

Witness Name: Michael George Angell
Statement No.: 2
Exhibits: None
Dated:

THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Witness Statement of Michael George Angell

I, Michael George Angell, will say as follows:-

1. I am employed by Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc ("EIO") and currently hold the position of Church Operations Director, a role which I have held since March 2014. I have previously provided a statement to the Inquiry [EIO000141] dated 1 February 2018. My first statement was provided in the context of the Chichester Diocese case study of the Anglican Church Investigation.
2. I make this further witness statement in response to a request from the Inquiry asking EIO to build on the evidence already provided and in anticipation of the wider Anglican Church hearing due to take place in July 2019.
3. In my first witness statement to the Inquiry [EIO000141] I provided general details about the relationship between EIO and the Anglican Church, the Ecclesiastical Group structure and the various insurance policies available to the Anglican Church policyholders. I have been asked to comment specifically on meetings between EIO and the Church of England. Where matters referred to in this statement are relevant to information provided in my previous statement, I will cross refer to the information contained therein. This statement should therefore be read in conjunction with my first statement to the Inquiry [EIO000141].

Meetings between EIO and the Church of England

4. EIO regularly holds meetings with its customers to ensure that it maintains a good customer relationship. Meetings with the Church of England will usually take place on a quarterly basis, as detailed in my first statement to the Inquiry [EIO000141 at paragraphs 11 to 12]. These meetings are fairly informal and are not routinely minuted. Attendees will note their actions arising from the meeting and progress issues as and when they arise. I should note that customer meetings are not unique to the Church of England – EIO holds meetings with many of its customers as and when required.

5. The Inquiry has asked what proportion of the discussions at the meetings with the Church of England relate to safeguarding and /or child sexual abuse claims. Safeguarding and child protection is a matter for the Church of England. When EIO's Guiding Principles were published, the principles and EIO's approach to handling claims of child sexual abuse were discussed during a meeting with the Church of England to ensure that the Church of England fully understood the principles and what action they should take. There will of course be some meetings between EIO, its customers and legal advisers where individual complex claims are discussed. These meetings are confidential and, in some circumstances, subject to legal advice privilege.
6. The Inquiry has requested information about EIO's attendance at Church of England Safeguarding Committee meetings between the mid-1990s and 2015, which I referred to at paragraph 12 of my first statement to the Inquiry [EIO000141]. Specifically, the Inquiry has asked for broad details of the nature of the queries raised with EIO at those meetings; and a summary of the advice given by the EIO regarding the provision of apologies and the provision of therapeutic support. The Safeguarding Committee meetings were held on a quarterly basis. These meetings are predominantly led by the Church of England. EIO does not attend each meeting, nor do we hold a full suite of minutes arising from these meetings. When EIO did attend the meetings, it would respond to any queries raised from an insurance perspective. If no such queries were raised, which was more often than not, EIO would simply observe the meetings.
7. The Inquiry has asked for a summary of advice provided by EIO in relation to the provision of apologies at any meetings between EIO and the Church of England between the mid-1990s and 2015. As stated above, as these meetings were not EIO led meetings we do not hold a full suite of the minutes arising from these meetings. However, I note from the minutes of the meeting dated March 2012, the question of providing an apology was one of the points discussed.
8. Following this meeting there was an exchange of correspondence between EIO and the Church of England's legal office in relation to EIO providing details to the legal office in respect of EIO's approach to the handling of physical and sexual abuse ("PSA") claims, to include reference to the provision of apologies. A member of the claims handling team assisted with the drafting of this document and I believe it was shared at a Church of England Communications Day on 4 October 2012. Unfortunately, despite being part of the chain of correspondence surrounding this, I do not have a copy of the final version of the document circulated at the Communications Day.
9. I am not aware of EIO having spoken at any Church of England conferences regarding child protection and/or safeguarding issues.

10. EIO remains committed to the work of the Inquiry and will continue to provide any further assistance required.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: _____

DPA

Dated: _____

30 June 2019

