

unusual for a CDF response to take 2 to 3 years and in the context of safeguarding this is obviously unsatisfactory. Priests against whom allegations are made are suspended pending investigation by the Bishop in the relevant diocese (as per my reference above to "*preliminary enquiry*") and subject to restrictions set out in documents known as Covenants of Care but there are few sanctions available to the Bishop if those Covenants are breached. Experiencing delays of this nature inevitably creates tension between the Church in England and Wales and the Vatican.

74. Allegations of sexual abuse against Religious Orders are required by Canon law to be reported to a different body in Rome but I do not have any experience of how that system operates in practice.
75. During my tenure as director of COPCA and then as director of CSAS I faced a number of criticisms from a number of parties some of which I felt I had a degree of responsibility for and others which I would reject. I have addressed these in turn below:

75.1 I was criticised by an individual from Salford diocese for a perceived failure to implement recommendations 77-79 of the Nolan Report. Those recommendations related to the appropriate circumstances for the removal of priests from post and the mechanisms for their removal from the ecclesiastical state as appropriate. I think there is a small grain of truth in this criticism. Recommendations 77-79 of the Nolan Report were a blanket statement that a priest who received a certain level of sentence should be removed from the ecclesiastical state. I felt that the recommendations were too stark, lacked subtlety and did not adequately take account of modern sentencing principles. There were occasions where people to whom the recommendations applied were suffering from conditions such as terminal cancer or the advanced stages of dementia by the time they came to be sentenced. It was felt by some within the Church and myself, that certain priests could be managed within the Church provided that they were not placed in any public position rather than shifting the burden for their ongoing care back onto the community or under state care. I drafted a guidance document to account for those particular kinds of circumstances. I accept that during my tenure there were cases where priests ought to have been removed from the ecclesiastical state but this did not occur. CSAS would not have been aware of all such priests. There were no obligations in the Church's national procedures that CSAS be notified of all allegations of sexual abuse or in the event of any resulting conviction.

75.2 I was criticised by some parties for the inaccurate reporting of data. As things moved on from the early days of implementation of the Nolan Report recommendations it became increasingly apparent the data being received from the Safeguarding Coordinators was not as accurate as it could be. The reason for this was that different approaches were being taken to the collection of data in different dioceses. For example some dioceses