

Statutory Declaration
OATHS ACT 1900, NSW, EIGHTH SCHEDULE

I, **Desmond Stanley Harrigan**,
Wales, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

in the State of New South

1. I am a Catholic priest currently attached to the Taree and Wingham Parishes.
2. I have been requested by letter from Emma Sullivan of the Crown Solicitor's Office dated 25 June 2013 to my solicitor, Elizabeth McLaughlin, to provide information that may assist the Special Commission.
3. I will respond to each of the relevant questions by first restating the question as it was expressed in the letter referred to above.
4. **The circumstances in which Father Harrigan admitted to possession of pornography ('the material') found at Lochinvar Presbytery in 2003, including broad details as to the nature of the material (that is, whether heterosexual, homosexual, adult participants or otherwise).**

I recall Detective Chief Inspector Fox and another policeman visiting me at the Raymond Terrace Presbytery. I don't remember when this occurred exactly but I believe it was in late 2003. I don't remember the name of the other police officer with Detective Chief Inspector Fox but he was younger than Detective Chief Inspector Fox.

I recall Detective Chief Inspector Fox saying to me word to the effect of "this has been found in Lochinvar Presbytery" and then showing me two magazines of pornography. He didn't hand me the magazines. I don't recall if he opened them but I could see that they depicted adult men. I recognised the magazines as mine. I told Detective Chief Inspector Fox that the magazines were mine. I don't recall the words I used.

I don't recall the details of the rest of our conversation. I recall feeling very ashamed and embarrassed. I remember being very upset.

I recall Detective Chief Inspector Fox took the material away with him.

5. **How long had the material been at Lochinvar Presbytery, where had it been located before being at Lochinvar and what became of the material.**

The material had been at Lochinvar for over two years. I bought in 2000 and it had only ever been located at Lochinvar. I don't know what became of the material. The only time I saw the material after I left Lochinvar was when I was shown those items by Detective Chief Inspector Fox.

Signed

Signed

6. **The circumstances in which Father Harrigan received the material from Father Fletcher and any discussion with him in relation to it.**

I did not receive the material from Father Fletcher. I bought it in London in late 2000. There was never any discussion about the material with Father Fletcher.

7. **Details as to discussions Father Harrigan had with Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to the destruction or removal of the material.**

There was no discussion about the destruction of the material. Detective Chief Inspector Fox had it in his possession the whole time of the interview and took it away with him. I don't know how it came into his possession.

8. **The reasons why Father Harrigan destroyed or removed the material.**

I did not destroy or remove the material. I believe that I must have left it at the Lochinvar Presbytery when moving to Raymond Terrace.

9. **To assist the Special Commission, I have made some enquiries to confirm when I moved from the Lochinvar Parish. I moved from the Lochinvar Parish in early August 2002. I then spent three months at Raymond Terrace and a further three months at Stockton to relieve other priests while they were on leave or a replacement could be found. I then returned to the Raymond Terrace Parish in February 2003 and remained there until 2005.**

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

Declared at: Newcastle on 12 July 2013

Signed

in the presence of an authorised witness, who states:

I, Elizabeth Jane McLaughlin, a solicitor admitted to the NSW Supreme Court certify the following matters concerning the making of this statutory declaration by the person who made it:

1. I saw the face of the person; and
2. I have not known the person for at least 12 months, but I have confirmed the person's identity using an identification document and the document I relied on was Father Harrigan's Drivers Licence, No. 4652KR

Signed

12 July 2013