

Letter to Oliver Carlyon  
IICSA

Dear Mr Carlyon,

Re: Safeguarding Review of Structural Arrangements in Catholic Church of England and Wales

As the independent chair of the above, I wish to update you on the work undertaken and progress made since the Review began its work at the end of last year. You may know that the terms of reference for the Review set a date for the submission of the completed Report by the start of October 2020. My colleagues and I were tasked to provide an Interim Report by the end of April this year, and I am pleased to be able to confirm to you that this target was met.

The Interim Report shared the findings drawn from a consultation process that was run and completed by the end of January of this year. A total of seventy-six responses were returned for analysis. They shared important information on several key areas within the field of safeguarding. The picture presented confirmed that many within the current safeguarding framework within the Church wanted to see change and recognised the need for that to happen. Ideas were put forward for consideration in the Review process.

The Safeguarding Panel proposed four recommendations in the Interim Report, to the commissioning body, National Catholic Safeguarding Commission, and to the Bishop's Conference. I am pleased to confirm that these were all accepted by both bodies and so we were asked to advance the second part of the Review.

The four recommendations may be summarised as follows:

- There is a need to restructure safeguarding within and across the church, to develop a "One Church" approach
- A new body at the centre should be created and given the powers required to advance and operationalize this.
- There must be a planned process of transition to move to a "One Church" approach.
- The changes should be supported by the creation of a high-level Safeguarding Review Committee or Steering Committee, to provide agreement in principle, to proposed developments.

The last recommendation came from a realisation that the current leadership structures within the Church, would not be able to provide this support through the fact that they do not meet often enough. The timescale that the Review is working within is very tight and we recognize that we must move quickly. To advance the work, we have set up several work streams to address areas that we wish to consider. We are looking to draw on experiences gained elsewhere in the Catholic Church, such as Ireland, Australia, and the United States of America.

Our aim is clear. We are hoping to provide informed comment on how the Church may improve and develop its ability to offer high quality safeguarding services, consistently across the whole Church.

Yours sincerely,



**DPA**

Ian Elliott  
Independent Chair  
Review on the Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements  
Catholic Church of England and Wales.