

Past Case Review 2

In 2007, the Church of England commissioned a Past Case Review, which sought to look at the handling by the Church of child protection cases over many years. This entailed an independent scrutiny of the files of clergy and church officers to identify any persons presenting on-going risks to children and young people (a child or young person is anyone under the age of 18) which had not been acted on appropriately.

The House of Bishops wants to ensure that our churches and church-related activities are as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. All Dioceses have therefore been asked to extend the review in 2019 to include children, young people and vulnerable adults. This process is called **Past Case Review 2** (PCR2).

The PCR2 process is welcomed by the Diocese of Canterbury, and Bishop Tim Thornton and Bishop Trevor Wilmott sent letters to all parishes in the Diocese of Canterbury and the Channel Islands incumbents to check that all-known instances of allegations against a church officer (either paid or unpaid volunteers) within their parish, both recent and non-recent, have been notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (DSA). Our Independent Safeguarding Chair David Kemp has also written to all statutory partner leads for Kent, to inform them of the process and to identify points of contacts. PCR2 is a central part of the Diocese of Canterbury's proactive approach to identifying any occasions where abuse allegations have not been managed appropriately or safely, or with the needs of the vulnerable at the centre of its decision making.

On 18th November 2019, 2 Independent Reviewers (IR) – who were part of a pool of Independent Reviewers pre-selected for the role by the National Safeguarding Team – started reviewing files of all living clergy who hold a Bishop's License within the Diocese. They will also scrutinise all files for Lay Readers and any relevant personnel files of Diocesan Staff. The IR will inform the DSA immediately if they identify any issues that require action to:

- mitigate risk
- report offences to the police
- report concerns to the local authority or another body
- provide support to an individual who has previously asked for help, and where there is no evidence that appropriate support was offered.

The welfare of children or of adults at risk of abuse is of paramount importance in the execution of our PCR2. We urge anyone wishing to give information or make disclosures of church-related abuse to make direct contact with our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (DSA) whose details can be found [here](#).

In addition to support from DSA's there is also available the support of the Living Well and our Authorised Listeners. Please contact the DSA's for more information and advice about where to get the right support.

We recognise that this option may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church. A dedicated telephone helpline, operating independently from the Church, has therefore been set up for those affected by issues which may arise as a result of PCR2. The number is 0800 80 20 20 – 'Past Cases Review 2 NSPCC Helpline for Children and Adults'.