

Commission into Sexual Abuse
Peter O'Callaghan Q C

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PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter following our meeting on Friday, 7 November. I am very sorry at your upset as described in that letter, and I trust that this can be overcome.

I have and will pay regard to the matters you have raised so that hopefully we can move forward and deal with the problems you have raised.

Whilst you had at the end of our meeting raised your concerns at the premises, I did not think that your upset was referable to this, rather than to the matters we discussed.

Whilst I have no doubt that you believed I said the word "paranoid", I believe you misheard me. My clear recollection is that, when taking you to the side entrance, I said somewhat facetiously, I deal with "all sorts of people". I then said, again facetiously, "here is the door be gone".

Please be assured that the only person who should be blamed for the problems you perceived, is me. Whilst I was appointed by the Archbishop, I am quite independent of my appointor in just same way that a Royal Commissioner is independent of the Government which appoints it. It was I who approved the premises where you saw me.

I note that tape recording is my invariable method of recording the contents of my considerable number of interviews. If I did not do this, I would certainly have to make detailed notes in order to record what took place at the meeting. In the same way as I would refer to those notes, so do I refer to the transcript of the

interview. If any person requires a copy of that transcript the same is readily available.

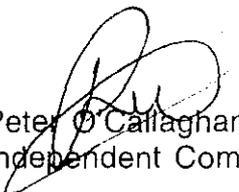
However, I confirm that pursuant to your request the subject transcript will not be transcribed. I add that the tape itself can only be played on a companion machine to the tape recorder itself. It cannot be played on an ordinary tape recorder. If you wish, and only if you wish, I will transcribe on to an ordinary tape the contents of the tape which I made on the day of our meeting. You can then have a tape of the meeting which you will be able to replay if you wish.

Finally, I repeat what I said on more than one occasion at the meeting, that if the only action you require me to take is to have Carelink be responsible for the fees of Mr. Shane Wall for your counselling, you are to let me know. Likewise, If you require me to take any of the other actions we discussed at the meeting, I believed that was something you would consider and get back to me.

Could I suggest that if you wish to see me again, and I believe you should, that our meeting take place at a most convenient spot for me, ie. my chambers at Owen Dixon Chambers West (Room 1815), 205 William Street, Melbourne.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours most sincerely,



Peter O'Callaghan
Independent Commissioner