

54. CSAS has its own files and databases which are not for public access or even for the eyes of other branches of the Church. CSAS kept separate files on everyone affiliated with the Church against whom allegations of abuse had been made, including current high ranking clerics (where CSAS was aware of the allegations). CSAS also kept separate files for each diocese including correspondence with the dioceses about individual abuse cases or wider issues of policy. On many occasion I would write up my concerns by way of a contemporaneous note and depending on the issue either address my notes by way of memo to various relevant people within the Church's safeguarding structures or those notes might simply have been kept on the appropriate individuals or dioceses' file. By way of example I recall that I wrote to Archbishop Vincent Nichols in the Westminster diocese about their overall safeguarding standards as that diocese was possibly the worst performing and most poorly resourced diocese in the country. I also wrote to the Westminster diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator, Mr Harry Turner, who was the last remaining priest Coordinator in England and Wales and unqualified for the role he was in. Those letters should be on the CSAS Westminster diocese file which was kept on an electronic drive at CSAS. I may be able to assist the inquiry with further evidence should I be granted access to these files. I would also sometimes write up concerns purely to keep a record on the file for the diocese or the person against whom allegations had been made. Files will be kept on a CSAS electronic drive
55. There were also quarterly meetings of NCSC at which I attended as director of COPCA. At each meeting we discussed confidential safeguarding matters and there were confidential meeting minutes produced in which my safeguarding concerns will have been recorded. In particular I recall that the safeguarding failings of the underperforming dioceses of Menevia and Westminster were included in those minutes. I do not have access to those meeting minutes.
56. As I have mentioned I conducted audits of the Safeguarding Commissions including the Commissions of the dioceses and two of the Benedictine communities. There were 3 rounds of audits between 2006 and 2013 and I was involved in each of these. The intention was that there be an audit conducted every 3 years or thereabouts.
57. The 2006 audit had already been designed when I came into post as assistant director at COPCA and it only remained for me to implement it. That audit was a self-completion document for the Safeguarding Commissions. It was a very basic document designed to introduce the idea of auditing to the Church as an organisation that had no prior experience of it. The self-completion audit document contained simple questions along the lines of "*Are you aware there are safeguarding policies and where they are kept?*"
58. The second and third audits were more comprehensive. For the diocesan Safeguarding Commissions I would go into the diocese with 2 CSAS colleagues to review their records for up to 2 days and then produce an audit report. This was not the case for the Benedictine