

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

First Witness Statement of The Reverend AN-X1
in the Anglican Church Investigation

I, The Reverend AN-X1 of DPA
DPA, SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. In this statement I address a safeguarding matter which concerns the Diocese of London (the "Diocese"). In particular, I deal with a specific safeguarding referral relating to the parish of Parish I make this statement in response to a letter dated 26 April 2019 from the Solicitor to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (the "Inquiry") to Ms Nusrat Zar of Herbert Smith Freehills LLP (the "Request"). The structure of this witness statement largely follows that of the Request (including through the use of subheadings) save for I have annexed a chronological account of the events at the end of this statement. The safeguarding referral which I discuss in this statement has been given the code name "L1" by the Inquiry.
2. Save where I state otherwise, the facts and matters set out below are within my own knowledge and are true. Where I refer to matters that are not within my own knowledge, they are derived from the sources stated and are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. In particular, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team ("DST") has provided me with additional information in relation to the matters referred to in this statement.
3. I have been referred to a number of documents by the Inquiry for use when preparing this statement and at the end of my statement I enclose an index which sets out those documents with their corresponding Unique Reference Number ("URN").

Role and background

4. I have been the Vicar of the parish Parish in the Diocese of London since May 2018. Prior to this role, following my ordination in DPA I was Assistant Curate at Previous Church, also in the Diocese of London, and held this

including the identity of the complainant and her mother, were not subsequently shared with [AN-F24]

31. I was aware that I had a pastoral responsibility for [AN-F24] as well as [AN-A142] and her family, because he was part of the church. He continued to attend church and this meant that I had contact with him, but I did not discuss the matter with him once the Safeguarding Agreement was in place.
32. Margaret McMahon liaised with [AN-F24] to arrange the risk assessment and to put in place the Safeguarding Agreement, which are addressed in more detail below.

Investigation and Risk Assessment

33. As set out above, the CSO and I met with [AN-A142's mum] to take a statement from her. We understood that we were not to prompt [AN-A142's mum] based on the information we had already received via [the church website] but rather to let her explain in her own words.
34. Aside from this initial enquiry, I am not aware of any further internal investigation which took place, I understand that [AN-F24] was interviewed by Margaret McMahon with [the Vicar] and [the CSO] present, as part of the Risk Assessment process. The investigation carried out by the DST took into account information provided by [the Vicar] me and by Reverend [Name Redacted], the incumbent of [another church], where [AN-F24] sings in a choir. It also took into account information provided by [AN-F24] during his interview. I also understand the DST were informed by the police of the outcome of their discussion with [AN-A142 and her mum].
35. I have been shown a copy at [ACE026475] of the completed Risk Assessment and Management Tool document which was completed on 1 December 2017 by Margaret McMahon. This was completed following a meeting with [AN-F24] and with input from [the Vicar] [the CSO] and Reverend [Name Redacted]. The Risk Assessment and Management Tool shows that [AN-F24] provided information about his early family life, his current family structure, his school/education, his current accommodation arrangements, his finances and work life, his relationships / friendships, any vulnerabilities / disabilities he faced, his mental health and his alcohol and drug use. I understand that during the meeting [AN-F24] informed the DSA about his attendance at [the other church] and gave permission for her to speak to Reverend [Name Redacted] which she did. I understand that Reverend [Name Redacted] was subsequently sent a copy of the safeguarding agreement so that this would also cover his parish.
36. The report notes that [AN-F24] was also asked in interview about taking photographs of children and the appropriateness of this practice, noting "he could not

understand fully why he would be required to seek permission to take photographs of children" and that he had described taking photographs in church when the children had been on an activity and described children as "attractive", which was noted as concerning.

37. An evaluation of any 'potential disengagement' by **AN-F24** (ie. whether he would cooperate with the Risk Assessment and Risk Management plan) was made by Ms McMahon and she noted *"it is my assessment he will make efforts to comply with the agreement but may struggle to fully comprehend the enormity of his situation...it is not clear if this is due to defiance or his levels of comprehension".* 'Areas identified from the risk assessment' were noted as *"lack of boundaries involving children" and "inability to understand his actions fully".* The overall risk summary also noted *"inappropriate or concerning language" and "isolation".*
38. As a result of the Risk Assessment a 'Management Plan of Identified Risks' was agreed and is set out in **[ACE026475]**. The Plan states that *"Safeguarding procedures [are] to be followed. **AN-F24** to be monitored" with a "safeguarding agreement for churches within the Diocese" to be put in place.* It was noted that the DST, Church Safeguarding Officer and **the Vicar** were responsible for monitoring the agreement. It was noted that should any further concerns arise these will be passed on to the relevant authorities and the Diocese will review his attendance in parishes.

Safeguarding Agreement

39. Following the completion of the Risk Assessment, the Safeguarding Agreement was put in place, which has been provided to me at **[ACE026476]**. The stated purpose of the agreement is *"to enable all to freely worship God and participate in church activities whilst minimising any potential risk to individuals, children, young people and / or vulnerable adults."* The terms of the agreement are extracted below: