

## Statement of Detective Superintendent John Kerlatec

### 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 8 April 2013, I say:

#### Preliminary matters

1. My full name is John Steven Kerlatec and I am a Detective Superintendent with the NSW Police Force (NSWPF).
2. I currently hold the position of Commander of the Sex Crimes Squad within NSWPF. I have held that position since February 2008.
3. This statement is prepared by me for the sole purpose of responding to a summons dated 5 April 2013 issued on 5 April 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

4. I was attested as a police officer in December 1978. After date of attestation, I was engaged in general duty police work until 1985. From 1985, I was engaged in criminal investigation for a period of two years and thereafter. I took up a posting with a drug task force. I have been involved in the investigation of serious crime since that period. I was promoted to the rank of superintendent in May 2003.
5. In my current role and function as the Commander of the Sex Crimes Squad, I am responsible for leading and co-ordinating NSWPF response to areas such as adult sexual assault and some aspects of child abuse. Also as part of my function, I am required to be the spokesperson in relation to those areas of crime.
6. The Sex Crimes Squad is a specialist unit containing a number of dedicated units within that major unit. Its work involves, amongst other things, areas of adult sexual assault, child abductions, and more serious crimes involving those areas as well as generally. The unit is regarded as having experts within the area or areas to be investigated. It consists presently of some 97 people. In general terms, I would describe the work of the unit as being those investigations that local area commands within New South Wales do not have the expertise to deal with. In terms of the functions of the Sex Crimes Squad, its prime role is to undertake its own investigations, or to otherwise assist the local area commands or other units in terms of carrying out their investigations. The Sex Crimes Squad does not merely provide resources to local area commands, and does not undertake investigations which are considered to fall within the abilities of local area commands themselves to carry out.

7. It is open to any local area command within New South Wales to seek the assistance of the Sex Crimes Squad. As indicated previously, the Sex Crimes Squad has defined roles and functions where they can assist the local area commands. No resourcing is to be provided in terms of allocation of personnel from the Sex Crimes Squad to be attached to any individual local area commands for the purposes of investigation on the sole basis the local area command has insufficient personnel to conduct the investigation.
8. The Sex Crimes Squad provides assistance in terms of the provision of expertise with respect to the taking of witness statements, evidence gathering tasks, and forensic examinations that may be required. It also provides some form of advisory assistance in terms of investigations being carried out. The Sex Crimes Squad can perform its functions in one of the following ways: firstly, a joint investigation with a local area command investigation by way of a joint strike force investigation can be agreed upon; secondly, the Sex Crimes Squad can take over completely any individual investigation that may be on foot; or, thirdly, the Sex Crimes Squad can provide assistance on a 24 hours per day, 7 day per week basis to any area up to 72 hours. As to which option is considered to be the most preferable is a matter of assessment, depending on the circumstances.

#### **Strike Force Lantle**

9. In relation to Strike Force Lantle, in my capacity as the Commander of the Sex Crimes Squad, I did not consider the investigation itself to have been complex. It was my view that in terms of what was required for the purposes of the investigation could be adequately dealt with by the Newcastle City Local Area Command.
10. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "A"** is a true copy of an email forwarded by Detective Inspector Paul Jacob to Detective Chief Inspector Brad Tayler on 20 May 2010. As at the date of the email being sent, it is my belief that I would have been aware that there would have been some form of request for assistance from the Newcastle City Local Area Command to the Sex Crimes Squad with respect to the investigation that was contemplated. The reason why I believe I would have been aware is because in terms of any approach made for assistance, whether on a formal or informal basis, Detective Inspector Jacob would apprise myself of any such request. At the time of the email, it was my understanding that there was no formal request yet on foot in terms of the assistance of the Sex Crimes Squad.
11. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "B"** is a document dated 5 September 2010 relating to correspondence received from the Commissioner's office on 20 August 2010, together with annexures. Such document is under the hand of Detective Sergeant R L McKey. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "C"** is a copy of the annexures referred to in the document dated 5 September 2010.
12. The document dated 5 September 2010 (annexure "B") contains an entry made by myself in my capacity as Director, Serious Crime Directorate. In the handwritten notation made by myself, I advised as follows:

*"Forwarded for consideration and attention of Det. Inspector Fox  
who had involvement in the 2004 investigation into Father Fletcher  
(FF): 7-9-10"*

13. The recommendation that was made within annexure "B" was to the effect that the attached correspondence was to be forwarded to the Central Hunter LAC for the attention of Detective Chief Inspector Fox and his response. It was my understanding that the document was to be forwarded to Detective Chief Inspector Fox for him to respond to the matters raised within the document, and within the annexure itself. I did not interpret the document itself to require Detective Chief Inspector Fox to undertake any investigation in relation to the matter, or to initiate any investigation himself. My reading of the document was that a ministerial action had been raised, and a ministerial response was being sought in relation to that response.
14. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "D"** is a true copy of a document prepared by Detective Inspector Paul Jacob on 10 December 2010. The recommendation made within such document is that a request for assistance from the Newcastle City Local Area Command be accepted with Detective Inspector Paul Jacob being allocated as a specialist consultant to Strike Force Lantle. At the time of the preparation of this document, I would have been briefed by Detective Inspector Jacob as to the request for assistance made, and the nature of assistance that was to be required by Strike Force Lantle. As the document itself indicates, Detective Inspector Jacob attended a meeting with officers from the Newcastle Local Area Command on 9 December 2010. At this meeting, an investigation plan was developed in relation to how the specific allegations made should be approached. Based on the information that had been provided to me by Detective Inspector Jacob, and the contents of the notes prepared by him on 10 December 2010, I was prepared to support the appointment of Detective Inspector Jacob as the consultant to Strike Force Lantle.
15. In my view, it was appropriate for Detective Inspector Jacob to be appointed as the consultant for a number of reasons. These included the fact that Detective Inspector Jacob was one of two managers within the Sex Crimes Squad at the time. He was familiar with the investigation required by Strike Force Lantle and, in my view, whilst both of the two managers were competent and had the professional expertise to assist, Detective Inspector Jacob was more suitable in the circumstances having regard to his previous knowledge of the matter, the fact that he was highly experienced and well versed in these types of investigations and, more importantly, was available and could manage it among his existing workload at that time. I had no doubt that he was in a position to provide whatever professional expertise and assistance that was going to be required from the police officers responsible for the investigation within the terms of Strike Force Lantle.
16. After the appointment of Detective Inspector Jacob as a consultant to Strike Force Lantle, I was aware that he did engage in communications with members of the Strike Force Lantle team. I was kept abreast of developments that occurred within the strike force and the assistance being provided by Detective Inspector Jacob to the strike force. On the basis of the information provided to me when I was briefed, I considered that the appointment of Detective Inspector Jacob remained an appropriate response with respect to the call for assistance, and there was no need to increase the level of support that was being provided to Strike Force Lantle.
17. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "E"** is a true copy of a memorandum prepared by Detective Inspector Paul Jacob dated 13 May 2011. As at that date, I would have seen the contents of such memorandum in my capacity as the Commander of the Sex Crimes Squad. I would be required to acknowledge such a memorandum and to endorse the contents of such a memorandum. In terms of the contents of the memorandum, it was my belief that what was contained within

the memorandum was appropriate and the observations, recommendations and suggestions made by Detective Inspector Jacob were appropriate and suitable for the purposes of Strike Force Lantle.

18. I am aware that upon completion of the investigation a brief prepared by Strike Force Lantle was forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions. I did see some documentation relating to the Strike Force Lantle investigation within the management investigation system that Detective Sergeant Little had put together. The material that I saw (and I believe that I saw such material in computerised form) captured and referenced the relevant data that related to the Strike Force Lantle investigation. Upon my reading of this material, I formed the belief that the investigation carried out by Strike Force Lantle was one of the better investigations that I had had the opportunity of reviewing over a considerable period of time.
19. In terms of the provision of formal progress reports by Detective Inspector Paul Jacob to myself during the time when he was a consultant to Strike Force Lantle, I can indicate that there were no formal documents that were produced by him. It is not the usual practice for consultants to an outside investigation to provide formal progress reports to myself as the commander. In the case of Strike Force Lantle, I was provided with ongoing verbal briefings by Detective Inspector Jacob with respect to the progress of the matter. Based on the verbal advice being provided to me, I formed the view that the progress of the consultancy provided to Strike Force Lantle was appropriate in the circumstances and that Detective Inspector Jacob was fulfilling his role as a consultant to the appropriate level.

---

Signed

Signature of John Steven Kerlatec

9 April 2013

Date

" A "

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**From:** Paul Jacob/18752/Staff/NSWPolice  
**To:** Brad Tayler/21627/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
**cc:** John Kerlatec/18457/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

---

**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2010 02:36PM  
**Subject:** Please contact [Redacted at Commissioner's direction] message from Jaco  
(Sex Crimes)

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Gooddays Brad

Hope you're all well up there Brad and not working too hard.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

I made some inquiries then spoke to Dave Waddell who indicated that he had forwarded a file to yourself.

I spoke to [Redacted] and advised him that this matter was the subject of a current assessment and that the Newcastle LAC is in charge of. I've indicated that I would identify who that person is and have them contact him.

Would you please contact him re this matter. From what I understand from Dave Waddell, although this inquiry/assessment may have to be handled with diplomacy there is no prospect of any criminal investigation outcomes as key persons (ie the offender and decision maker within the church) are both deceased.

Any problems with that please call me, I've just missed you the couple of times I've rang the office. My direct number is 88358700 or e/n 28700

Jaco

Kind Regards,

Paul Jacob  
Detective Inspector  
Manager Sex Crimes Team  
Sex Crimes Squad  
State Crime Command  
Ph 8835 8666  
Fax 8835 8688

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - A -  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Kerlatec  
SIGNED THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL 2013

[https://dommp07.glb.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/\(\\$Inbox\)/598986A543A8934...](https://dommp07.glb.police.nsw.gov.au/mail/21627.nsf/($Inbox)/598986A543A8934...) 20/05/2010

" B "

D/2010/133845

**ISSUE:**

Correspondence received from the Commissioners Office on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – regarding correspondence from BG –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 BG since replied to BG (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 at Commissioner's direction

inquiries conducted by this office indicate that Father James Patrick Fletcher was convicted of child sex offences in 2005 and in 2006 passed away whilst serving his custodial sentence. BG and her siblings were involved in the criminal proceedings against Father Fletcher.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

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 121049203 – 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 BG.

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED • B •  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Kerlatec  
SIGNED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April 2013

6

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

Signed

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

1. Commander, Sex Crimes Squad

NOTED. FORWARDED TO DIRECTOR PETER FOX (CENTRAL HUNTER LAC) FOR COMMENT. Signed

Michael Flaherty  
Detective Inspector  
6/9/2010

2. Director, Serious Crime Directorate

Forwarded for consideration and attention of Det Insp Peter Fox who had involvement in the DoA investigation into William Richardson 7-9-10

Signed

..... KERLATEO  
Detective Superintendent  
A/ Director

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 LAC where he is currently attached for attention as requested.

Signed

..... KERLATEO  
Commander  
CENTRAL HUNTER LAC  
9/9/10

4. Commander, Port Stephens

5. Det Insp Fox

cc: Director, Serious Crime Directorate - SCC Det Supt KERLATEO

" C "

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "C"  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Kevlatic

SIGNED THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL 2013



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

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

D/10/13 3845

M108376

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ron Johnson  
Manager  
Commissioner's Secretariat

**FROM:** Michelle Batterham  
Manager  
Ministerial Liaison Unit

**DATE:** 12 AUG 2010

**SUBJECT:** Ministerial correspondence from BC

The Minister has received the attached letter from BC and referred it to Commissioner Andrew Scipione AM.

This matter is forwarded for your information and referral to the relevant Command for consideration and appropriate attention.

A copy of the Parliamentary Secretary's reply to BC is also attached for your information.

Please note that the Ministerial Liaison Unit does not require a report in relation to this matter. I can be contacted on E/N 45276 for any queries on this issue.

Signed

Michelle Batterham  
Manager  
Ministerial Liaison Unit

Director/Commander SCC

- For attention and direct response O.B.D the Commissioner
- For attention and appropriate action O.B.D the Commissioner
- For advice, including draft response, by \_\_\_\_\_

Return via:  
 Chain of Command to Commissioner's Office to L.E.P.R

Manager, Secretariat  
Office of the Commissioner

Ext. 45442 CC:  
Fax. 45443 CC:  
Prev' Pages:

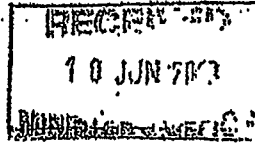
Signed

16/8/10



125

The Honorable John Hatzistergos  
NSW Attorney General  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St Sydney



Dear Sir,

I write to you regarding the possible cover up of the crimes of paedophile priests by senior people within the Catholic Church.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

3

I do not know anything about Fr McAlinden or NP3 but I do have a lot of experience of Fr James Fletcher.

My brother AB testified against Fletcher at his trial, and several members of my family including myself gave statements to the Police.

I know from media reports that Mr Peter Gogarty has said that he and other boys and young people were banned from the Bishop's House in Maitland and that he was then brought into the house by Fletcher by way of a back door.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

We used to enter the Bishop's House via a rear door into the kitchen. I remember often seeing other priests while I was in the house but cannot remember specifically which ones.

3

I do not personally know about any "bar", but I can say the following.

Myself and two of my siblings often spent time in the Bishop's House with Father Fletcher without our parents being present.

I was about 15 years old when Fletcher left the Bishop's House (around 1985). My brother AB (who was abused by Fletcher was 4 years younger than myself).

I started going there when I was about ten.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

I remember that later in his time at the Bishop's House Father Fletcher had an office in the annex at the back of the house and the Parish Secretary also sat there, but I only remember Fr Fletcher ever having a bedroom in the upstairs of the main part of the house.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

3:  
Father Fletcher abused my brother after leaving the Bishop's House - a part of AB's testimony referred to Fletcher abusing him when Fletcher was based at Denmat. How could anyone in the church let this keep happening to young boys?

Attached is a part of my Police statement which might be relevant to you.

BG

BG

7<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Extract from NSW Police Statement at Maitland Police Station on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004, taken by Detective Peter Fox.

As kids we always looked forward to Father Fletcher arriving and spending time with us. He seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of lollies, I cannot remember if he ate a lot of lollies himself, but there was always plenty for us kids. He liked the attention of us kids and took a delight in handing them out to us. I can recall that he had a jar of lollies at his residence at the back of the Bishops house; he also had bags of chips and cans of soft drinks. This thrilled us kids because there was no way mum and dad could afford to give us those sorts of things all the time and we would often ride our bikes to his residence. We often spent time up there with Father Fletcher, he helped me with some homework on one occasion, but it was mostly just his company and the goodies.

I recall that after a time AB became an altar boy, as did my other two brothers after they had made their first Holy Communion. I think they were about 8 or 9 years of age when they first started to serve on the altar. As a result of them working on the altar us kids would often walk to church with mum during the holidays for Friday Mass, but really I think we just wanted to see Father Fletcher & be given lollies & he would make a fuss over us. We all enjoyed his attention, we knew that we were one of his "Special Families" if I can put it that way. It was obvious to all of us that he would spend a lot more time with our family, call around home, talk to us after mass, that sort of thing. I have no doubt that other families would have been aware of this "special" relationship we had. We were not embarrassed or anything like that, we took a lot of pride in the fact that we had a special relationship with the parish priest.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

BC

COPY

Dear BC

I refer to your letter to the Attorney-General, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, regarding a possible conspiracy to conceal crime by senior clergy of the Catholic Church. The Minister for Police, Mr Michael Daley MP, has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Section 316 of the *Crimes Act 1900* makes it an offence for any person who knows another person has committed a serious indictable offence and has information which might be of material assistance in securing the apprehension or the prosecution or conviction of the offender to fail to bring that information to the attention the police or another appropriate authority.

In any prosecution, it would be necessary for the Crown to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the accused had knowledge of the offence and willingly withheld this information from appropriate law enforcement authorities.

However, section 316 also provides that a prosecution for this offence cannot to be commenced against a person if the knowledge or belief that an offence has been committed was formed or the information was obtained by the person in the course of exercising their vocation as a clergyman.

I have referred your concerns about this matter to the Commissioner of Police for consideration of the matters you raise.

Yours sincerely

Angela D'Amore MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Police

INT820P

New South Wales Police Service  
Intelligence Information System

D  
T  
P

Information Report Summary

Ref No	Short Title
I 21949203	POSSIBLE PAEDOPHILE NETWORK WITHIN CATHOLIC CLERGY

Intelligence Category

PAEDOPHILES

Status	REVIEWED
Security	IN-CONFIDENCE
Source	POLICE OFFICER
Admiralty Rating	A 1 CONFIRMED

Event Date From	30/08/2004 to 30/08/2004
Event Time From	15:00 to 15:01

Police Operation	ANPR Session (
Submitting Station	MAITLAND
Submitting Officer	FOX, PETER RAYMOND

Narrative

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

POI 2: FLETCHER, JAMES PATRICK  
RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANXTON, NSW, 2335

POI 3: RYAN, VINCENT GERARD  
COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW,  
For 2 years Police at Lower Hunter have been  
investigating allegations that Catholic Priest  
POI 2 had sexually abused a number of young boys.  
Two victims have indicated their intention to  
pursue the matters at court whilst the third  
wishes only to give evidence.

During investigations Police became aware that  
Priest POI 3 was committing similar offences  
against young boys at the same time POI 2 in a  
neighbouring parish. POI 3 has been convicted of  
sexual assaults against more than 30 young boys  
which occurred in overlapping periods as those  
connected with POI 2. Many of the alleged victims  
of both priests were altar boys at the times of  
the offences.

POI 3 has been convicted & is serving a  
substantive gaol sentence. POI2 is awaiting trial  
on 22/11/04. Throughout the investigation of POI  
2 members of the local clergy impeded police  
investigations. The local Bishop & other priests  
advised POI 2 of information not available to  
him at that time. Police felt many of the priests  
were reluctant to assist with inquiries & their  
memories failed in relation to significant events  
& conversations. During these inquiries Police  
were advised that a pornographic video of male to  
male (homosexual) sexual intercourse was  
allegedly found by POI 2 in the presbytery at

Information Report Summary

Narrative

Lochinvar. Police interviewed another priest who had occupied that presbytery earlier & he became upset & admitted to police he owned that video & being a close friend of POI 2 was given back the video which he had since destroyed.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

In view of all the circumstances surrounding these persons & their offences, the similarity of victim's ages, location of crimes & time frames there is concern that there may be a paedophile network within the Catholic Church & other cleregy members are assisting to conceal this. Police have notified the Ombudsman's office of concerns.

Entities

657816910	FLETCHER, JAMES	PERSON
	RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANXTON, NSW, 2335	
40034459	RYAN, VINCENT GERARD	PERSON
	COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW,	
16012225		PERSON

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

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INT820P

New South Wales Police Service  
Intelligence Information System

I  
I  
I

Information Report Summary

Referring Officer's Details:

Date Time Created : 02/09/2004 10:08  
Name of Officer : BURKE, JAMES  
Organisation Unit : CENTRAL HUNTER

Receiving Party's Details:

Attention Of : INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
Organisation Unit : SCC SEX CRIMES SQUAD  
Dissemination Reason : SUSPECTED PAEDOPHILE PRIESTS COLLUDING

Reviewing Officer : JUDGE, MARIA ANNE  
Date Time Reviewed : 02/09/2004 10:44

\* \* \* \* \* End of List \* \* \* \* \*

Totals :

Reports : 1

Criteria :

Ref No : I 21949203

Submission Details :

User : CONDON, CHRISTOPHER PATRICK  
Section : OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Branch : OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Terminal : PP14T001

\* \* \* \* \* End of Report \* \* \* \* \*

" D "

D/2010/82506

**ISSUE:**

Request for Sex Crimes Squad Specialist Consultancy by Newcastle LAC – Strike Force Lantle Investigation into the alleged concealment by Redacted at Commissioner's direction Bishop Michael Malone and others of sexual assaults committed by Dennis McAlinden (deceased).

**Background:**

It has been alleged that in 1995 members of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church became aware of serious allegations of sexual abuse on children by one its priests Father Dennis McAlinden (now deceased) and that they failed to report that information to police. Rather action was taken to have McAlinden removed as a priest under Canon Law. There has been considerable local media attention by one particular journalist with the Newcastle Herald who has reported on this alleged 'conspiracy'. A detailed report on this matter, by Detective Inspector Anthony Townsend Operations Manager Northern Region, dated 12 July 2010 is attached for information, if required.

**Comment:**

Although this matter has not been the subject of a previous formal SCC Request for Assistance, Detective Inspector Jacob, Sex Crimes Squad has on a number of occasions had verbal conversations with Det Insp Brad Taylor and others of Newcastle/North Region relating to this matter. A meeting was recently held by the Northern Region and Newcastle LAC Command and as a result Detective Jacob was contacted and requested to attend a meeting.

On Thursday 9 December 2010, Detective Jacob attended a meeting at the Newcastle LAC with the Operations Managers Northern Region Detective Inspector Parker and Townsend, Crime Manager Newcastle Detective Ch Inspector Taylor and Detective Sergeant Kirren Steel the OIC.

An investigation plan was developed to approach the specific allegations made. Detective Jacob assisted in developing the strategy to be used. And on Friday 10 December 2010 Jacob attended for the interview (expected to be lengthy) of a witness who was employed by the Catholic Diocese in the Newcastle area for 30 years and assisted in developing an interview plan for this witness. The course of this investigation will be dependent on the information/evidence provided by this witness.

Whilst this investigation will remain a Newcastle LAC led one it is appropriate that consideration be given to allocating Detective Jacob to Strike Force Lantle as a specialist consultant to assist Detective Sergeant Kirren Steel in her investigation. I have discussed this aspect with Detective Ch Inspector Taylor who agrees that this course will be beneficial to this investigation.

The investigation is being managed on e@gle.i. – Newcastle LAC Strike Force Lantle.

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED • D •  
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Kerlatec  
SIGNED THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL 2013

16



**Recommendation:**

It is recommended this RFA be accepted and Detective Jacob be allocated as specialist consultant to Newcastle LAC Strike Force Lantle.

Signed

Paul Jacob  
Detective Inspector  
Manager, Investigations  
Sex Crimes Squad  
10 December 2010

1. Commander Sex Crimes Squad

Supported. Det Insp Jacob is the most appropriate member of this Squad to provide consultancy support.

Signed

1 KERLATEC 10-12-10  
Deputy Superintendent

2. Director Serious Crime Directorate

Approved. It is appropriate for D/I JACOB to provide a consultancy to this investigation.

Signed

M. A. LANYON  
Detective Superintendent

10/12 Per Director  
Serious Crime Directorate

" E "



**NSW POLICE**  
www.police.nsw.gov.au  
ABN 45 409 615 160

**STATE CRIME COMMAND**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Little  
**CC:** Det Insp Graeme Parker (Crime Manager Investigations Newcastle)  
Det Supt John Kerlatec (Commander Sex Crimes Squad)  
**From:** Det Insp Paul Jacob Manager Sex Crimes  
**Date:** 13 May 2011  
**Subject:** S/F Lantle review of current position.

Dear Jeffrey

I have now had an opportunity of reviewing the documentation collected and investigative records held concerning the ongoing investigations into allegations of a 'cover up' by members of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church re child sexual assault allegations.

As indicated to you I have immediate concerns of the potential for 'mission creep' in relation to this investigation, this tendency is evidenced in media reports and other documents. I note that this investigation should remain focused upon the original mission - is there sufficient evidence to support charges of conceal serious offence(s) or similar by members of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese of the Catholic Church concerning allegations of sexual assault by *AL*  
*AK* Peter Cogarty and *AJ*

Additional allegations concerning the management of these types of matters by the Catholic Church should not form part of this investigation. Your mission should reflect that focus. (If any additional victims who come forward to police that are not connected to this investigation they should be managed under existing business rules).

It is clear that this 'investigation' will be the subject of continual media reporting, particularly by the Newcastle Herald and in my view, it is in the interests of the Newcastle LAC to commit to resolving the investigation as soon as possible.

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED " E " ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF John Kerlatec  
SIGNED THIS *9th* DAY OF *April* 2013

**Sex Crimes Squad**

NSW Police Headquarters Locked Bag 5102 Parramatta NSW 2124  
Tel (02) 8835 8686 Fax (02) 8835 8688 TTY (02) 9211 3776 (Hearing/Speech Impaired) Encl 28666 Efax 28668

REDACTED

Having reviewed the Strike Force Little Investigation Plan and other documentation held I make the following observations, recommendations and suggestions.

1. The 'mission' should be focused upon the original allegations. This mission should be reflected in the business documents (Investigation Agreement and Investigation Plan).
2. I support the Investigation Plan.
3. Although there are (and will continue to be) competing demands across the Newcastle LAC, it is apparent that unless there is a commitment to finalise this investigation it will continue to be the subject of adverse media comment.
4. Detective Sergeant Little and another experienced investigator should be appointed to primarily focus on this investigation until its resolved (in consideration of the historical impact competing priorities have had on this investigation thus far).
5. Although I would not normally do so, I strongly support the position that all victims or other key persons interviewed during this course of this investigation be done electronically. This will afford a very accurate account of the interview process and minimise the potential for adverse critique.
6. Further, whilst there may be some witnesses who strictly do not have cogent evidence concerning this investigations objective, I strongly suggest that efforts be made to secure statements/interviews with them. This will ensure that all available evidence is available to Det Sgt Little for his consideration. As importantly negate or at least minimise the potential for such persons to be used adversely in subsequent media reports. As an example - former NSWPF officer now MP for Dubbo Troy Grant who was nominated by Newcastle Herald Reporter Joanne McCarthy.
7. I recommend that all efforts be made to interview each of the subject persons of interest, Redacted at Commissioner's direction, Former Bishop of the Maitland Newcastle Diocese Michael Malone, Father Brian Lucas, Father Allan Hart.
8. Additionally other personnel attached to the Catholic Church should be interviewed on this matter they are Former Professional Standards Managers, John Davoren, Father Bill Burston and Former Sister Paula Redgrove

9. All efforts should be made to secure any relevant documentation held by the Catholic Church concerning the subject of this investigation.
10. Det Sgt Little should liaise with the Ombudsman concerning any relevant holdings on this investigation that they may have.
11. At the conclusion of the investigative process, Det Sgt Little should complete a comprehensive report which should be submitted to NSWPF Legal Services Branch (initially) for a formal opinion on the likelihood of charging any person criminally.
12. Once that decision is made in consultation with the Police Media Unit, a plan should be developed, to notify the community of the result of the police inquiries concerning this matter.

In my view the extent of the NSWPF role in this matter should be to investigate whether or not there is evidence to support criminal charges. It is not a matter for the NSWPF to address perceived deficiencies in the way in which the Catholic Church managed issues of this nature.

Signed  
Paul Jacob  
Det Insp