

Commentary on 'Special Treatment'

Since her allegation dating from early October 2020, Ms. Jeune has claimed to have been, or at least given the impression of being, a close confidante of the Percy family. This has, in turn afforded her the opportunity to claim she was being groomed or exploited for ulterior motives. She has also claimed to be a supporter of the former Dean, thereby lending extra credibility to her claims.

Her allegation has been thoroughly investigated by the Police and a Church Clergy Discipline Measure procedure. No grounds for any proceedings against the Dean were found. The other investigation (led by Kate Wood) was found to be biased and highly partial, with instances of prosecution evidence undergoing embellishment and corroboration, whilst the Dean's evidence was edited and redacted without his knowledge, and defence witnesses not even interviewed. Kate Wood's work was commissioned by the same lawyers who were already prosecuting the Dean. The lawyers tried to conceal their involvement throughout. Despite being no evidence of sexual assault, abuse or grooming, Ms. Jeune's claims have developed into a substantially more lurid account than the one presented in any of her original evidence.

Ms. Jeune has also claimed:

1. She looked after the Dean's dog and sometimes stayed the night at their house when the Percy's were away. This is true. But dozens of students had done so previously, and continue to do so. There is nothing special about Ms. Jeune here at all.
2. Students – often lonely – got a welcome break from their college accommodation by staying in the house when the Percy's were away. All students would be offered a small honoraria or gift in return for the kennel fees being saved. Ms. Jeune was no different to any previous person or later practice. College staff would keep an eye on the student minding the dogs.
3. Staying the night when the Dean was away – again, dozens had done so previously. Ms. Jeune claims "he showed me a bedroom". This was normal for house guests when the Percy's were away. Ms. Jeune was never invited to stay when the Percy's were home.
4. The Percy's have taken in dozens of student lodgers and shared their home throughout their married life, often on short-term or medium-term arrangements for pastoral emergencies or other reasons. Ms. Jeune was an employee of the Cathedral from October 2020, and would never have been offered accommodation.

5. Ms. Jeune claims she was somehow special because she went to the Percy's 30th wedding anniversary drinks reception in their garden in September 2019. This is ludicrous. The invitation issued was in the (public) Cathedral pew sheet, and open to any member of the congregation, and any staff present. A couple of hundred people attended. Again, there was nothing special about Ms. Jeune.
6. Ms. Jeune claims she was being groomed, and later abused. Ms. Jeune has been unable to provide a record of any communication – email, text, WhatsApp message, etc – that is overly friendly or unprofessional. There is not a single note indicating special interest in Ms. Jeune that marks her out differently from any other person as an employee or a student.
7. There is no communication suggesting Ms. Jeune meet with the Dean alone at any point, save once a term for a coffee – a token extended to all other students on short-term study visas, PGCE students and others from overseas not matriculated into the University. Ms. Jeune was in this category for one year, but ceased to be thereafter. Ms. Jeune claims the Dean signed her Right to Work Visa papers. He did not, and never even saw the application, since he would have raised questions of eligibility.
8. Ms. Jeune insinuates that the Dean talking about his adoption was somehow grooming her by taking her into his confidence, and making a disclosure of his vulnerability. The Dean has written, broadcast and lectured on adoption extensively, and remains involved in such work. Again, there is nothing special about discussing adoption with Ms. Jeune, not least as it was relevant to her studies at the time.
9. Ms. Jeune insinuates that her support of the Percy's was somehow very significant. The Percy's received over 3,500 cards and letters of support during the campaign against the Dean (from 2018 onwards), and over 700 donations to help with his legal fees. Ms. Jeune, in contrast, later engaged in a personal campaign of 'cancel-culture' against such support, and contacted organisers of prayer meetings, venues and organisers where the Dean was giving sermons, talks and lectures. She also attempted to prevent the Farewell Service for the Dean in 2022 from going ahead.