statement then?
A. No, I'm not.
Q. You wrote on 28 June to the Archbishop of Perth.

That's behind tab 352.
A. Yes.
Q. I'm terribly sorry, we don't seem to have the letter that prompted the letter from the Archbishop of Perth, Reverend Hickey.
A. No. I seem to - may I interrupt?
Q. Yes, please do.
A. I seem to remember that I verbally asked him at the Bishops Conference that we were trying to find McAlinden and did he have any idea, and this was his response to me subsequent to that.
Q. So you sent the letter of 20 June to [AC] saying he was in Perth and still alive?
A. Yes.
Q. But some time between 20 June and 28 June, is it, you had a conversation with the Archbishop of Perth?
A. I would have had a conversation with him probably in the May, which is when the Bishops Conference is on and all the bishops gather in Sydney for that. That's when I would have asked him.
Q. You recall having a conversation with the Archbishop of Perth about the whereabouts of McAlinden in May 2002? A. I do, yes.
Q. Would you agree with me that writing to [AC] telling her that he was still alive and living in Perth suggests that you got some sort of information contemporaneous to that month, June 2002, at least, that he was still alive and living in Perth?
A. The question being did $I$ know that --
Q. Did you learn that at the Bishops Conference?
A. No, I didn't learn - no, Archbishop Hickey said that he would find out, if he could, where things were, and he consulted also with Bishop Quinn in Bunbury, again with no success.
Q. Is it the position that what you said to [AC] in the letter in June 2002 may have been incorrect?
A. No, I'm not saying it's incorrect at all, otherwise I wouldn't have written it, but certainly whether we knew the address or whether it was just a vague "living in Western Australia", I'm not sure.
Q. But, by any account, as you understand the position,
you didn't tell Ms Doyle to tell Officer Flipo that you had had information in June 2002 that McAlinden was living in Western Australia?

MR HARBEN: I object to that.
MS LONERGAN: I'11 withdraw that. I'11 start again.
Q. You say you must have had some sort of information that allowed you in June 2002 to write to [AC] to the effect that McAlinden was living in Western Australia?
A. Yes .
Q. But when you spoke to Ms Doyle or asked Ms Doyle to provide certain information to the Professional Standards Office in July 2002, you didn't include anything about Western Australia, did you?
A. I don't recollect that I did, but we should have, and maybe we did. I don't know. But it would have been - yes, I suppose it would have been on the email, otherwise, wouldn't it?
Q. Are you able to recollect whether you instructed Ms Doyle to tell Ms Flipo anything about McAlinden having been thought to be living in Western Australia in June 2002?
A. I don't remember that.

MR GYLES: To be fair to Bishop Malone, he should be given an opportunity to read this letter, particularly the third paragraph of it.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, I'm asking the witness at the moment about his recollection. He doesn't need to read another person's document to mine his own recollection. I'll now take the witness to the document. If Mr Gyles could permit me to proceed in the manner that keeps things sensible and cogent, I will do so.
Q. Bishop Malone, would you mind looking in more detail at the three-paragraph letter behind tab 352. That's the letter from Archbishop Hickey of Perth?
A. Oh yes, yes.
Q. It's addressed to you?
A. Yes.
Q. It is dated 28 June 2002?
A. Yes.
Q. It is the reply to your oral request?
A. My verbal request, yes.
Q. Yes. What Archbishop Hickey tells you is:

The St John of God Hospital phoned us about him last year when he was a patient there. We have not heard of him since.

Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. And:

I asked Peter Quinn if he had a lead, but he doesn't, unfortunately.
A. Yes.
Q. The next paragraph is:

If you want to find him, the police might help.

Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. Then:

I don't even know if he is still in Western Australia.

Do you see that?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you, prompted by that letter, contact the police and say "We're trying to find McAlinden. Can you help us"?
A. I can't remember having done so. We spoke yesterday about my contacting the police in 1999 because of our frustration of trying to find McAlinden.
Q. In 1999?
A. Yes - and then in 2003 --
Q. I am going to stop you there. There was no evidence yesterday that you contacted the police in 1999. Your evidence yesterday was that you caused some information to be conveyed to the Professional Standards Office?
A. That's correct, yes.
Q. So that's not contacting the police; would you agree with me?

MR HARBEN: Commissioner, that's a very unfair way of putting it. If one recalls the cross-examination, it was about steps that were taken, and the bishop's answer, as I recall, was that that was the process he went through with a view to that happening. The document then clearly says "notification by this person on behalf of Bishop Malone."

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. I recall the bishop saying that he expected that to be a conduit to the police.

THE WITNESS: That is correct.
MR HARBEN: And that the process didn't work; that was his understanding.

MS LONERGAN: Yes, there's no issue about that, Commissioner --

MR BARAN: I object to --
MS LONERGAN: -- but my question to this witness is that that's not contacting the police. The police are one thing; they wear blue uniforms. The PSO is something else. There is a distinction.

THE COMMISSIONER: Of course there is, Ms Lonergan, but when the form itself says something about "ultimate reference to the police" or something, it would be in the expectation of the witness that it might ultimately get to the police.

MS LONERGAN: It may be, but this witness has given evidence about - I'm asking the question about contacting the police.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MS LONERGAN: I'm asking something different. I'm not doubting the evidence that was given regarding what was in this witness's mind about what should happen when he contacted the Professional Standards Office, but this witness gave an answer to my question that he had contacted the police and that's not correct.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. We all understand.
MR BARAN: My objection is: "That's not contacting the police, is it?", is something that needs to be specified with a great more specificity than it has been. It is not enough to simply use that rubric. It must be specified, in fairness to the witness and in fairness to my client.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Baran.
MS LONERGAN: Q. Let me go about it this way. When you asked Ms Doyle to contact the officer at Charlestown Detective Senior Constable Flipo --
A. Yes.
Q. -- you knew that was a direct contact with the police, didn't you?
A. I did.
Q. When you rang Mr Davoren with some details about [AK] and [AL] in late 1999, you knew that was contact with the PSO, didn't you?
A. I.
Q. You expected, as you've already given evidence, that the person at the PSO, Mr Davoren, would filter certain information or provide certain information to the police as per what you provided him?
A. It was our acceptable protocol that Mr Davoren would be used as the conduit between the bishops of New South Wales, ACT and the police.
Q. But in the case of notifying Detective Senior Constable Flipo of address details, that is different, isn't it? It was a direct contact with the police where information was provided?
A. She contacted our office and we replied in kind, yes.
Q. You've given some evidence you had a conversation with Archbishop of Perth, Archbishop Hickey, at a bishops
conference in May 2002?
A. Yes.
Q. Was there anything in particular that prompted you to have a conversation with him that, as I understand your evidence, related to McAlinden?
A. Precisely because we were trying to track him down and we kept coming against dead ends and thought perhaps one of the local bishops might be able to be more helpful than we could be.
Q. And Peter Quinn, was the Bishop of Bunbury was he?
A. He was the Bishop of Bunbury at the time, yes.
Q. You wanted to track him down - why, at that time?
A. So we could continue the processes that we were speaking about yesterday against --
Q. The processes?
A. Against McAlinden, the process of laicisation.
Q. At the time you received this letter of 28 June 2002, had you been informed via [AC]'s statement of complaint that she was prepared to corroborate any person who had asserted serious sexual assault allegations against McAlinden?
A. I remember that, yes.
Q. Was that factoring on your mind at all in June 2002 as to a reason why McAlinden ought to be located or was it purely the laicisation matter?
A. Well, it was that, plus, you know, by 2002, we had arrived at an awful level of frustration about trying to find the man. So in 1999 we made the request that the police be informed through the Professional Standards Office and that was repeated in 2003, the year after this, regarding two other matters.
Q. The information that was sent through to Mr Davoren in 1999, in August, behind tab 309, related to [AK] and [AL], didn't it?
A. Is that in another volume?
Q. Yes. Don't worry about turning it up. I think we went through that enough yesterday.
A. We did, yes.
Q. We won't go back to that. In June 2004, you are aware, aren't you, that the Maitland-Newcastle diocese was approached with a search warrant to access files regarding Fletcher?
A. Probably, yes. I think there were a number of warrants issued, yes, at different times.
Q. I'm sorry. At different times?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you have any involvement in the provision of documents in response to the search warrant issued regarding Fletcher?
A. No, only that they'd have had access to whatever they wanted.
Q. Given that you had files, personnel files that were confidential about priests in your office at that time -A. Yes.
Q. -- that was the position in 2004 , wasn't it?
A. Yes, it was.
Q. Did you make sure that police who attended were given access to the confidential files?
A. Yes, they were.
Q. And that was your usual practice, was it, to make sure that staff knew they were to be provided?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you, at any stage whilst the police investigation into Fletcher was proceeding, collude in any way with Father Saunders or Father Burston regarding what they should say to the police regarding what happened?
A. No, there was no collusion whatsoever.
Q. Are you aware of Father Saunders or Father Burston colluding about conversations they had with Fletcher?
A. No.
Q. Yesterday, just before we adjourned, you were shown a document, I'm not too sure whether it is in the witness box with you any more, and I don't think I tendered it.
A. No, I handed two documents back to the sheriff.
Q. Thank you very much. It is a facilitated meeting of

Towards Healing dated 29 August 2002. I'm just wondering if a copy could be provided to you.
A. Thank you.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, do you still have your copy?
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you, Ms Lonergan. I have that.

MS LONERGAN: Q. I was just asking you some questions about the second page of that. Under the heading "McAlinden's history", I asked you some questions about some of that material yesterday. But that document additionally notes that you informed [AC] that McAlinden had been stripped of his faculties as a priest of the Maitland-Newcastle diocese and that "he had personally liaised" - that is, you - "with bishops in the Philippines and Western Australia to warn them of McAlinden's history". Do you see that?
A. Yes. It was Bishop Clarke who warned the bishops in the Philippines initially, yes.
Q. What about the bishops in Western Australia? When did you warn them of McAlinden's history?
A. I didn't warn them, I don't think, at all.
Q. If you made that statement, as recorded there in that facilitated meeting, that would be untrue, would it?
A. We're looking at what, the first paragraph, are we?
Q. Yes, I'll give you time to read it. In fact, read all of the "McAlinden's history" part of the document. I don't want to be unfair to you. If you would prefer, you should read the whole document in its entirety.
A. I've read that paragraph, yes.
Q. I don't want you to feel any discomfort in me questioning you about this matter if you haven't had the advantage of reading the whole document and getting the whole context of what it is, which appears to be Mr Salmon's notes of a facilitated meeting at which you attended?
A. Yes, that's what they are, yes.
Q. Would you prefer to read the whole document before I ask you any further questions?
A. No, I think we can refer to it as we come to it, can
we?
Q. All right. My question is about the second sentence under "McAlinden's history" regarding an assertion you apparently made in this meeting as recorded by Mr Salmon, that McAlinden had been stripped of his facilities as a priest of the Maitland-Newcastle diocese and that you had personally liaised with bishops in the Philippines and Western Australia to warn them of McAlinden's history?
A. Yes, can I see that's what it says, yes.
Q. First of all, did you say that in this meeting?
A. This is kind of a recollection of Michael Salmon.
Q. It is notes made by Mr Salmon at the time?
A. Yes, in the facilitated meeting, yes.
Q. Yes.
A. Certainly, as I mentioned a moment ago, Bishop Clarke initiated the contact with the bishop in the Philippines.
Q. We've seen letters about that?
A. That's correct. And then I took up the matter with the Nuncio in Canberra, and Monsignor Hart had written to the bishop. So, in that sense, I had some involvement in writing to the Philippines. But to the bishops in Western Australia, I can't recollect writing to them nor can I recollect saying that.
Q. Are you saying, first of all, you can't recollect writing to the bishops in Western Australia or warning them, even orally, about McAlinden's history?
A. No, I can't remember that, no, but I think McAlinden's history was known. Now, whether it was known through Bishop Clarke, or from myself, to the bishops of Western Australia, it was certainly known.
Q. Are you asserting now that that comment attributed to you that you had personally liaised with bishops in Western Australia to warn them of McAlinden's history is not something you said in that meeting?
A. I can't recollect that I said that.
Q. If you said that, it would not have been true or it would have been true?
A. The only - the only thing that would have been true would be a verbal communication.
Q. In terms of any liaison you had with the bishops in the Philippines, would you agree with me that that liaison where there was warning about McAlinden's history occurred after he had had a period working over there?
A. Yes, that's correct.
Q. And that's of necessity because you didn't come into knowledge about McAlinden's presence in the Philippines until you came to the diocese?
A. Until I was in the diocese in 1995, yes.
Q. Would you agree with me that documents that you've seen that Bishop Clarke wrote to the Philippines about McAlinden's history of offending with children also were sent somewhat after the event?
A. No, I can't recollect the chronology of that, but I --
Q. The documents will show that and they're not your documents, so I won't take time going through them. Did you say to [AC] at any time that you were going to provide the whole of McAlinden's file to the police for investigation?
A. I can't recollect saying that. Does it say that here?
Q. No. I'm just asking whether you recollect?
A. No, I don't remember saying that.
Q. In a phone call around about 9 August 2002, where you were discussing attendance by [AC] at the Towards Healing procedures that you were involved in?
A. No, I can't remember saying that.
Q. Bishop, do you have in the witness box in front of you volume 5 of the materials?
A. I've put it back but I'll get it again. Right.
Q. Do you see, Bishop Malone, it is a copy of an email
from the Professional Standards Office, Mr Davoren?
A. Behind tab what?
Q. Tab 371.
A. Yes, I see.
Q. Do you see that Mr Davoren is informing you that he has done what you have asked and notified the police about complaints? Do you see that?
A. Yes, I see that.
Q. And that the police have given him information as well about some of the things that they knew?
A. Right. Yes.
Q. That shows, doesn't it, the process that you have been giving evidence about?
A. I can see that.
Q. It seems to have worked in the way that you expected it to in March 2003 at least?
A. Yes, certainly that.

MS LONERGAN: I tender that, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. What tab was it?
MR BARAN: Tab 371.
THE COMMISSIONER: Tab 371, email from Mr Davoren to Bishop Malone of 4 March 2003 will be admitted and marked exhibit 100.

EXHIBIT \#100 EMAIL FROM MR DAVOREN TO BISHOP MALONE OF 4/3/2003 (TAB 371)

MS LONERGAN: Q. Bishop, could you turn to tab 372 - and this document should probably be tendered with the last exhibit - do you see that's a form used by the Professional Standards Office, as you understand it?
A. I understand. I didn't - I'd never seen these before, but $I$ understand it is.
Q. In the form is information that you provided to Mr Davoren for forwarding on to the police?
A. Correct, yes.
Q. You will see under the "Offence details" part of the form there's mention of one complaint having been received in 1999?
A. Yes .
Q. Do you see that? I want to suggest to you that that was [AE]?
A. Okay.
Q. Yes? Did you have other complaints in 1999 that you were aware of about McAlinden?
A. I don't think I did at that point, no.
Q. Just check the pseudonym list and be comfortable that we're talking about the same complaint?
A. [AE]?
Q. [AE].
A. Yes, I've got it, thank you.
Q. So do you agree that's one you knew about in $1999 ?$
A. That would be about right, yes.
Q. It was late 1999, October?
A. Okay.
Q. Then one in 2001; do you see?
A. Yes.
Q. I want to suggest to you that that's [AC]?
A. Okay.
Q. It appears from the documents that we have seen that [AC] came forward in 2002, so are you able to assist with whether there was somebody else in 2001 who complained about McAlinden?
A. No, I don't know who that would have been. My contact with [AC] came originally through the New South Wales Professional Standards Group. She'd made a complaint in the Towards Healing process, yes.
Q. I took you to her complaint briefly yesterday.
A. You did, yes.
Q. The date of that complaint was June 2002. I'11 just check that I've got that correct. You have volume 5 there with you, don't you?
A. I think that's the one we're looking at.
Q. Yes, you do. Have a look at tab 344. Do you see that's a statement of complaint by [AC]?
A. I've got it, yes. Yes, we have seen this.
Q. Do you remember yesterday I took you to the part where [AC] said she would like her information to be used in corroboration?
A. Yes, I remember.
Q. You acknowledged that you would have read that?
A. Yes, I would have, yes.
Q. I want to understand who it is that is being reported here in this particular form that we're looking at behind tab 372. We've got --
A. We've determined [AE].
Q. We've determined [AE]. The other one is talking about a complaint in 2001, but it is clear, isn't it, that [AC] was 2002?
A. Correct, yes.
Q. Did you ever hear of a complainant about McAlinden whose pseudonym is [AF]? You'11 have to have a look at the list because she's a new one.
A. I've got the old pseudonym list; is that correct?
Q. She will be on there, but I meant new in terms of I haven't raised her with you.
A. Oh, I see. No, I have no recollection of that name at a11.
Q. Can we take it that the information you've provided to Mr Davoren that ended up in this form can't have been [AF]? A. I don't think so.

MR HARBEN: Can't have been sorry, what?
MS LONERGAN: [AF]. Do you have that, Mr Harben?
MR HARBEN: Commissioner, that doesn't follow. First of all, this document is not the document of this witness. Whilst the witness has conceded that he provided information to Mr Davoren, he has said that he has no recollection of someone in 2001.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MR HARBEN: So he can't be asked to express an answer to a positive assertion about, one, something in a document not created by him, and, two, about a year he has no knowledge of.

MS LONERGAN: I take my learned friend's point.

THE COMMISSIONER: There may not be such a mystery. Do you see there, Ms Lonergan, the dates of birth of the two complainants appear to be 1942, which is consistent for [AE], and 1949. Perhaps if [AC]'s date of birth is in 1949, that would lend weight to it being that same complainant and just an error in the year. Would that be right?

MS LONERGAN: That is possible. I was just trying to understand if that was --

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, working out if that was done.
MS LONERGAN: -- something we could establish by going through the document in that way.

MR BARAN: Commissioner, could I rise to raise one matter?
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Baran.
MR BARAN: In volume 4, tab 304, 1999 appears to be complaints regarding McAlinden involving [AL] and [AK], not [AC] or [AE]. That's the letter from Father Burston, the vicar general of 10 August 1999 to Mr Davoren at Professional Standards. The document that's been now shown to the bishop, I'm just unsure as to whether or not that in fact the 1999 persons who were complaining should additionally be [AL] and [AK] or should just be [AL] and [AK] or [AC] and --

MS LONERGAN: I am sorry, I don't understand Mr Baran's statement. Is it an objection?

MR BARAN: No. There was a question as to who the complainants were, but it was whether there were any additional complainants in respect of this particular form that's been shown to the bishop now.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, because the document in 304 suggests that they came forward in --

MR BARAN: [AL] and [AK] - around the same time.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. All right.
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, I've already established,

I thought, with this witness yesterday, that it was his understanding that the document Mr Baran has just referred to was intelligence that was passed on about [AK] and [AL] as confirmed by the letters of his then vicar general, Father Burston.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MS LONERGAN: And this document we're looking at now behind tab 372 is regarding other complainants, but let me ask some questions to satisfy Mr Baran's concerns.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Lonergan.
MS LONERGAN: Q. Bishop, did you have a practice in 2003 of notifying more than once about complainants had you al ready notified to the PSO?
A. Sorry, could you re-ask that?
Q. Yes. Did you have a practice in 2003 of contacting Mr Davoren at the PSO and telling him again about information you had already provided him some years before regarding complainants about McAlinden?
A. I would think that I would not have repeated my contact there.
Q. Mr Davoren has recorded that the church appointed two independent investigators, one for each complaint. Do you see that?
A. Yes, I see that.
Q. I'm taking care to avoid any unnecessary traversing of areas that we don't need to cover. Let me ask you this question: if the complaints that are referred to in this document were received by the diocese in 1999 and 2001, are you able to say whether you provided the information that Mr Davoren seems to have on this form to the PSO earlier than March 2003?
A. I would think not.
Q. Are you able to say what prompted that information to be provided in March 2003 as opposed to at an earlier time?
A. I suppose simply as the momentum was building against McAlinden with the 1999 notification about [AK] and [AL], and then two more people coming forward, [AC] and [AE], then the notifications were additional ones - I'm losing myself a bit here. What --
Q. No, that's fine.
A. Is that okay?
Q. Was it your practice at the time to provide information to the Professional Standards Office within a short time frame of receiving complaints?
A. Yes, it was, yes.
Q. Would you agree with me that if the complaints were received in 1999 and 2001 and this was the first time you advised Mr Davoren about them, that wasn't a short time frame?
A. Well. 1999 was handled in 1999.
Q. No, I'm talking about the two that are referred to in the document behind tab 372.
A. Right. And your question again, sorry?
Q. My question is: if you received the complaint in 1999 - let's take them one at a time. If you received a complaint in 1999 and the first time you advised Mr Davoren was March 2003, about that complaint, you would agree with me, wouldn't you, that that wasn't advising him about it within a short time?
A. That's not, no. I would agree with you.
Q. You would agree with me? If the complaint was received in 2001 and you didn't advise him about it until March 2003, that's not within a short time frame?
A. No, it's not, no.
Q. If you said that neither complainant was prepared to talk to the police, but one of the complainants was a reference to [AC], that's not quite a true reflection of what [AC] told you, is it, in her statement of complaint? A. [AC] included the rider that she would be happy for her situation to be used to corroborate another.
Q. You didn't read that as that she'd be happy to talk to the police?
A. Well, she would have been happy to talk to the police, if she was put into the position where she should.
Q. Can we take it from your answer that you didn't tell Mr Davoren, as part of your notification here, about that rider that [AC] had provided?
A. Well, Mr Davoren had access to the complaint.
Q. I beg your pardon?
A. Mr Davoren had access to the complaint that she had made to the Professional Standards.
Q. Was he permitted to forward that complaint in its entirety, with that rider handwritten in it, to the police? A. No, probably not to the police, since they'd requested that the police not be involved, but he certainly sent it to me.
Q. He sent the complaint to you?
A. Yes.
Q. Was the arrangement at that time that Mr Davoren could use his discretion to provide whatever documents he wanted to the police to assist with any investigation they might wish to do?
A. No, that was not the custom at all. The head of church - in my case the bishop, myself - is the one who has the call upon how these matters are processed.
Q. So he would have to get back to you and you would need to okay it?
A. Yes, he would liaise with me as to where we would go and he would advise accordingly if he thought the matter should be taken to the police.

MS LONERGAN: I've finished with that document. Did I tender it, Commissioner?

THE COMMISSIONER: No, you haven't yet.
MS LONERGAN: Could I tender that as part of the last exhibit, the document that appears behind tab 372.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Lonergan. The document that appears behind tab 372, headed "Child sexual abuse information dissemination to NSW Police Service Child Protection Enforcement Agency, notifying officer, John Davoren, for the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle" will be admitted as part of exhibit 100.

EXHIBIT \#100 ADDITION OF DOCUMENT, HEADED "CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION TO NSW SERVICE FORCE CHILD PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" (TAB 372)

MS LONERGAN: Q. I'm moving on to a different topic, now, Bishop Malone. Do you recall in August 2005 you had a person working for you called Helen Keevers?
A. Yes.
Q. What was her role in the diocese?
A. Helen Keevers in 2005 was the director of our Child Protection Unit.
Q. Did Helen Keevers tell you that she had found out information that McAlinden had been found in Western Australia and was in failing health, or words to that effect?
A. I don't recollect her telling me that. She certainly told me a lot of things, but I don't --
Q. All right. Do you recall you yourself becoming aware of McAlinden having been located in Western Australia before his death?
A. Yes, I think so.
Q. Did you take any steps yourself to let the police know about his location or was the context that that information was already known to the police, as you understood it? A. I don't know whether the police knew and I don't know whether - if he was in the similar location to where he had been before, then the police would have already had that information.
Q. Are you able to pinpoint when you first knew that he had been actually located in Western Australia?
A. No, I'm unable to say that.
Q. Can we take it that you're also unable to say whether you conveyed any of that information to the police officer Flipo, who had been noted as somebody who contacted the diocese for information?
A. Yes, I'm unable to say that.
Q. You're unable to say whether Sergeant Watters was contacted either? He is the fellow who sent the letter in October 1999?
A. No, I'm unable to say that also.
Q. While we are on the subject of Ms Keevers, did you at any time authorise Ms Keevers to release documents
regarding McAlinden to one of his victims?
A. This issue has arisen in the course of this inquiry, and my normal practice would be not to release documents to victims of sexual abuse, but I think, in the case of [AL], Helen Keevers made the suggestion that it would help [AL] enormously were she to have access to documents which would show her what the church was doing.
Q. Had done?
A. Was doing with regard to progressing her case, and

I may have said yes to that, I think. I don't - there's no written authorisation or anything, but it would have been a verbal okay.
Q. Was the nature of the documents historical in terms of it showed actions that were taken by the church some time before they were provided to Ms [AL]?
A. Yes. I didn't identify which particular documents, but Helen Keevers was sure that some of them would be of comfort to [AL].
Q. You allowed Ms Keevers to choose which documents she ought to --
A. Yes, I think so, yes.
Q. Did Ms Keevers have access to the confidential personnel files held in your office for that purpose?
A. She did, yes, with my approval.
Q. At some point was it the situation, bishop, that some of the information on at least McAlinden's confidential personnel file was copied over to the Zimmerman Services files?
A. It could easily have been, yes. I know there were duplications on a number of matters.
Q. Why was that done?
A. Just for ease of access. I mean, the office for the Child Protection Unit was at a distance from my own office and the inconvenience of going from one place to the other just to pick up some papers was great. So I was happy for duplication to take place.
Q. Was Zimmerman Services or Zimmerman House set up in 2005? Was that when it was set up?
A. Yes. There was a study paper done in 2004 outlining how we would progress with the Child Protection Unit, and
it came into effect, from memory, in 2005.
Q. Were you, at that stage, content for staff of Zimmerman Services to see material that was on McAlinden's confidential file?
A. To - sorry, to see?
Q. To see and to have access to?
A. Yes, I was, yes.
Q. Had you, by that stage, formed a view that there was no impediment to you allowing staff of Zimmerman Services to see all that material?
A. To --
Q. See the material, the confidential material on McAlinden's file?
A. No, I had no worries about that at all because the staff of Zimmerman House, as it was later known, were very professional and competent and I had great confidence in them.
Q. You're aware, aren't you, that there were assertions made surrounding the material provided to [AL] that that had been provided as a type of leak from the diocese; that is, an unauthorised provision of confidential material outside of the diocese?
A. Yes, it was more than that material. It was a lot of other material as well.
Q. I don't want to talk about the other material as well, but in relation to the material that you've mentioned you permitted or you think you permitted Ms Keevers to provide to [AL] to assist her in her understanding of what the diocese had done about McAlinden --
A. Yes .
Q. -- you're aware, aren't you, that that was described as a leak of confidential material?
A. I don't know about that specific information, but doubled with the other matters, yes, I think.
Q. But at least in relation to the material you said Ms Keevers could give to [AL], that wouldn't be a proper description, would it, because it was authorised by you? A. No, certainly not. It was authorised by myself, yes.
Q. It was authorised by you because you saw that as something that would assist [AL] in her --
A. Indeed, yes, I did.
Q. You're aware, bishop, aren't you, that there's a requirement at canon law that bishops keep secret archives regarding priests?
A. Yes .
Q. Did you follow that requirement whilst you were Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle?
A. I did, yes.
Q. You're aware, aren't you, that the requirement relating to those confidential documents includes a requirement that, in the diocesan curia, there's a secret archive, or at least in the ordinary archive there be a safe or cabinet which is securely closed and bolted and which can't be removed and, in this archive, documents which are to be kept under secrecy are to be most carefully guarded?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that what you would do with your confidential or secret files?
A. That's what we did eventually, yes, particularly following the Ombudsman's inquiry of 2004, and there were recommendations then made for far better filing, I think just prior to that from the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations. So all of that came at around about the same time.
Q. Prior to 2004, you didn't necessarily comply with that particular requirement in terms of security of your secret archive?
A. Certainly the files were not as secure as they could have been, but we rectified that rather smartly.
Q. In the case of McAlinden, you were prepared to allow for photocopies to be made of some confidential material so that Zimmerman Services could use it in their work?
A. Yes.
Q. One of the other provisions of the canon is that each year - this is again relating to the secret archives documents of criminal cases concerning moral matters are to be destroyed whenever the guilty party has died or 10 years
have elapsed since a condemnatory sentence concluded the affair. A short summary of the facts are to be kept separate together with the text of the definitive judgment. First of all, are you able to say - did you follow that particular canon regarding destruction of documents regarding criminal cases concerning moral matters?
A. No, I didn't destroy any documents in my time as bishop. Perhaps I should have. They're all here.
Q. Did you class the steps that, to your knowledge, were taken in relation to McAlinden to be criminal cases concerning moral matters?
A. I was - you know, I was coming to terms with the nature of the criminal activity of McAlinden. This was part of the growing awareness within myself of these matters.
Q. My question is a little bit more based in the canon itself. Were those documents, such as you saw, ones that fitted the category of criminal cases concerning moral matters in terms of canon law or you just can't get that specific as you're not a canon law scholar?
A. You know, I know canon law and it is an important part of church life, but I'm not a canonist, and I don't rigorously observe --
Q. And - I'm sorry?
A. I didn't rigorously observe that aspect of it.
Q. Is there a difference between secure filing and a secret archive?
A. No, not really, not in my mind.
Q. You made a joke to the effect that you should have destroyed documents in relation to, no doubt McAlinden, but speaking seriously --

MR HARBEN: I don't think the witness said that.
MS LONERGAN: Let me put the question more carefully, thank you, Mr Harben.
Q. You made a joke to the effect that you should have destroyed documents?
A. No, no, no, I'm saying --
Q. I beg your pardon?
A. I wasn't saying I should have destroyed documents, no.

THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe he should have.
MS LONERGAN: Q. I'm trying to actually fix it for the record and I'm making it worse. You made a comment - and it was a jocular comment - that maybe you should have destroyed documents.
A. Well, only insofar as we might not be in this room now, had I destroyed them.
Q. But you, of course, did not do so and you've kept them and provided such documents as you are aware of --
A. Yes.
Q. -- and have in your custody and control to assist the Commission?
A. Yes.
Q. Whilst you were bishop, you did not on any occasion, did you, ask staff to destroy documents?
A. No, I did not.
Q. Particularly no documents relating to Fletcher or McAlinden?
A. No documents relating to anybody.
Q. In your role as bishop, do you have an obligation to prevent circumstances occurring that bring scandal on the church?
A. Yes, of course.
Q. Is that a fundamental obligation that you take an oath about when you're sworn in as bishop or is it a clergy obligation? What's its content?
A. It is not an oath that you take, but it is certainly a role that the bishop would have to avoid scandalous situations touching the church, yes.
Q. So, as bishop, did you initially try to defend the reputation of the church in the way you dealt with allegations of sexual abuse on the part of McAlinden and Fletcher?
A. I think as a priest for nearly 50 years and a bishop for nearly 20 now, you're caught up in the whole ethos and environment of the church and, therefore, since you're serving the church as a priest and bishop, there is a
tendency naturally to want to defend the organisation to which you belong. So, yes, I was conscious of the fact that these issues of sexual abuse were in fact impinging upon the stability of the church, and I regretted that and, in my earlier time particularly, I tried to prevent that from causing damage to the church by trying to play it down perhaps a little.
Q. Do you think given those considerations, that they affected your decision as to whether or not to provide certain information to the police?
A. Oh, my practice with the police has been, you know, open house really. They didn't really have to bring a warrant to look at files, and so on, after we'd got into the swing of handling these things a lot better. I would not have wanted to have thwarted any police investigation at all, either in the days when $I$ was wrestling with the scandal situation touching the church or subsequently.
Q. You would appreciate there is a difference between thwarting a police process or investigation and, on the other hand, assisting it.
A. Yes.
Q. Is it your view that you have always assisted police investigations?
A. Well, certainly in latter years I have. In those earlier years, as these matters were first beginning to surface, it wasn't an easy thing to do, but, you know, these were part of my growing in the whole awareness of these situations.
Q. From your answer, can we take it that there was a point at which you altered the way you went about these things, or was it a more subtle development and when did these changes or more subtle developments occur?
A. I would not have deliberately denied access by the police to documents.
Q. Yes.
A. So I would not have deliberately stymied any investigation; but a growing awareness, yes, that's the way I've been describing it.
Q. You have given evidence about having an epiphany as to the way you should deal with these matters of sexual abuse --
A. Yes.
Q. -- around about the time of the Ombudsman's inquiry into matters relating to you and the CCER, I think the organisation is called, in 2004?
A. Yes, correct.
Q. Are you dating your development as to the need to be more open about these matters as before 2004 or after it or when?
A. Certain1y, by 2004, I was hooked on being much more transparent and open about things, yes, so --
Q. Did you find --
A. -- that's what I'm calling the epiphany.
Q. Did you find that to be a difficult thing because of the church culture and the closeted environment relating to it?
A. I did, because that was still alive and well in many sections of the church, but I came to the conclusion around about that time that I couldn't sit on the fence and, on the one hand, try to defend the church and, on the other hand, try to look after the interests of victims of sexual abuse. So I publicly stated that I was prepared now to look after the interests of victims of sexual abuse.
Q. Did you encounter any resistance from the priests of the Maitland-Newcastle diocese to that whole matter of sexual abuse by clergy?
A. The resistance was never overt, but I sensed it, yes, by some.
Q. And did that resistance that you sensed improve with time or not?
A. I'd say not.
Q. You gave some evidence yesterday to the effect that your stance on child sexual abuse did manage to put you offside with some of your contemporary bishops, at least I put that proposition to you and you accepted it. Did you find that your stance on these matters managed to put you offside with others, other senior parts of the church?
A. Other than bishops?
Q. Yes. Or there is none - just the pontiff?
A. No, I don't know of any others necessarily. I mean,
the whole issue of sexual abuse by its nature is very divisive, so when you take a stance one way or the other, you're going to create some difficulties somewhere along the line.
Q. Bishop, you mentioned that from other priests in the Maitland-Newcastle diocese there was some resistance that you said was not overt. What was the nature of that resistance, if it wasn't overt?
A. It was more a sense of non-cooperation, if I could say.
Q. How did that evidence itself?
A. By non-cooperation.
Q. Non-cooperation with what types of things?
A. Well, it was a case of, you know, I think they were I think that there were a number of people who were hoping I'd just go away, you know, which I eventually did.
Q. And that non-cooperation continued until your resignation, did it?
A. I'd say so, yes.
Q. In May 2010, you took the step of publishing a formal apology to the community and particularly addressed to those who had been abused by clergy, sexually abused by clergy?
A. Yes, we felt the need to do that.
Q. When you say "we", you did it?
A. Yes, it was certainly under my auspices. I took advice from my executive committee.
Q. It was you as Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle?
A. I signed it.
Q. Yes. You weren't told to do that by the Catholic Bishops Conference or anyone else, were you?
A. No, certainly not.
Q. Did you tell the Catholic Bishops Conference you were going to take that step?
A. Not at all, no.
Q. Did you copy flak for doing so?
A. I don't know that they knew about it, frankly, because
it was in the local paper.
Q. Behind tab 494 appears a text of that apology.
A. In volume?
Q. In volume 7. Would you just turn that up.
A. Yes.

MS LONERGAN: I'11 tender that document, Commissioner.
THE COMMISSIONER: The document headed "An apology from Bishop Michael Malone to the community", dated 8 May 2010, behind tab 494, will be admitted and marked exhibit 101.

EXHIBIT \#101 DOCUMENT HEADED "AN APOLOGY FROM BISHOP MICHAEL MALONE TO THE COMMUNITY" DATED 8/5/2010 (TAB 494)

MS LONERGAN: Q. There are just a couple of short matters to tidy up, Bishop Malone. We'11 come back to that apology at the end.
A. Yes .
Q. Were you a friend of Fletcher's whilst he was a priest of the diocese and before his arrest?
A. I wouldn't have called him a friend, no.
Q. Did you feel any conflict on a personal level when allegations of sexual abuse were made against him? A. On a personal level? Well, only insofar as the allegation of sexual abuse against a priest, any priest, was abhorrent to me; so, in that sense, yes, I was affronted by that situation.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, would that be a convenient time?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you Ms Lonergan. How long? MS LONERGAN: Unti1 11.45.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. I will adjourn until 11.45.
SHORT ADJOURNMENT
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, I apologise for that slightly longer morning tea adjournment. There were matters that needed to be attended to, and I apologise for keeping you
waiting, Bishop Malone.
There has been a request by the media for exhibits to be released, numbers 97 to 101 inclusive. Could parties at the Bar table let staff of the Special Commission of Inquiry know whether they have any objections to those documents being released to the press by a quarter past one.
Q. Bishop Malone, I'm nearly finished. You will be relieved to know we're nearly finished.
A. I'm pleased to hear that, thank you.
Q. On Thursday morning, I asked you some questions about when you'd first seen that 1976 letter between Monsignor Cotter and then Bishop Clarke. Do you remember that?
A. I remember we spoke about that, yes.
Q. You answered to the effect you thought you first saw it in the late 1990s and into the early 2000s?
A. Right.

MS LONERGAN: For those at the Bar table, I'm looking at transcript page 851.
Q. I'll put the specific questions and answers to you. On page 851 at line 19, I asked you:
Q. No doubt you're well aware of a letter that has received a bit of media attention that goes back to 1976 between Monsignor Cotter and Bishop Clarke?
A. Yes, I'm aware of that letter.
Q. When did you first become aware of that letter?
A. It wouldn't have been until after

Bishop Clarke had retired and I was the bishop of the diocese at that time.

Then I asked you:
Q. That covers a 16-year period. At what point?
A. It was fairly early in the piece, I have to say. It probably would have been around about the late 1990s, into the early

2000s that I encountered that letter.
Do you remember giving that evidence?
A. I do, yes.
Q. Then I asked you:
Q. How did you encounter it?
A. I'm not sure. It was obviously
triggered by something, yes, but I can't recall what that was.

And then I asked you:
That file --
I think I corrected that to say "that letter" --
lived on McAlinden's file, didn't it? I'm sorry, that document was on McAlinden's personnel file, wasn't it?
A. Yes, I believe so.
A. Yes.
Q. Then I asked you some other questions on page 852, at lines 6 to 25 . I was trying to find out or place in time what circumstances led to you seeing that letter?
A. Yes.
Q. And I asked you:
Q. [AC] was 2001. [AE] was 1999. Does that assist you as to whether that's when you opened McAlinden's file and had a look at --
A. It may have been, yes.

Then I asked you:
Q. It may have been. Was it October 1999, a Towards Healing application?
A. On the part of [AE]?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes.
Q. Does that ring a bell as something that prompted you to go and look at McAlinden's
file?
A. It would have done, yes.
Q. You saw that 1976 letter at that point the Cotter/Clarke letter?
A. At some point I did. Whether it was precisely October 1999 or not, I don't know.

What I want to ask you is whether you're confident as to when you first saw the Cotter/Clark letter or you're very much uncertain about that matter, or uncertain, or how would you class the strength or otherwise of your recollection of that?
A. Yes. Look, it's very hazy. I don't have any recollection of when I saw it.
Q. If I suggest to you that you saw as it early as 1996 or 1997, is that something that you would disagree with?
A. I would think that's probably a little early.
Q. Do you recall stating on a previous occasion that you had seen that letter in 1996 or 1997?
A. I don't remember saying that, no.
Q. Do you recall saying earlier that the circumstances of you finding that letter would have been digging into the file and you found the letter then?
A. Yes. Yes.
Q. When you say you recall --
A. Yes, I would have --
Q. -- that was the position?
A. I would have found it in the file, yes.
Q. Do you disagree it would have been as early as 1996 or 1997?
A. I would imagine so, but I can't be sure.
Q. So, from your answer, do we take it that you don't agree that it was as early as 1996 or 1997 ?

MR HARBEN: I think the witness has answered that about three times. He qualified the answer, firstly, by saying it's a completely hazy recollection. My learned friend has now taken him to the same question three times. He has said that, in his recollection, 1996 or 1997 appears to be
a bit early.
THE COMMISSIONER: A little early, yes.
MR HARBEN: That's what he said.
THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, that's right, Ms Lonergan.
MS LONERGAN: I'm trying to get clarification to make sure I understand the witness's evidence. I'm not meaning to badger him or make life difficult for him. That's why I prefaced the series of questions to be how strong or otherwise his recollection was to give him an opportunity to explain that it is not a very strong recollection.
Q. Bishop, is it the position you're unable to assist the Commission at all in terms of recollection as to the circumstances in which you became aware of the Cotter/Clarke letter?
A. Yes, I'd say it is, yes. I did see it, but when or how or what prompted it, I'm not sure.
Q. In terms of you discussing it with any other officials of the Maitland-Newcastle diocese, again, are you able to assist with recollection as to who you discussed it with, if anyone?
A. No, I don't know that I discussed it with anyone, which is not to say I didn't, but I have no recollection.
Q. You just don't remember?
A. Yes.
Q. Thank you. In terms of the apology that I took you to before the break --
A. Yes, I have it here.
Q. It is behind tab 494. What led you to publish that apology?
A. The apology was published by the diocese in a rather unprecedented way because there was a certain amount of negative publicity going out of the Newcastle Herald, and we had been trying to do good things through Zimmerman House, but that message was not being communicated widely. So, on the strength of that, we issued this public ad in the newspaper.
Q. Did you also deliver that apology from the pulpit in a
preaching capacity?
A. No, I didn't, no. I mean, I had done that on previous occasions.
Q. On previous occasions the same kind of sentiments were expressed from the pulpit?
A. Yes, pretty much, yes.
Q. Was that in 2010 or earlier?
A. Earlier than 2010. This would have been getting near towards the end of the last things that I was doing, which - I retired 12 months after this.

MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, I tender the document that I showed Bishop Malone dated 2 September 2002, the summary of facilitated meeting.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. The document headed, "Towards Healing summary of facilitated meeting" - held in Sydney on 29 August 2002 - will be admitted and marked exhibit 102.

EXHIBIT \#102 DOCUMENT HEADED,"TOWARDS HEALING SUMMARY OF FACILITATED MEETING" - MEETING HELD ON 29/8/2002 (TAB 102)

MS LONERGAN: That's the examination, Commissioner. Because we now need to convene some in-camera hearings this has been discussed with the legal representatives present and, as well, notified to members of the press and public - it is proposed that we adjourn, at least for a short period, in terms of the legal practitioners to ascertain the way in which we'11 manage those in-camera hearings.

In terms of the press and the members of the public who are present in court, we can safely say that they should be gone until 2 o'clock. It is a little difficult to predict how long the in-camera hearings will take. So, at this stage, as presently advised, members of the press and public would not be permitted access to the court until at least 2 pm .

THE COMMISSIONER: Is it a possibility, then, that no public hearing would resume on this day?

MS LONERGAN: It is more than a possibility. I have been instructed to use that provisional time frame at least for
the moment, but it does appear most unlikely that any public hearings will continue today.

THE COMMISSIONER: I see. Thank you, Ms Lonergan.
MS LONERGAN: In that event, it is proposed that we would adjourn until 9am on Monday, but at this stage until 2 pm .

THE COMMISSIONER: Is it premature to adjourn the public hearings until 9am on Monday?

MS LONERGAN: I think it is premature to adjourn until 9am Monday, at this stage, but I will give an indication that that may be the position.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. Yes, Mr Gyles?
MR GYLES: Can I raise one matter while Bishop Malone is here? There is some material that Bishop Malone was taken to in cross-examination which has not been tendered. At some appropriate time, we would wish to do that. I refer, for example, to the document you saw, Commissioner, at 352. It could be done now, but I assume that, at some appropriate time, we can tender the documents in the bundle that we propose to put before him.

MS LONERGAN: I'11 tender the documents that were put to the witness. There is no need for Mr Gyles to feel that he has to do so. I'm happy to liaise with him as to which ones I have missed. I certainly meant to tender the relevant documents as I went and if I've missed any, I'd be very happy to do so.

THE COMMISSIONER: Doubtless Mr Gyles wishes them tendered at the same time as the other documents which perhaps he thinks may not be as favourable to his client as the ones he wished tendered; is that right, Mr Gyles? Is there a question of balance at the moment that must swiftly be redressed or can it wait?

MR GYLES: I wouldn't put it in that category. I'm happy to liaise with my learned friend.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Gyles. I will adjourn.
ADJOURNMENT

UPON RESUMPTION:
MS LONERGAN: Commissioner, for the benefit of those in the body of the court and those legal representatives who weren't present for the in-camera hearing that was just conducted, those who assist you have determined that the other in-camera hearings we need to attend to will take the rest of this afternoon, and also Bishop Malone needs to have a break now.

In those circumstances, Commissioner, it is proposed that we would adjourn the public hearings until 9.30 next Monday and proceed to conduct the further confidential hearings that we're proceeding with this afternoon.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Ms Lonergan. The public hearings are now adjourned until 9.30 on Monday.

AT 2.12PM THE COMMISSION WAS ADJOURNED TO MONDAY, 15 JULY 2013 AT 9.30AM

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