

# The Bishop of Durham

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Rt Revd Tim Thornton  
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## **STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Mark Hews, Chief Executive  
EIG  
Beaufort House  
Brunswick Road  
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14 September 2017

Dear Mark,

We have together recently been involved in a mediation process with a survivor of sexual abuse by an Anglican priest. This leads us to write to you, as three bishops in our own capacity, on a number of matters of concern. These involve both clarification and a desire to enter serious dialogue about a number of matters. We believe that we will need to meet with relevant people to follow these up fully and in detail.

### **The new Guiding Principles**

These are very welcome. We note the welcome given to them by IICSA, but are concerned that at that specific hearing survivors were not present to offer their own comments. This we fear significantly weakens the endorsement given. Our own hard experience within the Church of England is that it is much easier to put good words on paper than it is to ensure they are fulfilled in practice. As a significant policyholder with you we believe that we need to ensure that you have clear agreed ways of guaranteeing that the guiding principles are followed. We recognise that as policyholders we are partners in that task so believe that there need to be agreed ways of helping hold each other to account for this putting good policy into good practice.

We also think that serious consideration needs to be given to revisiting cases where past practice may have reached a settlement that did not truly match the significance of the impact of the abuse.

We would ask for an ongoing commitment to reviewing the guiding principles. For example is 'fairness' really the best principle when the church would be more concerned for justice and indeed, where possible, reconciliation?

We also believe that further work needs to be done between EIG and policyholders on ensuring ongoing pastoral support of survivors after a claim has been settled. Whilst the legal and technical task may have been completed by EIG the closure of the claim often feels to a survivor like an abandonment. So how might EIG consider a way of building into future settlements an agreement with the survivor and the policyholder about ongoing support? We believe that the settlement amounts need to take this matter into much greater consideration than appears to currently be the case.

Our own past experience has shown us that EIG has not always offered consistent advice, and has not always practised its response to survivors in the way that we had been given to believe would be the case.



Diocese of Durham

Blessing our communities in Jesus' name

