

4. In preparing this statement I have referred to CSAS' case records in addition to information within my own experience, as appropriate. I have also shared a draft of this statement with Reverend Christopher Thomas as General Secretary of CBCEW and Christopher Pearson, Chair of the NCSC. I have discussed matters with Christopher Pearson in connection with this request and the interplay between CSAS and the NCSC.
5. Much of the information within this statement pre-dates my time at CSAS and I have therefore had to rely on the documents available to me and information that was passed on at the time of my appointment. I therefore make this statement to the best of my ability and knowledge at this time.

An explanation of the structure, role and responsibility of CSAS, including when and why it was established. Details of the body that was responsible for safeguarding prior to the establishment of CSAS and the process that was used for the transfer of information and knowledge in relation to child protection and safeguarding matters upon the establishment of CSAS. Please include any details of concerns and/or allegations relating to Ampleforth and/or Downside that were raised at the time of the transfer

6. CSAS is the national agency for driving and supporting improvements in safeguarding practice within the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Before setting out an explanation of the structure role and responsibility of CSAS I will set out some information in respect of its predecessor agency. As set out above, events in relation to the establishment of CSAS and its predecessor agency COPCA predate my appointment and I do not have any direct experience or knowledge of these matters. The remainder of the narrative in this paragraph is based on information gathered from COPCA and NCSC annual reports and the Nolan and Cumberlege review reports.
7. The predecessor agency to CSAS was The Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (COPCA). COPCA was established in 2002 on the recommendation (rec. 16) of Lord Nolan's review of child protection in the Catholic Church in England and Wales and supported the Church in fulfilling the recommendations of the review report 'A Programme for Action'. These recommendations included: the Catholic Church in England and Wales becoming an example of best practice in the prevention of and response to child abuse; the

members of the clergy, religious congregations and lay experts. Three of the original members of the Nolan Committee also sat on the Board.

10. The Nolan report 'A Programme for Action' recommended that a thorough review should be taken after 5 years and for this purpose, the Cumberlege Commission (an independent body) was established in July 2006. Chaired by Baroness Julia Cumberlege, the Commission was tasked with reviewing progress by the Catholic Church in tackling abuse of children and vulnerable adults. The Commission published its report 'Safeguarding with Confidence' in July 2007 and its recommendations included:

- Setting up a National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) within the Church as a forum for debate and ensuring that national policies are followed.
- COPCA becoming the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) with a greater emphasis on training, raising awareness and sharing good practice.

11. In July 2007, the Assistant Director of COPCA, Mr Adrian Child, was appointed as the Acting Director of COPCA following the resignation of the Director Ms Eileen Shearer. On 1 July 2008 CSAS came into being under the permanent Directorship of Mr Adrian Child. Several members of the COPCA team continued to work in the newly formed CSAS. As well as the name change from COPCA to CSAS, there was also a transfer of the information held by CSAS to COPCA, including case files. I did not conduct an audit of all the files when I came into post because they appeared to be in order. From my experience of reviewing case files in connection with the Inquiry, it appears to me that continuity of record-keeping remains, in part illustrated by case record logs and the files themselves – where for example the letter heads simply change from COPCA to CSAS from 1 July 2008 onwards and it is often apparent that the same members of staff (having transferred from COPCA to CSAS) are continuing to work on the file. I have disclosed to the Inquiry case files held by CSAS in relation to allegations or concerns about CSA concerning Ampleforth and Downside, which include any record made by COPCA.

12. The primary role of CSAS is one of co-ordination, advice and support to the Catholic Church in England and Wales in respect of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk. The role and tasks and CSAS include but are not limited to:

- Providing advice to members of the Church about safeguarding issues.
- Providing advice to lay people about safeguarding issues.