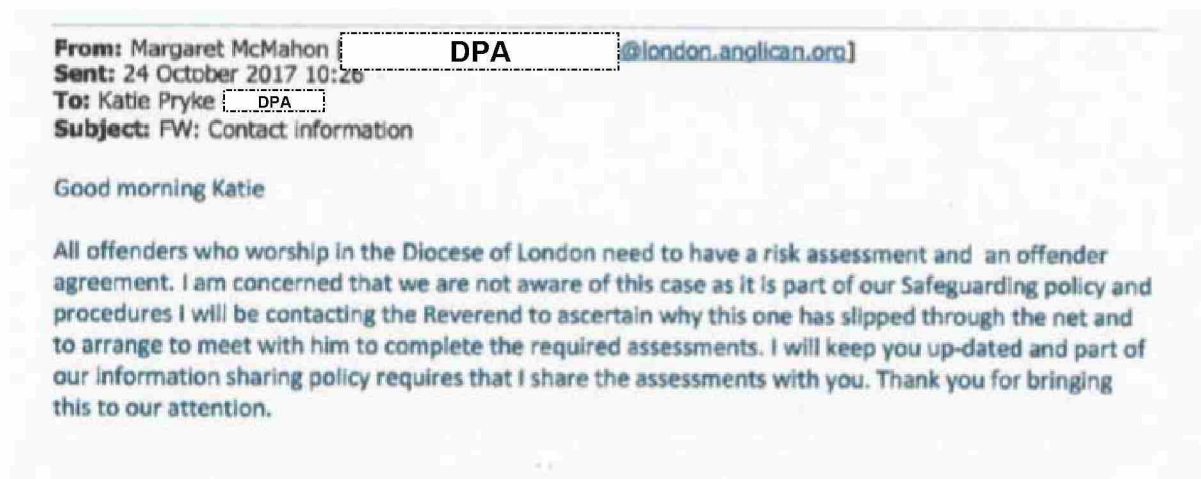


agreement in place. In that same communication she stated that she had spoken with **the Vicar** (Incumbent at **the Church**) and made a formal request for a safeguarding agreement in place signed by all parties.

21. In response to the email informing me about **AN-F67**'s offences, I replied to DC Pryke as follows:



[ACE026498]

22. The Inquiry has asked me to explain what was meant by the phrase "*slipped through the net*". At the time that **AN-F67** was released from custody in 2008, the Diocese had policies "Promoting a Safer Church" (2006) and "Protecting all God's Children" (2004) in place. My understanding from reviewing past case review reports is that safeguarding practice in the Diocese in 2008 appears to have been very different to today and subsequent developments have resulted in more robust risk management and consistent and transparent safeguarding arrangements. The email from DC Pryke states that the current Incumbent **Vicar** was aware of the matter and believed that his predecessor (the previous Incumbent) was aware of **AN-F67**'s offending and of his attendance in the parish. It would seem that they had been guided by previous arrangements, under the Promoting a Safer Church 2006 policy which advocated that a small group from the congregation "*should offer support and friendship as well as supervision*"<sup>1</sup>. The reference to "*slip[ping] through the net*" referred to the information from DC Pryke that **AN-F67** had been attending the church for the past 7 and a half years and there is no available information confirming where and with whom the information about his offending was shared within the Parish.

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<sup>1</sup> pg. 31 (Promoting a Safer Church 2006)

effective in that I am not aware of any breaches of the agreement and I understand that [AN-F67] continues to attend church services, in a safe manner.

#### Division of responsibilities between the parish and the diocese

28. The Incumbent and the CSO are always invited to the first part of the risk assessment interview so that there is no duplication or dilution of the work being undertaken. The DST is responsible for the implementation of the risk assessment and the safeguarding agreement. The role of a supporter is to monitor the subject of the agreement to ensure that they comply with the terms of the agreement. The parish then takes over the monitoring and reviewing of the agreement. I remind the parishes of when the review is due on a regular basis.
29. In the case of [AN-F67] I liaised with [the Vicar] who completed the review in August 2018 [ACE026499] [ACE026500] [ACE026501] and again in February 2019. Liaison with the DST takes place in relation to any changes in circumstances so that any change in risk can be evaluated. The reference group for all safeguarding agreements invariably involves the Incumbent and the CSO. Identified supporters are also included. The reference group is limited on a "need to know" basis in efforts to ensure confidentiality. The agreement ensures that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and that there is clear guidance on contingency plans in terms of what actions need to be taken if there is a breach of the agreement.
30. I was recruited by the Diocese of London to specifically undertake standard risk assessments and to put in place safeguarding agreements. This enabled a separating out of roles between the Parish and the DST so that the Incumbent can maintain a pastoral role whilst the safeguarding role was clearly defined in respect of the implementation of the agreements and the risk assessment. The protocols, practice guidance and the Safeguarding Policy were updated in 2015 to reflect a change in practice and a clearer understanding of the responsibilities and roles in safeguarding.

### **Safeguarding Agreements**

#### Breaches of agreements

31. Safeguarding agreements are confidential and form part of our risk management strategy for offenders. Factors taken into consideration when implementing an agreement are the details of the offence, the age of the victim and any previous

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<sup>5</sup> Due to an administrative error the review email prompt sent in June 2018 was sent to [AN-F67] rather than [the Vicar] [ACE26499].

## Annexe to the First Witness Statement of Margarite McMahon

### Safeguarding in the Diocese of London

*This annex has been prepared with input from members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.*

1. The Diocese of London covers 277 square miles of Greater London north of the Thames from Staines in the west to the Isle of Dogs in the east and as far north as Enfield. It comprises the Cities of London and Westminster and the London boroughs of Brent, Harrow, Ealing, Hillingdon, Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Hackney, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Spelthorne and part of Richmond-upon-Thames. There are:
  - 500+ worshipping communities (including 399 parishes)
  - 1,000 clergy and ministers
  - 200 men and women in training for ministry
  - 75,000 adults on electoral rolls
  - 70,000+ regular worshippers
  - thousands of volunteers supporting a huge variety of activities and projects in our churches.
2. Safeguarding activity is undertaken within the context of the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy Statement 2017: *Promoting a Safer Church* and Practice Guidance, with Church Safeguarding Officers (usually volunteers) and clergy taking advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors ("DSAs"), who provide advice and case management expertise and liaise as appropriate with professional service providers from 18 local authorities.
3. The new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy: *Towards a Safer Diocese*, based on the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement 2017 was approved by the Diocesan Bishop's Council in 2018 and was distributed to all licensed clergy via an 'ad clerum' from the Bishop of London. It is available on the safeguarding pages of the Diocesan website<sup>8</sup>. In February 2019, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team sent packs to all parishes containing the recently published Parish Safeguarding Handbook along with other support materials produced by the National Safeguarding Team.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.london.anglican.org/support/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy/>