

## Past Cases Review – Frequently Asked Questions

Q Is this Review essential?

A Yes. It is a priority for each Incumbent to undertake the Review.

Q Is every Incumbent being asked to undertake the Review?

A Yes.

Q Do I need to sign off separately for every parish in my benefice?

A Yes. A separate signing sheet for each of your parishes has been included with your copy of the Bishop's letter. A 100% response rate from the Diocese's 452 parishes is required.

Q I am already very busy. I don't have time for this.

A As set out in the Bishop's letter, the Review is very important for the Diocese. It has to take priority over other activities. Working with your Parish Safeguarding Officers is recommended as this will ease the burden on your time.

Q Is 31 May a firm deadline?

A Yes, all signed responses must be submitted by that date. This is to allow the overall Diocesan review to be completed on time.

Q Is it really necessary to go back as far as 1950?

A Yes. Whilst perpetrators may now be deceased, their victims may well still be alive and in need of pastoral care.

Q What if the benefice is in a Vacancy?

A In case of a Vacancy, the churchwardens of each parish (or the PCC Secretary where there are no churchwardens) have been sent a copy of the Bishop's letter and need to undertake the review for their parish. Please note that the letters for all the churchwardens in a relevant parish have been sent to one churchwarden for distribution and hence it is important that where there are multiple churches in a parish the wardens consult to coordinate a response.

Q What if the benefice goes into Vacancy after the Bishop's letter has been received?

A It is the responsibility of the outgoing Incumbent to ensure that the Review has been undertaken and responses submitted before they leave the benefice.

Q What if I identify a potential example of abuse?

A Please contact Heather Bland, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, ([Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org)) immediately.

Q What if I'm not sure whether something counts as an abuse?

A Please contact Heather Bland, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, ([Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org)) for advice.

Q Checking the 'collective memory of the community' is likely to cause upset and reopen old wounds. What support is available for those traumatised by the Review?

A The Diocese offers an Authorised Listening service to support those affected. Please contact Heather Bland, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, ([Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org)) for details.

- Q Will any support and/or counselling be made available to any victims/survivors who come forward?
- A Yes. Please contact Heather Bland, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, ([Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org)) for details.
- Q As soon as this Review starts, we're likely to be contacted by the local press. What do we do if we are?
- A Please ensure that you and your team do not speak to the press direct. Please refer all press enquires to Carole Peters-King, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Salisbury ([carole.peters-king@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:carole.peters-king@salisbury.anglican.org)).
- Q Is there a template that I can use for structured interviews with people in the parish?
- A Yes, it is available in the Past Cases Review section of the website, <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/resources-library/parishes/safeguarding1/past-cases-review>
- Q Should I put something in the pew sheet or parish magazine to ask for people to come forward if they have anything they wish to offer?
- A If you wish to do this then please consider the wording carefully and speak to Heather Bland ([Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:Heather.Bland@salisbury.anglican.org)) if you are not sure how to go about it.