



Edinburgh, 19 July 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Implementation of the McLellan Report Recommendations

In November 2013, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland asked the former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr Andrew McLellan, to review safeguarding policy, procedure and practice within the Catholic Church in Scotland. In August 2015, Dr McLellan and his 12-strong commission reported back to the bishops of Scotland with a series of recommendations which were accepted in full. I am now writing to inform you of the progress made so far in implementing those recommendations. As of 27 June 2017, the following has been completed:

1. The issuing of a public apology, made by His Grace Archbishop Tartaglia of Glasgow, in the name of all the bishops of Scotland. It is an apology which, as Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, I readily repeat today;
2. Agreement between the eight bishops of Scotland regarding the relationship between the National Safeguarding Co-ordinator, the national office and the diocesan structures;
3. The creation of the post of Depute National Co-ordinator who will have as a principal role liaison with religious congregations;
4. The establishment of an Independent Review Group, chaired by Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, which will report to the bishops, having analysed the data collected from a new annual audit which is being designed. Each year the safeguarding work of two dioceses will be looked at in a closer fashion and reports given to the appropriate diocesan bishop;
5. Consultation with survivors which is being conducted in two ways. Firstly, a former member of the McLellan Commission, Ms Roisin McGoldrick, is liaising with survivors who had been involved with the McLellan Report; and, secondly, the In Care Survivors' Service Scotland group has been asked to look at both completed and working documents during the implementation process;

6. The development of a “Theology of Safeguarding” which has now been drafted and approved by the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland.

Meanwhile, the following recommendations are due for completion by the end of 2017:

1. An interim report into how an allegation is handled has been discussed by the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland. It is hoped that a final report will be presented to the September meeting of the Bishops’ Conference. Once complete, this document will allow anyone involved with an allegation to have clarity as to what will happen as that allegation is considered;
2. A report on training will be presented to the November meeting of the Bishops’ Conference as will a report on the new audit process and on professional development.

The expectation is that a new handbook on safeguarding will be approved and available online following the December meeting of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland.

Let me restate our firm commitment to the highest standards of safeguarding across the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. While cases of abuse within Catholic parishes are rare, one case is one case too many. Hence our approach, always and everywhere, is one of zero tolerance. This is why the Archdiocese has introduced its own structure for managing safeguarding, which oversees and supports our vast pool of trained volunteers in every parish. This is why we are grateful for the hard work and diligence of our full-time safeguarding staff, our expert advisors and all our parish volunteers.

Finally, may I ask for your prayers for all those involved in safeguarding within our Archdiocese; for the health and wellbeing of our young and vulnerable people; that assistance be given to victims and survivors as and when they approach us; and that there be fair treatment of persons about whom a safeguarding concern is raised, in accordance with canonical and civil principles of justice.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Leo Cushley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

+Leo Cushley
Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh