

Past Cases Review 2 - Frequently Asked Questions

Why has it taken two years to publish?

A Church of England spokesperson said: “The Church of England’s second past cases review (PCR2) has been carried out by independent reviewers across all 42 dioceses, as well as Lambeth and Bishopthorpe Palaces and the National Safeguarding Team. This has been a vital piece of work following an independent scrutiny report which showed the original PCR in 2008/9 to be below standard including in its engagement with survivors.

The PCR2 process was completed at different times across dioceses and some were severely hampered by COVID in accessing files, with the last reports not being received until after Easter 2022.

Most dioceses and cathedrals agreed to publish their local learnings and findings to coincide with the national report, which was published on 5th October 2022.

What has happened over the last two years?

Following the conclusion of the review any safeguarding cases where it was identified that further work was required were risk assessed and prioritised for review and action. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) reviews progress against these cases at each meeting and will receive a final report on key learning outcomes when all actions have been completed (by December 2022)

In addition to above a sub-group of the DSAP was tasked with developing a joint response to any recommendations about safeguarding practice.

All recommendations have now been incorporated in our respective safeguarding actions plans, and progress is reported to DSAP on a quarterly basis.

Did PCR2 trigger the Visitation?

As part of the PCR process and the reviewing of our procedures it was considered that there was an opportunity to undertake a broader review of governance, policy and procedures.

How do we compare with other diocese/cathedrals?

The national report picks out common themes identified in other diocese and cathedrals. Once the national report has been published we will be able to compare ourselves against the common themes.

What was the biggest issue that was discovered?

The most common theme was case management procedures, in particular documenting and recording decision making. Inherent within this is ensuring that we work with and listen to the needs of survivors throughout.

What do we do well?

In addition to demonstrating good practice in safeguarding investigations and in working with multi-agency bodies the reviewers noted that our process for renewing permission to officiate ensured that everyone must be up to date with their DBS and safeguarding training and that we offered care and support to clergy, staff and volunteers.

How we engage and work with survivors has improved, although there is more work to do.

[Link to National FAQs.](#)