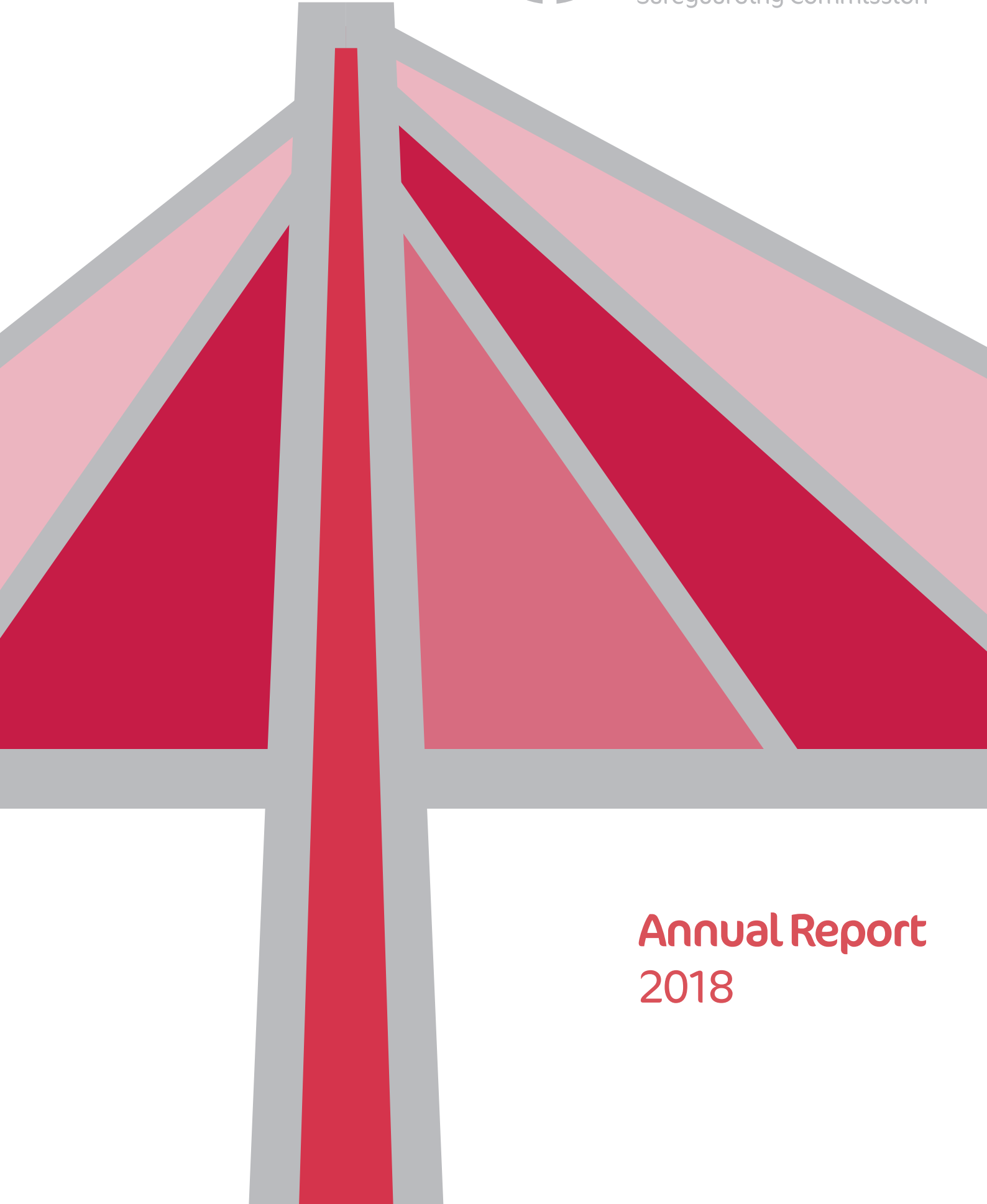




**NCSC**

National Catholic  
Safeguarding Commission



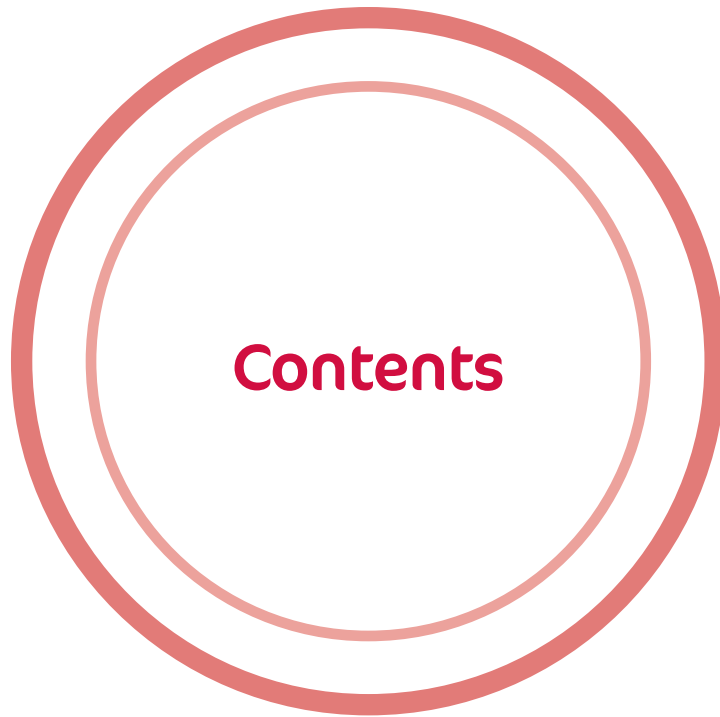
**Annual Report  
2018**



# Supporting

Actively providing help and support to combat abuse.

*Physical • Emotional • Ongoing*



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# Physical support

Physically being present to offer comfort and immediate support.

2



**It is important to highlight that safeguarding structures and arrangements to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm are not an ‘add on’ to the work of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, they are expected to be intrinsic to the very fabric of the Church.**

Chris Pearson  
Chair NCSC





# Foreword

by Chris Pearson  
Chair NCSC

## I am delighted to commend the publication of the NCSC Annual Report 2018.

The theme of this year's report, 'Supporting', is put forward by the Survivors Advisory Panel.

Previous Annual Reports have combined narrative accounts with appendices reporting data. We want to develop data reporting which is more analytical in nature. To avoid this resulting in an unduly lengthy report, the NCSC Annual Report will in future be presented in two parts; a narrative report with some initial data, followed later in the year by a fuller presentation of data.

It is important to highlight that safeguarding structures and arrangements to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm are not an 'add on' to the work of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, they are expected to be intrinsic to the very fabric of the Church.

This is reflected in gospel values that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm, and this responsibility needs to be reflected both individually and collectively in the Catholic Church. There have, however, been evident failures of local leadership to embed safeguarding in every aspect of the Catholic Church, most notably raised in the stark revelations of child sexual abuse by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and reported in the media.

The Bishops of England and Wales in their 'Ad Limina' statement in September 2018, reflected upon their own leadership and on the responsibility to develop a culture of safeguarding in every aspect of the Catholic Church. It is now 11 years since the Cumberlege report undertook a strategic review of safeguarding in England and Wales.

The landscape of the Church has changed since the Cumberlege report and so has safeguarding legislation. The Bishops' Conference has accordingly asked the NCSC to commission an entirely independent and comprehensive review of safeguarding structures and arrangements that currently operate within the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The scope of the review has been developed and agreed by members of the NCSC, in collaboration with CSAS. It is expected that the Independent Chair and Panel will be appointed before autumn 2019. This strategic review will be a key focus of the work of safeguarding for 2019/2020. Other key strategic developments over the past year include the following:

## Safe Spaces

(previously known as the Pastoral Support Service)

**This has been a collaborative project developed between the Catholic Church and the Church of England to provide a space for the voices of victims and survivors to be heard, so that they can exercise personal choice and control about their support needs.**

It is intended that Safe Spaces will comprise an independent central hub helpline offering access to a range of online therapeutic/advocacy support services, as well as information and advice to survivors about a range of other services.

A joint Management Board set up to oversee the project development, and supported by a dedicated Project Manager, has met throughout the past year to progress this work. Members of the Survivors Advisory Panel have played a critical part in the development of the project.

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## Survivors Advisory Panel (SAP)

**SAP members continue to influence the strategic work of the NCSC and they provide a detailed account of their work in this report. I would wish to highlight a key aspect of their contribution to developing an international perspective in supporting others in listening and responding to the voice of victims and survivors.**

In April 2018, SAP members and the NCSC Chair met with members of the newly reformed Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) in Rome. Since this opportunity for sharing experiences, the PCPM have supported setting up similar SAP national groups in the Philippines and Brazil. I would wish to thank their Chair, Dave Marshall, for his leadership and all the members of the panel for their valuable contributions. I extend a special thank you to a former member of the NCSC, Dr Lindsay Voss, who was the SAP link person over the past year.



**All those involved at every level of safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales need to recognise that we can never be complacent. Clear leadership throughout the Church is crucial.**

Bishops and Congregation Leaders must be vigilant in exercising their ministry of leadership, ensuring that a culture of safeguarding is both understood and embraced by the whole Church. Furthermore, Bishops and Congregation Leaders must be instrumental in ensuring that those ministering in the name of the Church are suitable, robust in taking action against those who abuse and harm others and sincere and committed to a compassionate and sensitive response to victims and survivors. In this way, we can all support the rebuilding of trust in the Church and those who serve it.

It will be clear from this report that the support and advice given through the excellent work of Dr Colette Limbrick and her CSAS team is fundamental in ensuring that good safeguarding arrangements are put into practice across the Church in England and Wales. The report also highlights specific examples of partnerships taking place in particular areas of the country.

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Too often safeguarding is perceived as reactive, sometimes something to be feared. Safeguarding is about keeping people safe from harm, but it is also about positively promoting and celebrating what is done well and the value of every human being. The NCSC, SAP and CSAS collectively aim to promote both these aspects by being vigilant in keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe from harm and promoting a One Church approach to safeguarding arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.



# 2

## Section two

### NCSC developments 2018



**The priority for the NCSC is  
to focus strategy on outcomes.**



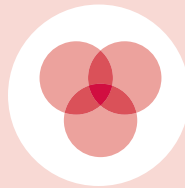
# NCSC developments 2018

## The NCSC has three key priorities:



1

Developing a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church



2

Promoting and supporting the 'One Church' approach to Safeguarding



3

Modelling and promoting good Safeguarding governance

We are pleased to be able to report on our progress towards achieving these priorities.

### 1. Developing a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church

Based on listening, responding and supporting both child and adult victims and survivors of abuse.

#### Safe Spaces

The past year has seen significant development towards setting up the service for victims and survivors. This project has taken considerably longer than we could have anticipated due to capacity and contractual complexities. However, getting it right and making sure it has the sanction and support of survivors has been at the core of the project.

A Management Board has overseen the strategic approach in setting up this project and the appointment of a project manager to co-ordinate its development has been an important aspect to get where we are today. The work in developing the project is a sign of positive partnership between the Church of England, the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Central to the quality assurance of this service will be the voice of victims and survivors and most importantly what works well and what makes a difference. SAP members have been fundamental contributors to the development of the service and its intended outcomes which are:

- Victims and survivors of abuse should be treated with justice, mercy and compassion and the provision of a pastoral support service must have a theology of justice at its heart.
- Increased voice and personal choice and control
- Improved wellbeing and economic opportunities
- Challenging injustice
- Positive partnership with local communities and diocese
- Strong co-production

## 2. Promoting and supporting the 'One Church' approach to safeguarding

To ensure that it has an infrastructure and operational arrangements in place which can support and deliver what is done in the name of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is open and transparent.

### Review of Safeguarding:

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales during their 'Ad Limina' visit to Rome in 2018 made a statement on abuse and safeguarding in the Catholic Church which included mandating the NCSC to; "commission an entirely independent and comprehensive review of the safeguarding structures that currently operate within the Catholic Church in England and Wales".

**Importantly, we will seek to ensure that the voices of the victims and survivors of abuse, through the Survivors Advisory Panel established by the NCSC, fully inform the review and its recommendations.**

In calling for this review, we are taking an important step towards meeting the Holy Father's recent injunction in his 'Letter to the People of God' in respect of sexual abuse: "no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening" (20 August 2018).

The NCSC set aside a whole development day in December 2018 aimed at scoping out the outline of the safeguarding review and to set out the following key elements to be considered in the review;

- Safeguarding infrastructure and organisation:
- Alignment of diocese and religious orders
- Accountability
- Training
- Policies and Procedures
- Financial Arrangements

The priority for the NCSC is to focus strategy on outcomes. Central to this independent led review is to ensure that consultation with stakeholders will include the Survivor Advisory Panel. Once an independent chair has been appointed, the chair will be supported by a Panel of mutually agreed advisors.



**The work in developing the project is a sign of positive partnership**



### 3. Modelling and promoting good Safeguarding governance

To develop a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church based on listening, responding and supporting both child and adult victims and survivors;

#### Survivor Advisory Panel Review

The details of the SAP work-plan is set out in their own section of this Annual Report. SAP remains a core function of influencing safeguarding and supporting the work of the NCSC.

It is important to reflect in this section of the report that the SAP Terms of Reference are due to be reviewed in 2019. SAP was set up as a 3-year pilot and is an essential and necessary part of safeguarding arrangements at a strategic level.

The NCSC and SAP have agreed the need for an independent review to identify the SAP's current strengths and any opportunities for improvement.

#### The outcome from the review will be shared with the Independent Inquiry.

Other key priority work-streams for 2019/20 will include:

#### NCSC Communication Strategy

The work of the communication strategy sub-group set up by the NCSC aims to progress a number of key elements of the strategy which includes:

#### NCSC Webpage:

There has been a delay in progressing this aspect of our strategic Business Plan due to capacity but this will be completed during 2019. The web design will model a similar interface with the new successful CSAS web site design.

#### Leaflets/Information:

New leaflets are being designed to reflect and promote the work of our safeguarding structures to statutory agencies and Safeguarding Boards, and what happens if you are subject of an allegation. The SAP is producing a leaflet for victims and survivors of abuse.

### Extending links

#### Anglophone Conference – Gregorian University, Rome

Representatives of the NCSC, CSAS and SAP attended the annual Safeguarding Conference in Rome led by Australia.

The purpose of the Anglophone Safeguarding Conference (ASC) is to enable the representatives of Episcopal Conferences, Conferences of Religious Institutes, and associated professionals to learn from each other and so better respond to those affected by abuse and to protect minors and vulnerable adults from abuse within our church communities.

#### It includes 28 countries sharing their safeguarding arrangements and challenges.

The theme of the conference was 'Culture and Safeguarding'. This was a particularly influential gathering because there were representatives from the The Catholic Church's new safeguarding body in Australia, the Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL) which had been set up in response to the guidance of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

#### The conference included topics such as;

- Voice of the child – a change to our culture - empowering and enabling participation into decisions that affect them and actively listening to them and taking them seriously”.
- Culture and how it impacts perception and communication around child sexual abuse and its prevention.
- Culture of the Catholic Church and the abuse of minors.
- A Digital World challenging familial culture – major threats to children on-line and ways to counteract them.

### **NCSC Development Day(s)**

Each year the NCSC and the Director of CSAS have a training development day which is used to receive and reflect on information relating to wider safeguarding matters that can influence understanding of existing policies and procedures.

This year we reflected upon safeguarding now and learning lessons from past challenges and challenges for the future relating to National Inquiries in relation to; The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Commission Australia, the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland and the Child Abuse Inquiry into Children in Care Scotland. Members also considered the Interim IICSA Report on EBC (English Benedictine Congregations).

**An outcome from the development day led to NCSC members identifying areas that require further urgent consideration and an additional development day was set aside in December 2018, with the intent to build on current strategic priorities to further improve safeguarding in the Catholic Church and (if necessary) a hierarchy of priorities in terms of implementation. This has helped shape current strategic actions for 2019 relating to the Safeguarding Review.**

# Emotional support

Providing empathy,  
compassion and a  
genuine understanding.



The SAP hopes to emphasise the areas that are most important from a survivor/victim perspective.



# 3

## Section three Survivor Advisory Panel



**T**he primary function of the SAP is to ensure that the NCSC receives appropriate and timely information and advice from a survivor perspective to inform the work of the NCSC regarding safeguarding policies, procedures and practices within the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

The SAP continue to endeavour to provide the NCSC with;

- Advice/recommendations on matters relevant to victims/survivors.
- Knowledge/insight into experience of abuse.
- Positive contributions to improve responses regarding victim disclosures and Church support.
- Information and advice about previously unidentified areas/topics for attention.
- Input on the NCSC media and communications strategy.

## SAP membership and meetings

The SAP currently has 7 members of the maximum permitted 12, a secretary and in addition a link member from both the NCSC and CSAS. The chair also attends the NCSC meetings. Since the SAP's inaugural meeting in February 2016 there have been regular meetings 4 times per year. Although members are only expected to attend these four meetings they regularly contribute to other meetings and events related to their role.

**In 2019 in line with the terms of reference there will be a review of the SAP Terms of Reference in conjunction with a formal evaluation of their 3-year pilot phase operating as an SAP.**

The SAP members have a breadth of experience in relation to the issues impacting on survivors of abuse from both a professional and/or personal perspective. Full details are listed on the SAP page of the NCSC web site.



## SAP work plan

In line with their role 'To Inform and influence work – identify previously unidentified areas /topics for attention'.

The SAP continue to support the NCSC through a varied work plan which is regularly reviewed by the Chair of the NCSC.

Building on the progress and contacts highlighted in last year's report (dated 2017) the SAP hopes in 2019 to emphasise the areas that are most important from a survivor/victim perspective.

They hope through attending and speaking at conferences, training events, sharing their views with people in authority, through the NCSC, CSAS and at a local level to ensure that the voice of the victim/survivor is heard and understood.

They hope that now the foundations for the existence of SAP are established that the building will begin to take shape and continue to contribute and make a difference to highlighting the victim/survivor perspective informing the NCSC and the church.



“

**CSAS has continued to work with the NCSC and the Church of England to develop an ecumenical Christian service to support survivors and victims of abuse.**

”

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# 4

## Section four

### CSAS developments 2018



# CSAS developments 2018

**W**hereas the NCSC is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Church's safeguarding policy, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) is responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice.

The primary role of CSAS is one of co-ordination, advice and support to the Catholic Church in England and Wales in respect of safeguarding children, young people and adults.

Recommendation 16 of the Cumberlege Commission report 'Safeguarding with Confidence' (2007) sets out the responsibilities of CSAS, which include:

- Provision of advice to the Church about safeguarding issues.
- Overseeing and co-ordinating safeguarding training within the Church.
- Policy development and review.
- Co-ordination of investigations and reviews.
- Being the point of liaison with other national stakeholders concerned with safeguarding.

---

**CSAS is also the Registered Body with the Disclosure and Barring Service for the processing of DBS Disclosures within the Catholic Church in England and Wales.**

## Provision of advice and support

CSAS provides support and advice to a wide range of members of the Catholic Church.

This includes:

Religious Congregations and Orders, diocesan offices, Catholic organisations, members of the public, other faith organisations and professionals. Advice might relate to specific cases, safer recruitment and DBS processing, the application of policy and procedure or general safeguarding matters.

During 2018, we continued to provide support to Catholic organisations as they develop locally relevant policy and procedure based on the national safeguarding policies and procedures of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

We have provided safeguarding advice and support to the national steering group responsible for developing the Community Sponsorship Schemes within parishes in England and Wales. The advice is intended to support the development of a national approach to specific parts of the scheme delivery to protect the families who will be supported within these communities.

The purpose of providing this advice is to ensure that everybody working in the name of the Catholic Church in England and Wales can do so in accordance with national safeguarding policy and procedure, which is compliant with legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice.

CSAS launched its new website during 2018 and information is now more accessible to the public and professionals who use the site to inform their practice. During 2019 we will develop the website further to include resources for victims and survivors of abuse.

CSAS has continued to work with the NCSC and the Church of England to develop an ecumenical Christian service to support survivors and victims of abuse. Progress has been made and we anticipate jointly tendering for the service during 2019. The launch of this service will enable victims and survivors to either access support via their parishes and dioceses, or without making contact directly with the church.

## Oversight and co-ordination of safeguarding training within the Church

The National Safeguarding Training Programme for clergy and parish safeguarding representatives introduces Safeguarding and continues to be delivered as part of the Church's commitment to promoting a one-Church approach to Safeguarding.

The National Safeguarding Training Programme modules aimed at clergy and parish safeguarding representatives have been thoroughly reviewed and a series of recommendations about the training will be presented to Bishops at their next plenary meeting.

We continue to promote the safeguarding E-learning pack that was launched by the Catholic Church in England and Wales in July 2015 and made available to every member of the Catholic community free of charge. The provision of training supports the application of good safeguarding practice within parishes and religious congregations.

The Seminary Safeguarding Curriculum continues to be implemented across the six seminaries, co-delivered by Safeguarding Co-ordinators and a member of clergy within the seminary. The curriculum will be updated in accordance with the any changes made to the national training programme.

## Policy development and review

During 2018 we :

- Published comprehensive guidance for planning and running pilgrimages, which was developed in partnership with Pilgrimage Directors and other key stakeholders;
- Updated information about dismissal and dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state for diocesan clergy;



- Published information on Dismissal and Dispensation from the Religious Life and from the Obligations of the Clerical State;
- Produced and published public facing information about how CSAS and the NCSC will manage complaints that are referred to them;
- Updated the national policy in relation to whistle-blowers;
- Made revisions to procedures in respect of support for those affected by allegations of abuse within a church setting;
- Published revised information about the temporary ministry of clergy, non-ordained religious and deacons and seminarians within England and Wales;
- Published the revised policy in relation to the commissioning of independent investigators and risk assessors;
- Published the revised guidance on creating safer environments;
- Updated and published our information sharing and data protection information to ensure it is GDPR (2016) and DPA (2018) compliant.

Work continues developing national communication materials for use within parishes and religious congregations across England and Wales. During 2019, working with the NCSC, we expect to publish information leaflets relating

to the work of safeguarding commissions and what happens if you are the subject of an allegation

We are working with the Survivor Advisory Panel to develop information for victims and survivors of abuse.

**This work ensures that safeguarding practice enshrined in policy, procedure and guidance within the church is in accordance with legislation, statutory guidance and recognised best practice.**

## Liaison with national stakeholders

The Director of CSAS has liaised with representatives from Operation Hydrant who have made an offer of direct communication between safeguarding offices /commissions and Hydrant, without the need to go via 101 to report safeguarding allegations. This is intended to improve the process for the referral of specific allegations to the police.

## Quality assurance

**Audits have been undertaken in one diocese and with three religious safeguarding commissions. Three of the four reports have been presented and accepted by the respective commissions.**

CSAS undertook desktop audits in relation to membership of safeguarding commissions and line-management arrangements for safeguarding coordinators.

Working with the NCSC, the quality assurance priorities for 2019 were confirmed as:

- Management of concerns and allegations (referral to statutory agencies).
- Management of risk of those in ministry where concerns remain.

Site visits commenced in January 2019.

The purpose of the quality assurance work is to identify areas where improvements need to be made and provide an evidence base for assertions about safeguarding practice within dioceses and religious safeguarding commissions.



**We continued to provide support to Catholic organisations as they develop locally relevant policy and procedure.**



## DBS and Ebulk

Between 1st January 2018 and 1st December 2018 CSAS, and its agents across the dioceses and religious congregations in England and Wales, processed 12,677 DBS Disclosure applications. Based on a monthly average figure, this represents a 3% decrease on the number processed during 2017.

Efforts continue to further refine DBS eligibility decision making to ensure that we are compliant with the legislation and are undertaking checks at the appropriate level for different roles within the Church.

**Providing a registered body in-house for the church, supports a consistent 'one-church' approach to safeguarding.**

Testing of the new integrated DBS database and Ebulk system was successful during 2018 and roll-out to dioceses across England and Wales is due to commence early 2019. The integration is intended to streamline existing processes and reduce the administrative time spent on this process in Diocesan safeguarding offices.

## The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

The Independent Inquiry into the nature and extent of, and institutional responses to, child sexual abuse, established on 15th March 2015 by the Home Secretary for England and Wales took evidence from the Catholic Church in England and Wales during 2018, focussing on 3 English Benedictine Abbeys and the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

CSAS has continued to provide support and information to the Inquiry and to the Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry, which was jointly created by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Conference of Religious, to oversee the Church's engagement with the Inquiry and oversees the response being made across the Church.

CSAS is engaging with safeguarding coordinators and commission chairs to raise awareness of relevant issues arising from the evidence being given to the IICSA.

12,677

DBS disclosure  
applications  
processed  
2018

# Ongoing support

Maintaining a strong,  
positive support network.



**Overwhelmingly Survivors tell us that more than anything they want an apology; for someone to acknowledge what happened to them and show them that it won't happen again and that things have changed.**



# 5

## **Section five** Supporting in Partnership



# Supporting in Partnership

## Survive

The **Diocese of Middlesbrough** is working with Survive to provide support so that survivors of sexual abuse which occurred within the Church have direct access to specialist counselling and other services.

This endeavour will ensure survivors receive the services they need almost immediately, without having to be placed on a waiting list, which will hopefully provide a seamless service from reporting abuse to accessing help.

.....

**Diocesan safeguarding coordinator  
Mick Walker said:**

“We want to support any survivor of abuse in the best way we can...By linking up with a reputable charity who are specialists in this area of support we are going some way towards achieving our aim.”

.....

Survive are a specialist sexual violence service offering holistic support as well as trauma counselling to victims of sexual abuse, assault or rape in childhood or adulthood.

**Survive, say the following:**

Over the past 2 to 3 years we have been offering support to members of the congregation, lay people, alumni and staff who have been affected by sexual abuse and violence within the Church.

During this work we have spent a great deal of time within various institutions to aid their understanding of the impact of abuse and trauma as well as to enable them to move forward and respond to Survivors in an empowering and supportive way.

Alongside this we have been offering support and counselling to those coming forward to speak out about the abuse they experienced within or by members of the Church. We offer this work face to face (in person or online) or over the phone.

## How to work with people who have been abused

### It starts with 'Belief'

Starting your process from a place of belief is very beneficial to any future relationship, discussions or investigations you may enter into with the Survivor.

People who have been abused in this way have often been told that no one will believe them and made to feel as though it is their fault this happened to them.

Simply accepting what they are saying without 'investigating it' and reassuring them that they are not responsible for the abuse is a really small but significant step that can help a Survivor to feel truly supported.

Often safeguarding teams are concerned that holding this belief makes them liable but this isn't the case. We have done extensive work with legal teams in relation to apologies and wording of disclosure sessions, there are really simple ways of showing someone you believe them and you are there to support them that would not constitute a statement of culpability.

A good example to consider are the specially trained police officers who respond to sexually violent crimes; they must investigate and remain impartial, but they can still support the victim and show them that they believe them.

They drop language like 'alleged' and instead say 'tell me what happened', a simple but important change.

### Choice is important

Anyone who has experienced sexual violence has had choice taken away from them. Any act of sexual violence is disempowering and to truly support Survivors we have to give the power back to them.

Often teams we work with are concerned about their ability to meet the needs of this diverse client group if open ended choice is offered to them, and they are right to be concerned. Choice doesn't have to be open ended, offering someone a choice could be as simple as asking where they would rather sit in a room with two chairs.

### Communication

Alongside choice, ensuring the Survivor is well informed and given regular updates about the progress of their case is very helpful. For Survivors often things have felt hidden and been covered up for so long that a lack of communication can cause this sense of secrecy to re-emerge, compounding the feelings of not being supported.

### To apologise or not to apologise

This is a debate that we have been involved with, with many Churches and institutions.

Overwhelmingly Survivors tell us that more than anything they want an apology; for someone to acknowledge what happened to them and show them that it won't happen again and that

things have changed. Often there is a fear that this apology will result in a lot of litigation. From our work there is no evidence that this is really the case.

### Sorry is more than just a word

If you are going to offer this, you have to follow it through; you have to show that you are making positive changes to stop abuse reoccurring. If the person you are apologising on behalf of is still being supported within the priesthood, this can feel very disingenuous for the Survivor.

## The impact our work can have for those abused within the Church

“My work with Survive came when I needed it, I was at such a loss about how to handle things within myself. I felt angry which was not a usual or comfortable feeling for me and I was deeply disappointed with the Church and with God. I didn't feel judged or blamed by Survive, I was just believed and felt truly supported. My counsellor was my anchor, my centre point. She gave me the space to understand what happened, she unravelled bits I couldn't see clearly and helped refocus my thinking until I had clarity, that I believe, I couldn't have found without Survive.”



## Changing the Safeguarding Landscape

My work in Catholic Communities  
by Tammy Banks

My day job is CEO of the sexual harm prevention charity re:shape, I also run my own Safeguarding training company and sit on the House of Commons Standards Committee. I am a mum, a survivor and a passionate advocate for doing everything we can to prevent abuse.

I have worked with hundreds of organisations, tailoring my approach to help them change their landscape of Safeguarding. My work in Catholic communities has included interventions, consultancy, training and conferences. My experience has been enlightening and encouraging.

I started working with Catholic Communities in 2015. I was invited by the Safeguarding Lay advisor, as CEO of re:shape to talk to the Monastic Community about our services.

I walked down the corridor and was greeted by a sea of black and white robes. I paused for a moment to take a breath, I was expecting antipathy. What I received was a smile and a welcoming hand.

There is no denying that some abhorrent abuse has happened under the umbrella of Catholicism. No denying that immense pain has been caused and that victims and survivors should receive all the support they need to help their journey of recovery. I follow the IICSA inquiry and recommendations closely and helped connect communities with survivor organisations.

My current role however focuses on next steps. Helping people in the Catholic Community to improve their Safeguarding understanding, processes and perspective.

We all as individuals are on our own safeguarding journey, that journey is influenced by our experiences, beliefs and knowledge. Recognising where people and organisations are on this journey is the first step to helping them understand what they can do to prevent abuse.

When I talk about Safeguarding in a Catholic Community the response is varied, fear, confusion, misunderstanding and sadness are regular reactions.

I regularly remind people that Safeguarding isn't all about sexual abuse. That there has rightly been a focus on sexual abuse over the last few years, and whilst investigations are ongoing, I expect this to continue to be the case. However, alongside this in your day to day role you should be clear about what constitutes abuse, confident about spotting signs, recognise your unconscious bias, champion a transparent and honest culture and know where, when and how to report any concerns.

Working Together 2018 places emphasis on organisational responsibility towards people who work in positions of trust. This specifically includes faith-based organisations and highlights the power (and duty) they have to Safeguard others.

Safeguarding in its purest form has clear connections to faith. 'Nurturing, respecting and caring is part of the teachings and values of all major faiths. There is a general expectation to care for all life and a duty to support those in society who most need care and protection.' CSAS 2014.

Over the last few years I have challenged outdated perspectives, moved people past their confusion and made change achievable. My work in Catholic communities continues to be enlightening and encouraging.

## Section six

### Appendix One NCSC and Survivor Advisory Panel membership



**All people should be valued,  
supported and protected from  
harm, and this responsibility  
needs to be reflected both  
individually and collectively  
in the Catholic Church.**

Chris Pearson,  
Chair NCSC



## 2018 membership

### National Catholic Safeguarding Commission

**Chris Pearson**  
(Chair)

**The Rt Rev Marcus Stock**  
(Vice Chair)

**Sr Lyndsay Spendelow RSM**  
(Vice Chair)

**Rachel O'Driscoll**  
(Lay Vice Chair)

**Dr Colette Limbrick**  
(in attendance) (CSAS Director)

**Dr Lindsay Voss**

**Peter Houghton**

**Rt Reverend Mark Davies**

**Stephen Spear**

**Rev Dr Brendan Killeen**

**Sr Philomena McCluskey FMSJ MBE**

**Elizabeth Manero**

**Kathy Perrin**  
(Co-opted Catholic Insurance Service member)

**Dave Marshall**  
(SAP rep)

**Mick Walker**  
(Co-opted Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator)

**Rt Reverend Paul Mason**

### Survivor Advisory Panel for National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (SAP)

**Dave Marshall QPM**  
(SAP Chair)

**Andrew Browne**

**Panna Modi**

**Frances Healey**

**Marie Grant**

**Anthony Griffin**

**Maxine Leigh**

### Secretary and Link members

**Bernadette Speakman**  
(NCSC and SAP Secretary)

**Lindsay Voss (NCSC)**  
(SAP Link member to October 2018)

**Elizabeth Manero**  
(SAP Link member from November 2018)

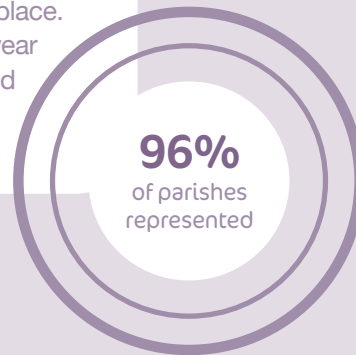
“

**We can all support the rebuilding  
of trust in the Church and those  
who serve it.**

”

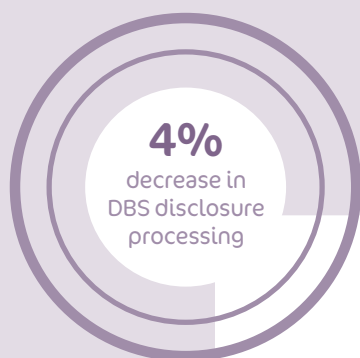
**At the end of December 2018 4% of parishes did not have a Safeguarding Representative in post,** which is approximately the same as the number at the end of 2017.

However, in 2018 only 48% of those posts did not have temporary cover arrangements in place. This is a significant improvement from last year when 86% of parishes without a vacancy did not have temporary cover.



**Table 1**  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of Parishes	2383	2341	2294	2263	2227
No. of parishes with Parish representative in post	2276	2227	2207	2163	2126
No. of parishes without Parish Representative	107	114	87	100	101
No. of Parishes without cover of the vacancy	-	-	-	86	48
% of Parishes without Parish Representative	4.49%	4.87%	3.79%	4.42%	4.54%
% of Parishes with a vacancy that do not have cover	-	-	-	86%	47.52%



**During 2018, the CSAS Registered Body processed 13,671 applications for a DBS criminal record check.**

This represents a 4% decrease on the number processed during 2017 and a 8% decrease on the number processed during 2016. 1.3% of certificates contained disclosure information representing a 7% decrease on the previous year.

**Table 2**  
**DBS disclosures initiated**

<b>Dioceses &amp; Independent Religious Commission Returns</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
DBS Checks initiated by Dioceses & Independent Religious Commissions	11585	12853	14909	14245	13671
Number of disclosure certificates returned without disclosure information	11370	12658	14705	14048	13500
% of disclosure certificates returned without disclosure information	98.14%	98.48%	98.63%	98.62%	98.75%
Number of disclosure certificates returned containing disclosure information	215	195	204	197	171
% of disclosure certificates containing disclosure information	1.85%	1.52%	1.36%	1.40%	1.30%



**Catholic Church Safeguarding teams, members of the clergy and religious and partners from statutory agencies work collaboratively to ensure that those about whom there are concerns or who have been convicted of relevant offences against children or adults, are supervised and supported using ‘Safeguarding Plans’.**

Many plans relate to people who have been convicted of offences and wish to attend Church, as opposed to relating to people who have been or are in any role within the Church. These are agreements that are informed by a process of identifying risks and seek to hold the person to account, help them model safe behaviours, develop supportive relationships and develop skills and strategies to reduce risk and keep themselves and others safe.

Additionally, the Agreement seeks to identify and address support needs.

In 2018 108 new safeguarding plans were implemented representing an increase of 9% compared to 2017. This takes the total number of safeguarding plans now in place to 463, representing a 2% increase on the number in 2017.

**Table 3**  
**Safeguarding Plans**

Year	New Safeguarding Plans	Total number in place
2014	104	462
2015	92	423
2016	88	428
2017	99	454
2018	108	463



**There has been a 2% increase in the total number of Safeguarding Plans in place and a 9% increase in new Safeguarding Plans being put in place compared to 2017.**

## Allegations and Concerns relating to children

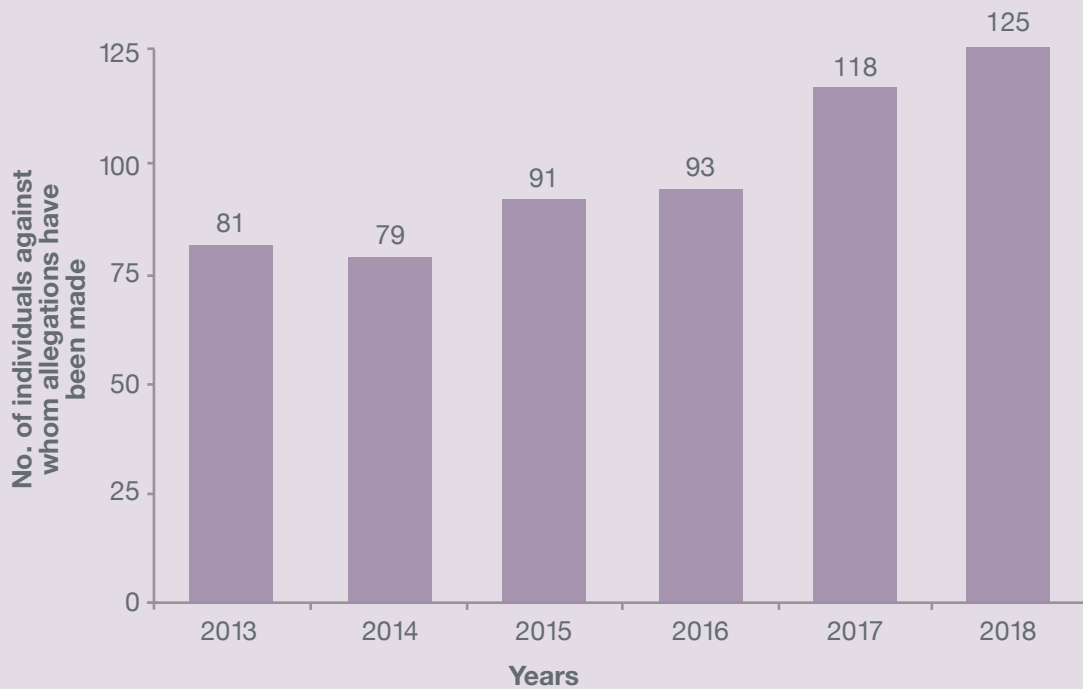
**6%**  
increase in  
number of alleged  
individuals

### Allegation of abuse against children

During the past year, **156 people** made child related allegations<sup>1</sup> against **125 individuals**<sup>2</sup>. This is an **increase of 6%** in the number of accused individuals compared to 2017.

Chart 1

Number of individuals against whom allegations or concerns have been raised, 2013-2018



Of the 125 alleged perpetrators, 110 (88%) were male, whilst 15 (12%) were female.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout, each of the 156 individual complaints is referred to as an allegation.

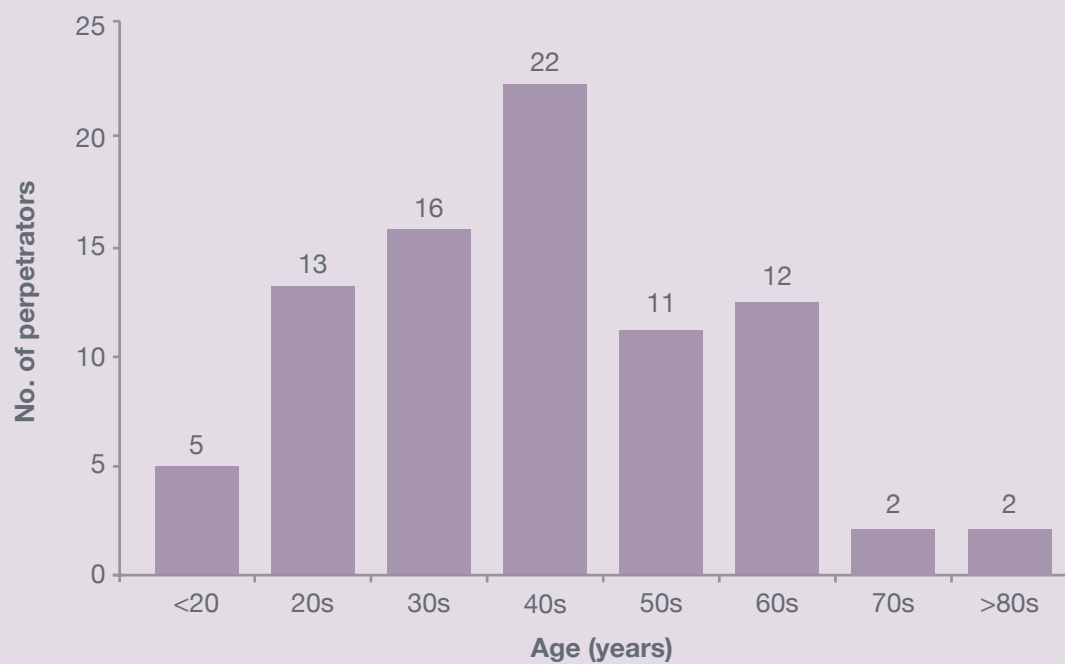
<sup>2</sup> Some of the 125 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.

### Age of alleged perpetrator at time of alleged abuse or concerns being raised

The age of the alleged perpetrator was known in 83 cases (66%). Of these, 22 perpetrators (26%) were aged in their '40s,' which accounted for the largest age group. 54% of alleged perpetrators were in the age bracket 40-60, compared to 42% in 2017.

Chart 2

### Age of perpetrator at time of alleged abuse or concerns being raised



### Types of abuse

167 incidents of abuse were reported this year, which can be categorised into 8 different types. This number is higher than the number of perpetrators, victims, and reports, as several types of abuse may occur in one situation. The most common type of alleged abuse or concerns raised was related to sexual behaviour, which accounted for 104 allegations, or 62% of the total.



**Table 4**  
**Types of abuse**

	Total
Sexual	104
Physical	20
Emotional	14
Neglect	7
Indecent images of children	6
Grooming	8
Unknown	1
Other	7
Totals	167

### Role of alleged perpetrator

**141 roles were recorded for the alleged perpetrators. This number is higher than the number of perpetrators, as one individual may have multiple roles, all of which are counted.** The three most common roles were, in descending order: Secular/ Diocesan Priest (27%), Religious Priest (18%), and Parishioner (13%). These are the same roles in descending order as in 2017 whilst in 2016 the most common roles in descending order were Religious Priest, Secular / Diocesan Priest and volunteer.

**Table 5**  
**Role of alleged perpetrator**

	Number
Secular / Diocesan Priest/s	38
Religious Priest/s	25
Parishioner/s	18
Volunteer/s	13
Female Religious	12
No role within the church	9
Male Religious	6
Employee/s	6
Relative / Friend	6
Other	3
Transitional & Permanent Deacons	2
Religious in Formation	2
Unspecified Religious	1
Total	141

### Reporting to statutory authorities

**The Church referred 62% of allegations and concerns to statutory agencies.**

In the remaining cases, 28% were already known to statutory agencies and the remaining 10% were not reported to statutory agencies due to there being insufficient evidence or the allegations or concerns appearing to be unsubstantiated, there being no safeguarding issue or the victim not consenting to the referral.



## Allegations and Concerns relating to adults

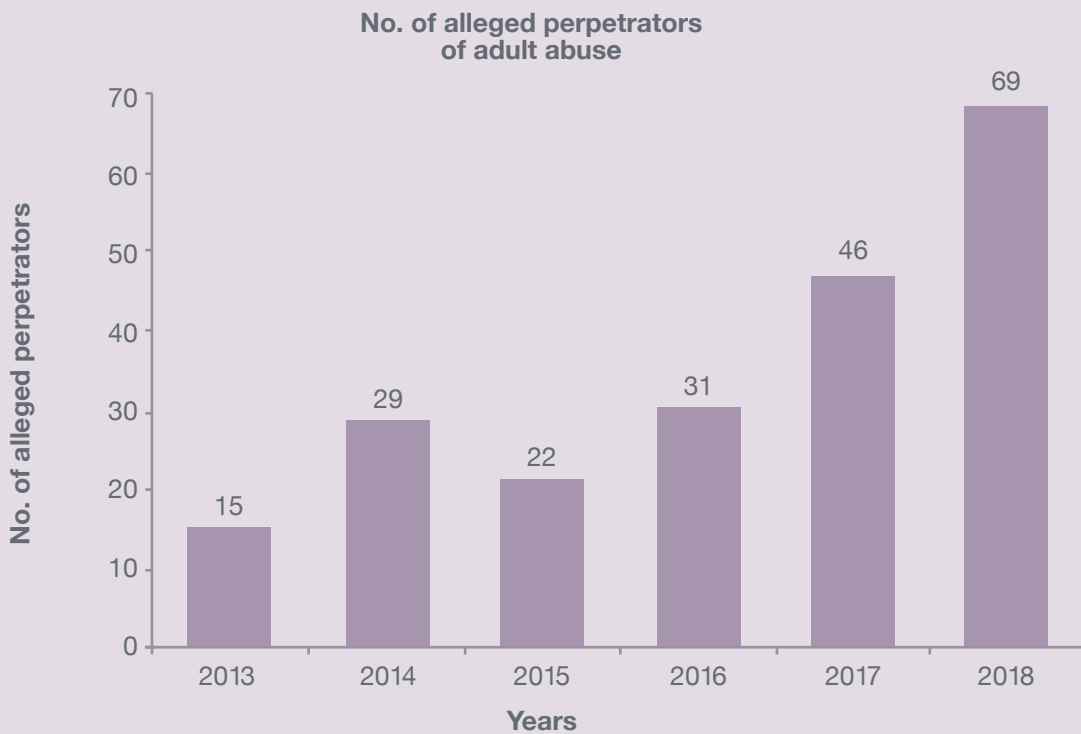


### Allegation of abuse against adults

During the past year, **77 people** made adult related allegations<sup>1</sup> against **69 individuals**<sup>2</sup>. This is an **increase of 50%** in the number of accused individuals, compared to 2017 and an **increase of 123%** from 2016.

### Chart 1

**The number of individuals against whom allegations or concerns have been raised**



The gender of the alleged perpetrator was known in 66 cases (96%). Of these, 56 (85%) were male, whilst 10 (15%) were female.

### Age of alleged perpetrator at time of alleged abuse or concerns being raised

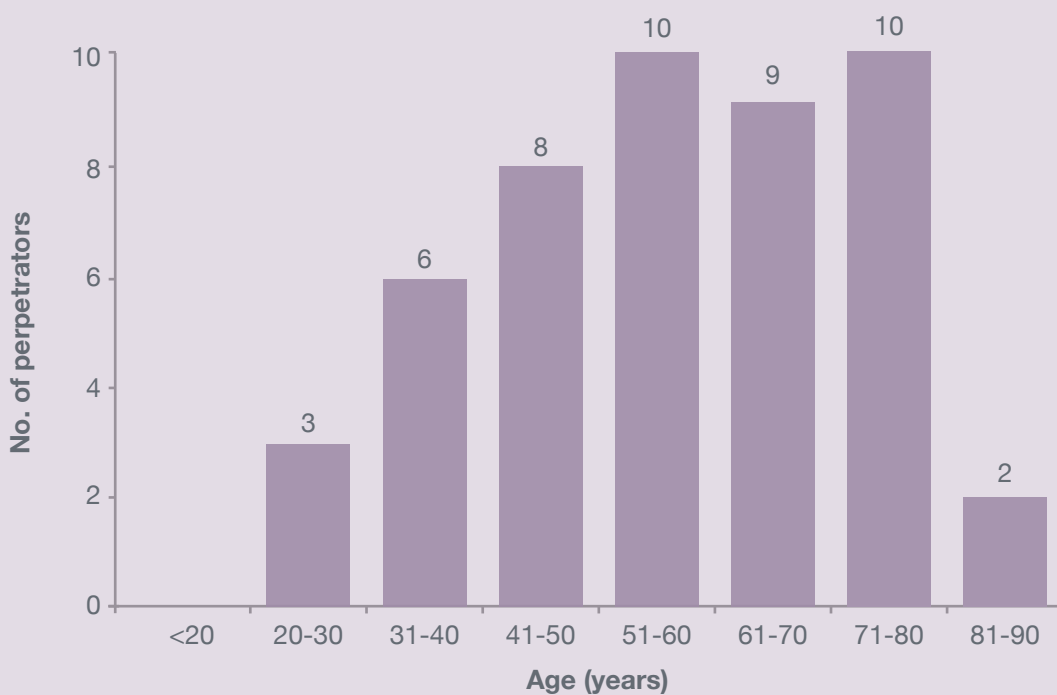
The age of the alleged perpetrator was known in 48 cases (70%). Of these, 29 perpetrators (60%) were aged between 51 and 80. The two largest age groups were '51-60' and '71-80' which each included 10 alleged perpetrators. In 2017, 50% of alleged perpetrators were aged between 51 and 80 and the two largest age groups were '61-70' (19%) and '51-60' (17%).

### Age of alleged perpetrator at time of alleged abuse or concerns being raised

The age of the alleged perpetrator was known in 48 cases (70%). Of these, 29 perpetrators (60%) were aged between 51 and 80. The two largest age groups were '51-60' and '71-80' which each included 10 alleged perpetrators. In 2017, 50% of alleged perpetrators were aged between 51 and 80 and the two largest age groups were '61-70' (19%) and '51-60' (17%).

### Chart 2

Age of alleged perpetrator at time of alleged abuse or concerns being raised



<sup>1</sup> Throughout, each of the 77 individual complaints is referred to as an allegation.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the 69 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.

### Types of abuse

89 incidents of abuse were reported this year, which can be categorised into 5 different types. This number is higher than the number of perpetrators, victims, and reports, as several types of abuse may occur in one situation. The most common type of alleged abuse or concerns raised related to sexual behaviour, which accounted for 44 allegations, or 49% of the total. In 2017, sexual abuse accounted for 47% of the total.

**Table 4**  
**Types of abuse**

	Total
Sexual	44
Physical	12
Emotional, psychological, spiritual	20
Neglect or self neglect	1
Financial	12
Totals	89



### Role of alleged perpetrator

78 roles were recorded for the alleged perpetrators. This number is higher than the number of perpetrators, as one individual may have multiple roles, all of which are counted. The four most common roles were, in descending order: Secular/ Diocesan Priest (27%), Religious Priest (19%), Volunteer (13%), and Parishioner (13%). These are the same four most common roles as in 2017, whilst in 2016 the two most common roles were parishioner followed by Secular / Diocesan Priest.



### Reporting to statutory authorities

The Church referred 58% of allegations to statutory authorities. 4% of cases were already known to statutory authorities and 39% were not reported to statutory agencies for a variety of reasons. 62% of allegations or concerns were either reported to or already known to statutory authorities. This was due to either:

- the alleged perpetrator being deceased: 1 case
- the alleged perpetrator being reported to another body: 1 case
- insufficient evidence or the claim appearing to be unsubstantiated: 4 cases
- there being no safeguarding issue: 13 cases
- the case being dealt with abroad: 4 cases
- the victim not consenting to referral: 5

**Table 5**

### Role of alleged perpetrator Number of Perpetrators by role – Adult abuse

	Number
Secular / Diocesan Priest/s	21
Religious Priest/s	15
Male Religious	1
Female Religious	2
Volunteer/s	10
Employee/s	5
Parishioner/s	9
Relative/ Friend	6
No Role within the Church	8
Ethnic chaplain Priest	1
Total	78





# Notes

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