

Delivering Change and Building Trust

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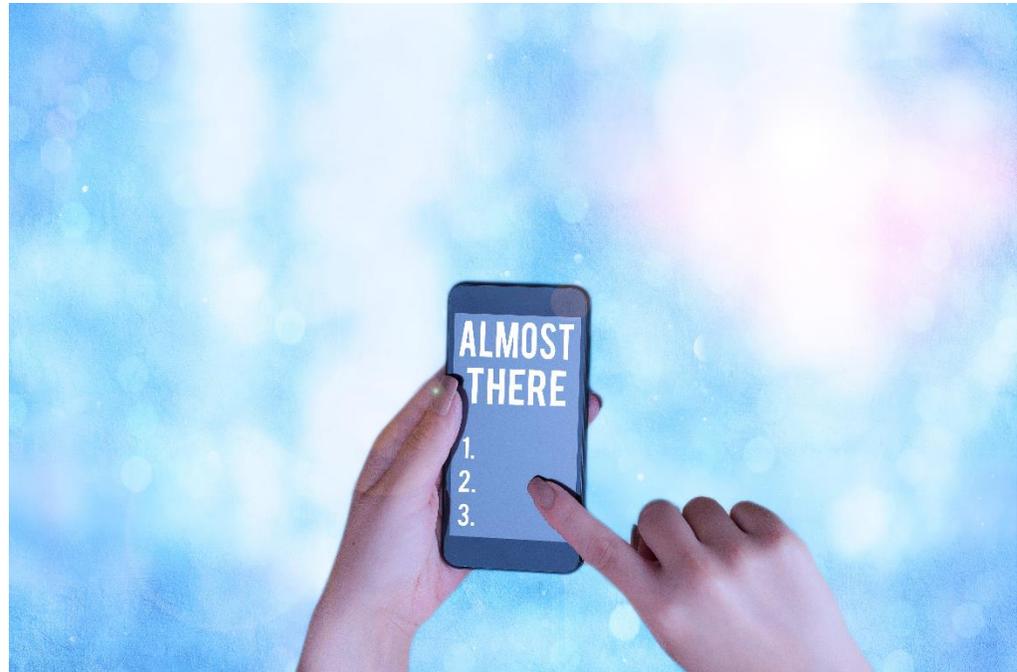
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Update

- From Carol Lawrence, Project Implementation Director

The last edition of the newsletter carried the welcome news of the appointment of the independent CSSA Board Chair and Non-Executive Directors. This is a defining moment in the renewal of work in safeguarding across the Church in England and Wales and, most importantly, in demonstrating the commitment to listen to the voice of survivors. I should like to record my thanks to all those involved in the recruitment process, as much work went into finding the right people to appoint to the roles. The Selection Panel of six, led by Sir Peter Fahy, spent many hours on Zoom and I am indebted to them for their professionalism and good humour throughout. My profound thanks go to the survivors who took the time and trouble to support the process. They contributed in a number of ways, through offering their views and comments on the recruitment brochure, with one who was kind enough to volunteer to be part of the Selection Panel. I am always humbled when those who the Church has let down the most will so willingly give their time and expertise to support this Project.

The independent Chair, Nazir Afzal, and the remaining Board members take up office on 1 June 2021 and will be meeting for the first time in the weeks soon after. This new Board will need the opportunity to take stock of what is currently in place, the good practice that can be built upon as well as the priorities on which it needs to focus first, including survivor engagement. The impetus of the Catholic Safeguarding Project will continue, although the pace of change will be more measured as we move to the next phase in the development of the structures. The Board do not underestimate the work to be done and the challenges to be faced, and will take the time to work through these in a considered manner. As always if you have any queries, please do get in touch either by email to info@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk or through the website www.catholicsafeguardingproject.org/





Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency

Building trust, delivering change.

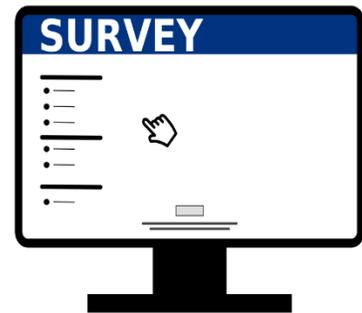
Workstream Progress

Dr Colette Limbrick CEO

There are currently five ongoing workstreams, some of which are close to completion and others which are beginning as scheduled in the overall workplan.

- Work continues on developing the CSSA website.
- The second meeting of the national complaints function workstream took place on 20 May 2021 and a set of principles to guide the establishment and processes of the complaints function of the CSSA is in development. In due course these will be put forward to the CSSA Board who will take the work forward.

- The third meeting of the ending alignment working group took place on 18 May 2021. A route map for transition from alignment of religious congregations with dioceses, to alignment of religious congregations with the CSSA is in draft form and will be finalised when there is clarity about when the RLSS will be sufficiently operational for the transitions to commence. This workstream requires information from both religious congregations and the dioceses, and a form to capture information relating to each aligned religious congregation will be sent out in the near future by the RLSS implementation team. It is anticipated that the questionnaire will be sent to the diocesan safeguarding team first to complete their part, and then the safeguarding team will send the form on to each aligned order for completion and return to the RLSS implementation team.



- The Parish Resource survey workstream has reviewed the returns from the pilot and finalised the surveys. The CSSA will contact each diocese during week commencing 24th May with explanatory information and links to the surveys which are to be sent out to parish priests/parish safeguarding representatives and volunteers. The survey is to remain open for 4 weeks and when it closes, the responses will be shared with the individual dioceses and the CSSA will produce an overall evaluation. This is an important survey that gives all volunteers who give their time so generously to the service of others, to have their say about how best to support them.
- Work on the draft national training framework cannot be completed until there is consultation with the Religious Life Safeguarding Service in due course. Meantime, the existing national training policy is being aligned with the new National Standard for Training. An interim framework, supported by the national standard and related policy, will be submitted to the Short-Term Task Group in due course.

Disclosure and Barring Service



The CSSA will be contacting all counter-signatories to advise that they need to reapply as counter-signatories for the CSSA. Whilst this is in process, counter-signatories can continue to process applications under the CSAS registered body.

Religious Life Safeguarding Resource

- Fr David Smolira SJ

Since the last newsletter, a number of things have been progressed. As I reported in the last issue the Religious have voted on the model for the Religious Life Safeguarding Service (RLSS). The arrangements for this will now be an “all-in” service paid on a per capita basis and requiring the Religious Congregation to contract separately with both the RLSS and the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA).

The governance structure has also been agreed. The RLSS will be established as a company limited by guarantee with David Smolira SJ as the founding member and interim chair. I hope that the recruitment of a chair of the board of directors can be done within a few weeks and then I will hand over the chair to the person appointed. If anyone reading this article considers themselves as a potential chair or board member, or if they know of someone who may be suitable either as chair or as a board member, could they please contact Dani Wardman using this email address: safeguarding@corew.org . We are particularly looking for people with the following specialisms: legal, management, human resources, financial and safeguarding.

The next steps in the process are to agree the proportions that the Religious Congregations and the dioceses contribute to the running of the CSSA and then to set the annual levy that the Religious Congregations will contribute to the running of the RLSS. Hopefully, these will be agreed at the next Religious Consultation meeting to be held on the **16 June 2021 at 10am**. Once this has been done, we can begin to recruit staff.

The work on the realignment of Religious Congregations from diocesan commissions to the RLSS is a complicated process and must be handled with great sensitivity and patience so that victims and survivors are not in any way re-traumatised. The work stream is currently agreeing principles by which this process will be managed.

I encourage all Religious Congregation leaders to come to the meeting on the 16 June 2021. Some very important decisions will be made there, so it is important that as many as possible come and participate in the decision-making.

As always, please keep praying for this project, we need all the help we can get!



Project Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Guide our work for all your people, to bring your healing love for young and old.

Inspire us with wisdom and justice, to serve you with integrity and truth.

Enable us to be Christ-like in our wounded world, to defend the powerless and safeguard the abused.

Embolden us with the fire of your Spirit, to become the renewed church of tomorrow.

Amen

National Tribunal Service FAQs – Education

- Dr Edward Morgan QC

This document is the fifth in the series of Q&A Sheets; intended to provide an overview of how the National Tribunal Service (The NTS) will contribute to the “One Church” commitment.

A Tribunal Service?

The NTS is to be as a resource at the *service* of the Church in England and Wales. Mention has been made previously of the work of investigation and adjudication. As with any legal process, regulatory proceedings require participation and shared understanding. The notion of participation speaks for itself. *Shared* understanding requires clarity in relation to a number of matters, including:

- The threshold for referral to the NTS;
- The responsibilities of those making referrals;
- The duties of those conducting investigations;
- The procedures to be followed in the determination of referrals; and
- The potential outcomes of the NTS procedures.

What happens now?

The Code of Canon Law provides the principal source of information and guidance concerning canonical processes. These normative principles have in recent years been supplemented to deal with specific cases; including those which are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Holy See. These legal principles have also been informed by safeguarding policies to which the Church in England and Wales is committed. To date, within England and Wales, there has been no centralised agency of investigation and regulatory action. As such, the quality of information regarding canonical procedures, and what may be expected of them, has been approached upon an *ad hoc* basis.

How might things change?

As previously noted, the Canon Law of the Church will continue to be applied. However, together with the NTS Rules of Procedure, it is anticipated that the following measures will be adopted:

- The publication of Guidance (e.g.in relation to Referral, Investigation and Determinations);
- The publication of Information to aid stakeholder agencies and participants;
- Co-ordinated training upon the procedures of the NTS; and
- Accredited specialist training for those specialist undertaking roles within the NTS.



How does this support a One Church Approach?

The NTS is an irreplaceable component in the continuing commitment to consistency and uniformity. Through the publication of materials and co-ordinating training, the NTS will contribute to the delivery of these objectives; whilst at the same time, ensuring accessibility and informed participation. In short: consistent practice consistent with a “One Church” approach.

If there is a question you would like to be included in the series of factsheets, please do get in touch, either through the website or by emailing info@catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

Work Plan

In the last two weeks we said we would:	And we have:	In the next two weeks we will:
Announce the CSSA Board	Announced the CSSA Board, who take up post on 1 June 2021	Task complete
Issue survey to gather information on resources in parishes for use in pilot parishes	Issued the survey	Task complete The analysis of the results and publication of the outcome will be undertaken by the CSSA.
Work on proposed survivor reference charter on engagement with survivors.	Scheduled in further work on this	Continue work with survivors on this document.
Analyse data from Religious to explore anticipated service needs and support, etc, ensuring that we have a representative sample and then begin analysis	Analyzed the data, which was presented and the model has been decided upon by Religious	Task complete
Continue workstream on financial arrangements to ensure allocation models are fair and representative	Continued to meet.	Continue the work over the coming weeks.
Continue work on drafting the Rules of Procedure for the National Tribunal Service, and produce the next in the series of FAQs	Continued work.	Continue work, including extending the series of FAQs

In the next two weeks we will undertake the following :

- Complete draft contracts and service level agreements
- Complete the work on the ongoing workstreams
- Undertake information gathering on counselling to inform future work of CSSA
- Undertake further development work on CSSA website

