

For every survivor able to speak out about their experience, there were hundreds more “left bewildered, angry, desperate”, [Name Redacted] said.

A spokeswoman for Ecclesiastical said in a statement that the independent review, the Elliott report, contained factual inaccuracies, and insisted that they had never advised the Church to remove pastoral support.

“We have always been clear that pastoral care and counselling can and should continue in parallel with an insurance claim. We are an independent insurer that is authorised and rigorously regulated in the same way as any other insurer. We are entirely independent of the Church of England.”

She also suggested that the temporary withdrawal of support for [Name Redacted] was based on a misunderstanding, and was quickly rectified.

A spokeswoman for the C of E said: “Advice was given to the bishop to cut off pastoral contact with the survivor because he had started legal action. We now recognise that proper provision needs to be made for the pastoral needs of survivors in such circumstances. We therefore published new guidance in 2015 to that effect, emphasising that pastoral support can and should continue in parallel with legal and insurance responses.”

The House of Bishops was “fully committed” to implementing the recommendations of the Elliott report. “The Church has issued an unreserved apology to [Name Redacted] for the abuse which has clearly devastated his life.”

DPA

DPA