

Witness Name: Michael Walker

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: MW1-MW2

Dated: [20<sup>th</sup> August 2019]

## THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

---

### Witness Statement of Michael Walker

---

I, Michael Walker, of the Diocese of Middlesbrough, Curial Office, 50A The Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QT will say as follows:-

1. I am the safeguarding co-ordinator for the Diocese of Middlesbrough and at the request of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) I have supplied two recent case files to the inquiry for examination. For identification purposes their reference numbers are 03/2018 and 05/2018 both cases have been referred to statutory agencies.
2. From a letter dated 10th July 2019 received from the IICSA I have been invited to make this statement to comment upon the two files submitted from the Diocese of Middlesbrough on the following four areas:
  - 1) Whether there is anything the witness would wish to add to the safeguarding files that have been provided to the Inquiry (the file names have been provided for ease of reference) for example, by way of explanation as to why certain actions were taken or not taken in connection with the Diocese's handling of these safeguarding matters.
  - 2) The extent to which CSAS procedures and policies were followed. In the event that a procedure / policy was not followed, please explain why not.
  - 3) Whether the CSAS guidance was helpful in responding to these safeguarding matters and why.
  - 4) Any practical recommendations the witness would like the Inquiry to consider that they believe may improve or assist safeguarding within the Roman Catholic Church.
3. I have reviewed case file reference number 05/2018 and can confirm that a separate copy of the emails between the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the Diocese of Middlesbrough together with email correspondence between the Diocese of Middlesbrough and North Yorkshire Police have not been supplied to the IICSA however I can confirm that they have been copied, timed and dated into the body of the case file report sent to IICSA.
4. I have considered the file and conclude that CSAS procedures have been followed. The CSAS guidance was helpful in providing a framework to deal with the case.