



The Right Reverend Dr Helen-Anne Hartley  
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Dear Helen-Ann,

### **Lord Sentamu**

As you know we have been seeking to find a resolution to the issues raised by Lord Sentamu and see if we can find a path back to him holding a PtO. We know this is something you want to happen as well, and I'm sorry it has taken us so long to find a possible way forward. We do not underestimate how difficult and costly this has been for you, not least as this situation arose in the first few weeks of your time in Newcastle. But the good news is, that following various interventions, we think we may now be able to move forward.

It seems to us there are two strands to this matter. First there are the issues Sentamu has with the methodology and approach of the lessons learned review and one of its conclusions. Second there is his public statement made upon the publication of the review which caused considerable distress to survivors and was at variance with the culture and values we are trying to embed around safeguarding. We understand that it was this second issue that caused you most concern when making the decision to ask Sentamu to step aside from any active ministry. We entirely support and understand why you made this decision, and why you probably expected a way forward for Sentamu to return to ministry to be found much more quickly.

We have worked with Sentamu on the issues he raises around the report and have supported him in raising these with the NST. He undoubtedly has a point about how the reviewer approached the terms of reference, the conclusions that were reached and the application of contemporary standards to a past context. The NST have recorded Sentamu's concerns and indicated that as lessons-learned reviews continue to develop his concerns will help in forming future policy. The conclusions to previous investigations by the NST into the matter, seem to have been overlooked and ignored. Moreover, the reviewer herself, in criticising Sentamu, does make it clear that she is

offering an opinion on what she thinks he should have done, not on what the letter of the then guidelines said he should do.

For Sentamu, this feels like an issue of justice. Although we understand this view, there are other ways of looking at it and we have now concluded that all that can be done in this regard has been done, and, as we say above, the NST have taken on board these concerns and will make sure they shape the way future reviews are undertaken and recorded.

Throughout this episode, and as we know you know, and supported on one occasion by your own DSA, the NST have recognised that there are no current safeguarding concerns about Sentamu such as would have a bearing on his ability to minister effectively and with confidence.

However, there still remains the question of the impact of Sentamu's public statement. In our conversations with him he understands that he was heard in ways he did not intend and sees the issues that this has caused. We are told by Sentamu and his advisers that he is willing to work with you on an agreed statement to be made public that will seek to acknowledge the difficulties this caused and thus hopefully enable you to be in the position of enabling him to resume his ministry.

Sentamu will be willing to be guided by you on whether a meeting would be the most helpful way forward or whether this can be progressed by correspondence. To be candid, we would very much like to see a resolution to this situation which enables Sentamu to return to ministry, we also want to honour and support you in the difficult decisions you have been required to take. However, it does seem to us, that if Sentamu makes such an acknowledgement of the difficulties his statement caused, then this should be sufficient to find a way forward. Finally, we continue to be willing to support conversations that will hopefully make this possible.

Once you have digested this letter and taken what other advice you need, we would be happy to meet and discuss next steps.

With our prayers and best wishes,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell  
Archbishop of York