

**P-05-954 Petition for a public inquiry by the Welsh Government into the historic child abuse on Caldey Island, Correspondence – Dyfed Powys Police to Caldey Island Victims Campaign Coordinator, 01.06.20**



Heddlu Police  
**DYFED  
POWYS**

Mark Collins QPM  
Prif Gwnstabl – Chief Constable.  
Rhif Ffôn/Tel.No. [REDACTED]  
E-Bost/E-Mail: [REDACTED]

1<sup>ST</sup> June, 2020.

Ms. Dinah Mulholland  
On behalf of Kevin and [REDACTED] O'Connell  
Caldey Island Victims Campaign.

Sent via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Mullholland,

In response to your e-mail dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, I provide the following information.

The first report in relation to allegations of abuse at Caldey Island was made to Dyfed Powys Police in May 2014. This report originated from Father Daniel, the Abbott at Caldey Island. The report outlined that civil litigation had commenced against the Caldey Island monastery in connection with the abuse carried out by Father Tadeuz Kotik.

A Police investigation was therefore undertaken in relation to the reported abuse. It was quickly confirmed that Kotik had died in November 1992. A total of six complainants were identified and spoken to by the investigation team, with all explaining that no previous reports had been made to Police. It was established that one of the complainants had corresponded with Father Daniel in 2010. The abuse was outlined by the complainant and there was subsequent engagement between both parties. Father Daniel did not report this to Police at that time, as he stated he didn't believe that anything could be achieved as Kotik had died many years previously. This same complainant also reported sending a letter to the previous Abbott at Caldey, Father Stephen, in 1991, a year before Kotik had died in 1992. Father Stephen had died in April 2014. Father Daniel could not



[www.dyfed-powys.police.uk](http://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk)

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Mae Heddlu Dyfed-Powys yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Byddwn ni'n sicrhau ein bod ni'n ymateb yn eich dewis iaith ac ni fydd oedi mewn perthynas ag unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r Gymraeg.

Dyfed-Powys Police welcomes correspondence in Welsh and in English, and we will ensure that we respond to any correspondence through the language of your choice. Corresponding via the medium of Welsh will not endure any delay.

confirm this and explained that no record of such a letter was held at Caldey. The investigation team attended at the Monastery to examine the archived records, and were unable to locate this letter or any verification that Father Stephen had received it. The 2014 Police investigation concluded that no prosecution could be taken, due to Kotik being deceased. Also, there was no evidence to suggest any abuse by other persons at Caldey Island, nor any ongoing risk of harm.

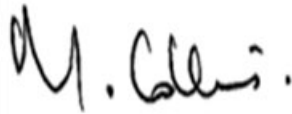
The civil litigation against the Cisterian Order at Caldey was subsequently successful, and the outcome broadly publicised in the local and national media. As a result of the publicity, additional complainants came forward to report abuse to Police. This resulted in a further investigation, 'Operation Slate'.

During Operation Slate, officers again attended Caldey Island to review the Monastery's archived records. Enquires were commenced with each complainant to document the nature of Kotik's offending and to identify whether any person in a position of responsibility had failed to act to protect children. With the exception of the one person in 2014 referred to above, complainants confirmed that they did not formerly report Kotik's offending to either church or police authorities. A small number described making disclosures to parents. Enquires carried out with parents who were alive revealed they had elected not to act on the disclosures and did not report Kotik to the authorities. A number of complainants confirmed only making disclosures to a friend or family member in adulthood and a number only did so after seeing news articles concerning the civil action against the Monastery. The Operation Slate investigation found no evidence of organisational failures by the Cistercian Order and there is no clear evidence, beyond reasonable doubt, that they failed to act to protect children or intentionally suppressed evidence of Kotik's offending behaviour. The investigation did identify substantial similarities in complainants' accounts. It is likely that if Kotik were alive, there would have been sufficient evidence for consideration of a criminal prosecution.

The last question you pose is in relation to the investigation of abuse reported by Mr O'Connell. This included reports of abuse committed by other persons. It has not been possible to identify or corroborate any abuse by other persons within the Monastery at Caldey. During the investigation into the reports, Mr O'Connell disengaged from Police. However, within the last week, we have been provided with details of a representative of Mr O'Connell who is being informed of the finalisation of the Police investigation, which is as follows - the identified suspects are deceased; there is insufficient

information to identify any other named suspects; there is insufficient information to prove that persons in authority failed to act to safeguard O'Connell, prevent offences, or that they concealed offences committed at Caldey Island.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Collins.' The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Mark Collins,  
Chief Constable.