

Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q.C.

Owen Dixon Chambers West
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6 August 1999

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Private and Confidential

Attention Mr Paul Holdway
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Dear Sir

Re: Carmel Raffety

I refer to your letter of 29 July 1999 and confirm that I have seen Ms. Raffety on a number of occasions. I first saw her in the context of her complaining to me at the circumstances leading to her resignation from her position as a teacher at the Doveton school.

She also provided me with extensive information in relation to Fr. Searson and to complaints made about him by children at the school.

Ms. Raffety did not herself make any complaint of sexual abuse such that she would for that reason be within my jurisdiction.

In strictness, her complaint really amounts to a wrongful dismissal and that of course is not something which concerns me.

I will further review the matter in the light of some other investigations, I have had to conduct in respect of the school and Fr. Searson. I must make it clear that it is improbable I can assist Ms. Raffety. This I have previously informed

her. I will write to you when I have reviewed the matter, which I hope to do quite shortly.

Yours sincerely,


Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner