

Paragraph 54

The independent review that the trustees confirmed would be carried out is a matter for the Charity. The Commission cannot intervene in the administration of a charity. It is my understanding that the Charity has published the findings of the review on its website. The review was in response to the complaints received regarding Father Pearce, the criminal investigation of these and the conviction which followed. As you are aware, following additional concerns regarding safeguarding beneficiaries at the Charity, Lord Carlisle has been commissioned to undertake a review – the findings and recommendation of which are as yet unknown. It is the Commission's understanding that the findings of the review will be made public, in the event that regulatory concerns are identified by the Commission following the conclusion of the review, consideration will be given as to whether any regulatory action is required.

Paragraph 57

The second inquiry, as outlined in paragraph 42 of the report, considered the assurances provided by the trustees in the first inquiry and also actions taken by the trustees in respect of the reputational risks for the charity following Father Pearce's arrest in 2008. It was not the purpose of the Inquiry to examine or investigate allegations of historic abuse at the Charity. For the reasons outlined above, investigation of these issues are conducted by other agencies and government departments and not the Commission. Had adequate steps not been taken in relation to Father Pearce, the Commission would have given consideration as to whether it needed to exercise its regulatory powers to intervene to safeguard the Charity's beneficiaries. As Father Pearce was convicted, he poses no future risks to beneficiaries at the Charity and for this reason the Commission determined that no further action was required.

I trust that the above provides you with a better understanding of some of the actions taken by the Commission during the course of this investigation and that this was done so in compliance with its statutory functions and objectives.

Yours sincerely,

DPA

Tim Hopkins

DPA