

make a report but Fr Gabriel's concern that having a part-time safeguarding coordinator had led to further delays did not abate.

In a meeting with Mick Walker (Ampleforth's then Safeguarding Coordinator) on 15 March 2018, Fr Gabriel relayed his concerns and asked Mick Walker whether he would be prepared to move from working two days per week to full time (it should be noted that Mick Walker then worked three further days per week as the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator for the Diocese of Middlesbrough). I understand that Mick Walker felt that he could not commit to the extra hours required.

On 16 March 2018, the following day, Mick Walker wrote to Fr Gabriel and resigned as Ampleforth's safeguarding coordinator; he retained his role with Middlesbrough Diocese and now carries out that role on a full-time basis.

- d) Mick Walker was replaced on an interim basis by John Ridge, Ampleforth's Director of Health and Safety. The Inquiry will recall from John's witness statement of 12 December 2017 that he had begun to take a growing role in safeguarding across Ampleforth from September 2016 when he was appointed Safeguarding Compliance Coordinator for the school (a position that no longer exists). This was followed in September 2017 with his appointment as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for St. Martin's Ampleforth; this appointment came to an end in March 2018 when ISI specified that St. Martin's DSL should be based on site – John was replaced by Clare Martin, a teacher at St Martin's Ampleforth.

John accepted the position of Interim Director of Safeguarding Compliance. At the date of making this statement, Ampleforth is interviewing for a permanent replacement and, for absolute clarity, all of the candidates are lay people with the relevant experience and knowledge to fulfil the role.

- e) Finally, on 1 September 2018, Fr Wulstan Peterburs stood down as Headmaster of Ampleforth College. This decision was made jointly by Fr Wulstan and the lay trustees of SLET; it was agreed that it was important to return to the principle of lay leadership of the College as established in 2014. The trustees are seeking the appointment of a suitably qualified lay professional to fulfil the role.