

To: Incumbent status clergy, churchwardens, Safeguarding Coordinators

Dear Colleague

## **Past Cases Review 2**

I write to ask for your assistance with a task of the utmost importance which is central to our mission as the Church.

Many of you will have seen the recent BBC 2 [two-part documentary](#) about the shocking abuse carried out by Peter Ball and the failure of the Church of England to respond appropriately. A statement was issued after the broadcast by the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop ([click here to read in full](#)), who said:

*"There is much that is being written and said about accountability and the culture of deference in the Church and it is clear that change has been too slow. **We are committed to making these changes and ensuring that the Church is a safe and welcoming place for everyone.**"*

You may know that in 2008 every diocese in the Church of England was asked to commission an independent review of all their clergy and church officer files and take action on safeguarding concerns in a Past Cases Review. Unfortunately, these reviews were not all done as thoroughly as they should have been so the House of Bishops has asked every diocese across the country to undertake a further review, called Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2). We have to do this before the end of 2020.

This time the scope of the review aims to ensure that any risk from church officers to children, young people and vulnerable adults has been acted on appropriately. The review will also look at whether the response to survivors of abuse has been appropriate.

I have enclosed information setting out what steps you need to take as clearly as possible. One of these is to submit a signed return confirming that all known situations of concern have been passed to the DSA. **The deadline for response is 30 April 2020.** If you can respond before that date it would be very helpful to the Safeguarding Team.

Every parish is being contacted in this way to check that all known safeguarding concerns about clergy and church officers have been reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding team. There will also be an open invitation published next week (*late February*) to anyone who wants to make representations about their experience as a victim or survivor, or to come forward with information or make a disclosure regarding church-related abuse.

Incumbents are, therefore, asked to check that all known cases, concerns, or allegations about church officers within their parish(es), whether recent or non-recent, have been notified to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and any which have not are reported immediately.

The same applies to church leaders in other church settings, such as the Dean for the Cathedral, Prior for the Community of the Tree of Life, and pioneers for their fresh expressions of Church. Please note that the term 'all known cases' covers both current and past situations.

Information is being sought on persons who have or have had a role in the Church where their role brings them into contact with children or with adults at risk of abuse. Information is not being requested on worshippers and those attending church activities who do not hold a role in the Church. Where a safeguarding agreement is in place for a church member *and* it has been set up or reviewed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA), you do not need to notify this as the DSA already knows about that person. The advice of the DSA should be sought in case of doubt.

I know that this is a challenging and sensitive task. You may need to make discreet enquiries at local level. Because PCR2 is being publicised, you may also find that one or two people come forward with information. Please ensure that you do not delay in reporting any situations of concern involving clergy or church officers which have not already been passed to the DSA.

Bringing information about abuse out into the open is always a difficult task. Aware of the potential impact on those with a lived experience of abuse, we have put in place a Survivor Care strategy for PCR2. More information about that can be found on the website ([leicester.anglican.org/pcr2](http://leicester.anglican.org/pcr2)). I know that this is also an emotionally demanding task for you and others who are asked to respond at local level. Please let us know if you need support.

Please cooperate wholeheartedly with the review, to ensure the Church is a safe and welcoming place, and in particular help support those who have been victims of abuse. This safeguarding work is core to our mission and ministry.