

Rev Peter Timms  
16 Manor Road  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex  
TN40 1SP

16 November 2016

Dear Peter

I have received your latest e-mail.

I have consulted the Connexional Complaints Officer about how we proceed with our investigation. With this advice in mind, the connexional complaints team needs to say that :

- a You are now well enough that you were able to fulfil your commitment to speak at the Monday Fellowship at Sackville Road Methodist Church on Monday 7 November 2016 and to visit the MHA Richmond Care Home.

We therefore intend to complete the rest of this complaints process as soon as possible, and not wait until January to fix a new date to interview you.

We can meet you on either **Saturday 3 December 2016** at 12.30pm in central London OR on **Monday 12 December 2016** at 12.30pm in Eastbourne. Please inform me by e-mail **no later than 12 noon on Thursday 24 November 2016** which date you have chosen

Please be aware that if you do not attend on your chosen date, the Team has the authority to complete its work in your absence.

- b the team will arrange a suitable venue;



- c you knew about the timescale when you started the complaints process and cannot complain about it now;
- d as previously explained on 1 October 2016 you do not need to obtain sworn statements;
- e the Team's role is explained in Standing Order 1123 (12) and 1124 (18). It is *"not to come to any conclusion on the facts or merits of the complaint except to the extent necessary to reach the decisions required"*. The purpose is to establish what further steps will be required according to Standing Orders.
- f our questions and your responses are based on the structure provided by standing orders and not by the Bellamy guide. The introduction to that guide in paragraph 5 states that *"It must always be remembered that this is only a guide to the Standing Orders, not a substitute for them. In the event that a complaint is made it is the Standing Orders themselves that will govern the procedures and not this Guide"*.
- g And finally, the Team will not enter into any further communication with you about the nature and process of this investigation. We have told you about the process we will be using and will determine our own procedures within the standing orders of the Methodist Church. Further correspondence must be confined to the practical arrangements for your interview.

At this stage in the proceedings we require you to:

- 1 Indicate, **by return e-mail**, which of the above dates is convenient for you;
- 2 Advise us whether there are any people you think the team should hear from - together with their names and contact details - and why you think we should hear from them. The Team has the authority to decide whether or not to hear from them and, if so, either by written statement or by interview - as requested on 12 September, 1 and 8 October 2016 (Standing Order 1124 (3) applies);
- 3 Sign and return the written undertaking about confidentiality - as requested in my letters dated 12 September, 1 & 8 October 2016

(Standing Order 1157 (3) applies). The evidence of those breaches is attached.

We also remind you, as previously explained, that if you do not return the written undertaking about confidentiality **by noon on Thursday 24 November 2016**, the powers under Standing Order 1157 (3) (see extract below) may be used:

*(i) decline to provide the complainant with copies of further documents or further information in connection with the relevant complaint or charge until the complainant has provided a written acknowledgment that all documents and information already received or hereafter received in connection with that complaint or charge are confidential and a written undertaking to comply with Standing Order 1104(7) at all times;*

*(ii) decline to provide the complainant with copies of further documents or further information in connection with that complaint or charge at all;*

*(iii) determine that the complainant shall be excluded from further participation in the complaints and discipline process relating to that complaint or charge either altogether or as set out in the determination.*

- 4 Tell us whether you will be accompanied by a member of the District Complaints Support Group OR a friend AND be represented - together with their names and contact details - as requested on 12 September, 1 and 8 October 2016 (Standing Order 1124 (2) (b) applies);
- 5 We already have your statements on each of the three related complaints against Revs Ian Pruden, Rose Westwood and Dr Philip Luscombe. If there is any new supporting information you wish to provide before your interview, please let me have a succinct statement of no more than two A4 pages in total by **12 noon on Thursday 24 November 2016**.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kitchin  
Lead Member

**The evidence of breaches of confidentiality by Rev Peter Timms.**

**24 August 2016** : E-mail from Peter Timms to John Troughton

From: Peter Timms <petertimms107@gmail.com>  
Date: 24 Aug 2016 21:48  
Subject: Meeting of the Invitation Committee 24th august 2016  
To: [jmtroughton@btinternet.com](mailto:jmtroughton@btinternet.com)  
Cc: [hbrmethcircuit@btconnect.com](mailto:hbrmethcircuit@btconnect.com)

23.08.16

To JohnTroughton

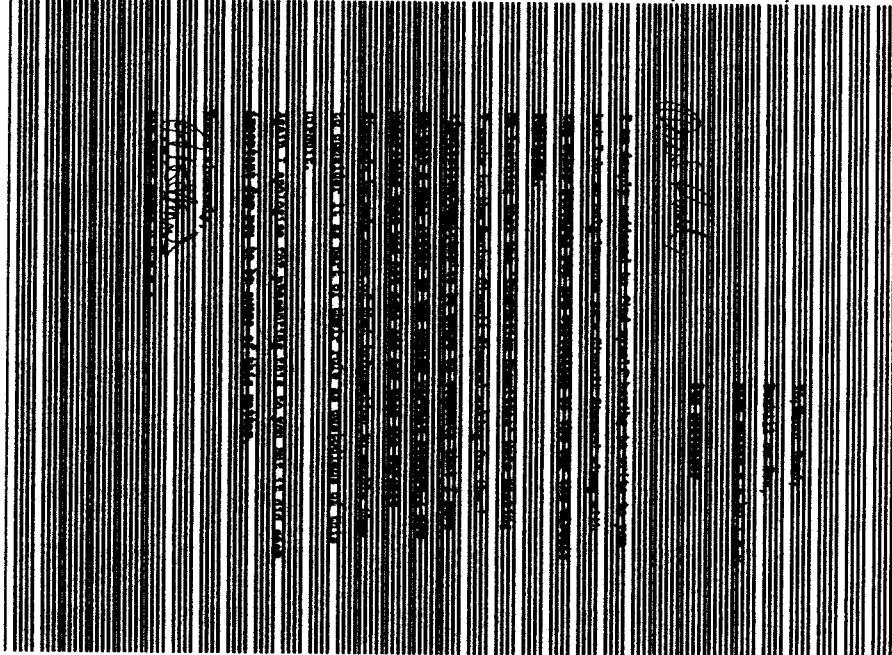
My understanding is that on the evening of 24th August 2016 there is a meeting of the Invitation Committee been held in which the Chairman of the District Rev John Hellyer is to act as Chair of the meeting.

As as member of the Circuit Meeting and you in the role of coordinating this meeting I ask you to draw attention of the meeting to the following facts concerning Rev Ian Pruden at my request (Rev Peter Timms) **"At present there an Independent Investigation been conducted by Methodist Headquarters which involves considerations relevant to Rev Ian Prudens integrity and honesty whilst in the role of superintendent in this Circuit concerning me and my Ministry in this Circuit"**

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter Timms, OBE MA  
Methodist Minister

**8 September 2016** ; Letter from Peter Timms to Paul Martin (see below)



**9 September 2016** : E-mail from John Hellyer to Peter Timms

From: [john.hellyer@methodistsoutheast.org](mailto:john.hellyer@methodistsoutheast.org)

Dear Mr Timms,

I write having taken advice from the Secretary of Conference.

The Circuit Stewards have reported to me that you have been in touch with them about the complaint that you are pursuing against Rev Ian Pruden. Standing Orders state that this is confidential information and should not be divulged to anyone in the circuit and should not form part of the consideration of Ian's reinvitation.

If your appeal against the rejection of your complaint by the local complaints officer is upheld then the Connexional Complaints Panel will decide what action will be taken. It is not a matter for either the Invitations Committee or the Circuit Meeting.

Should you attempt to raise this matter at the Circuit Meeting it will be ruled out of order.

With best wishes,

*John Hellyer*

**Rev John Hellyer**  
**District Chair**