

interfere or to suggest, for example, the making of an individual apology, until so requested by those dealing with the case, whether in the pure safeguarding context, or in the context of civil proceedings (as to which see more below).

8. Our procedures and record-keeping were all commended by the recent SCIE audit. Safeguarding records are kept by the DSA in Church House and clergy Blue Files, to which the DSA has full access, as required, are kept in Bishop's House. The clergy Blue Files include those of suffragan bishops, but not of diocesan bishops. The latter are kept at Bishopthorpe Palace, in York.
9. I understand that our DSA has given a witness statement to the Inquiry which will no doubt deal with these matters in more detail. Although her notes at WWS000223 relate specifically to Operation Coverage (see below), I have no doubt that her approach to other individual complainants has been based on the same model, and similarly thorough and diligent.

Conviction of Revd Ian Hughes

10. We were informed on 22 May 2013 that the Revd Ian Hughes had been arrested on suspicion of making indecent images of children.
11. He was suspended on 22 May, and the suspension was renewed every three months, as required by the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003 ("CDM"). ACE022111_004-5 is a document dating from November 2013, recording one such renewal, taking effect from 22 November 2013, so this must have the third renewal. Ian Hughes remained suspended until his resignation (of his own volition) on 28 January 2014, prior to his sentencing on 29 January 2014 to 12 months' imprisonment, with 10 years on the Sex Offenders Register. He had pleaded guilty.
12. On 22 May 2013 (or thereabouts) I agreed with my suffragan colleague, the Bishop of Birkenhead, that he would maintain pastoral contact with Ian Hughes, while I would handle the formal and disciplinary aspects of the case. This separation and allocation of pastoral and disciplinary responsibilities between me and a suffragan colleague has been our invariable practice. Usually I would take the formal and disciplinary responsibility but, on occasion, as circumstances dictate (eg in the recent case of [Name Redacted] which resulted in a formal disciplinary tribunal in 2018), the suffragan Bishop handles the formal and legal aspects, which permits me to exercise a degree of pastoral responsibility both for the priest and his or her parish.