

# **AUDIT REPORT 2013**

Prepared by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service  
(Formerly National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults)

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

"The Catholic Church in Scotland is concerned with the lives, safety, wholeness and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone.

It seeks to safeguard the welfare of people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations.

As a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us, ordained, professed, paid and voluntary members, to work together to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect of children, young people and adults at risk."

*'Awareness and Safety in our Catholic Communities 2007'*

## **Introduction**

Each year the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service through the office of the National Co-ordinator presents a report to the Bishops of Scotland at their November meeting which details an Audit of the eight dioceses in Scotland in relation to the work of safeguarding in the previous calendar year.

The Audit contains details of how safe environments are created with a rigorous recruitment which includes an Application Form, references and PVG Scheme membership (previously Disclosures) for those involved with children and vulnerable adults in a Church setting.

As well as PVG, Training plays an important role in creating safe environments. The current national safeguarding training programme developed by professionals within the Catholic Church is called “Awareness and Safety in Our Catholic Communities”. The training programme includes a Welcome Guide for all volunteers in the parishes with clear guidance about appropriate safeguarding procedures and good practice. This training is mandatory and delivered by experienced and trained Diocesan safeguarding Trainers. The Audit contains details about the training undertaken annually. Training has been further enhanced during 2013-14 to include important issues such as managing sex offenders in our parish communities, information on the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 and the impact of Child Sex Exploitation.

Finally, the Audit presented to the Bishops’ Conference contains details of any allegations which have been made and how these have been dealt with.

## **The Diocesan Structure**

The eight Scottish dioceses<sup>1</sup> each have a Safeguarding Advisor, a Safeguarding Team, a Risk Assessment Team, and a system for the management of Sex Offenders and responding to allegations of abuse and harm. Each parish has a Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator (PSG) who is a volunteer who looks after the administration of safeguarding (2011 - 96% of parishes had at least one).

Each diocese asks parishes to complete an audit form towards the beginning of each year and these are collated by the diocese and forwarded to the Office of the National Co-ordinator where the annual Audit presented to the Bishops is collated.

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<sup>1</sup> St. Andrews & Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Argyll & the Isles, Dunkeld, Galloway, Glasgow, Motherwell and Paisley.

Each Diocesan Advisor is also required (with the respective Bishop) \_ to complete a Diocesan Audit. This captures annual data in respect to the following:

- Policies and Procedures in place in each Diocesan Office
- The structure and remits of the Safeguarding Teams
- Information about meetings held by the Safeguarding Teams
- Number of priests in active ministry
- Number of students in seminary and the date(s) of their annual training
- Number of students preparing for Permanent Diaconate and the date(s) of their annual training
- Number and remits of volunteers and paid workers in the Church
- Number of PVGs

### **This Report**

This Report is the distillation of the detail of the Diocesan Audit Reports from 2013. Every effort has been made to ensure that for the protection of survivors no identification of individual cases can be made.

### **PVG 2013**

These figures detail the number of priests in parishes who are now members of the PVG Scheme. The volunteer figure is all of those in parishes who have any involvement with children or vulnerable adults as who have undergone PVG Scheme membership.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2013 PVG</b>
<b>Clergy<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>590</b>	488
<b>Volunteers</b>	
<b>9,028</b>	4,225

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<sup>2</sup> Priests active in parishes. Number PVGd/Number active in Parishes

## Training

Each diocese has Trainers who work with the clergy and volunteers to raise awareness and help in the creation of safe environments. These numbers are those who were trained each year in the categories of Priests, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators, Volunteers who work with children, and Volunteers who work with vulnerable adults.

Year	2013
Clergy	170
Volunteers/ Children	2,915
Volunteers/ Adults	3,337

## Allegations made during 2013

This section describes the allegations received in 2013, the category of person against whom the allegation was made, and the time frame when the allegation occurred.

Year	Number	Against whom <sup>3</sup>	Time frame
2013	15	7 priests 3 volunteers 2 parishioners 1 other <sup>4</sup>	1 1940s 1 1960s 1 1970s 3 1980s 3 2010s 6 unknown

<sup>3</sup> Some of those accused may have more than 1 allegation against them.

<sup>4</sup> Other can be a relative/partner of someone involved in the life of the Church or a seminarian.

## **Types of Abuse<sup>5</sup>**

In the period 2013, 10 of the allegations made were of sexual abuse in some form, 3 also involved physical abuse. 2 were of physical abuse and one of emotional abuse, and 2 were allegations of verbal abuse.

## **Reporting to the Statutory Authorities**

It is policy to report all allegations of abuse to the Statutory Authorities. Ten cases were reported to the Police. The 5 allegations not reported to the police were: one relating to shouting at a group of children, one related to poor boundaries and three related to an abuse of power. None were regarded as by definition illegal actions but did require an active response from the respective Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and Bishop

## **Prosecutions following Allegations**

As of November 2014 there have been no prosecutions associated with 2013 allegations.

## **Current Status of Accused Perpetrators reported to the Statutory Authorities**

Two of the alleged perpetrators are deceased. 3 have been removed from ministry. 2 cases are currently with the Procurator Fiscal. 1 is no longer a volunteer. 2 outcomes are unknown to the Church.

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<sup>5</sup> There can be more than one type of abuse reported in an allegation.

## APPENDIX

### Religious Congregations in Scotland

The Conference of Religious Scotland has designated Link Coordinators with a Safeguarding remit for each Religious Order. All Link Coordinators meet annually for a one day conference with the National Coordinator. The CRS has its own Safeguarding Commission (Risk Assessment Team) which includes membership by the National Safeguarding Coordinator. Below is an audit of the allegations made to the various Religious Orders in the period 2013.

### Allegations made during 2013

Year	Number	Against whom	Time frame
2013	7	5 Religious Priests 1 Religious Brothers 1 Employee	1 1950s 2 1970s 1 1980s 1 1990s 1 2013 1 Unknown

## **Types of Abuse<sup>6</sup>**

In the period 2013 there were five allegations of sexual abuse, 3 of physical abuse and one other which involved theft.

## **Reporting to the Statutory Authorities**

It is policy to report all allegations to the Statutory Authorities. All cases were reported to the police even though in one case the accused was already deceased and in the second allegation the identity of the reported perpetrator(s) was unknown.

## **Prosecutions following Allegations**

As of November 2014 none of the cases currently under investigation have yet to conclude so there are no prosecutions to report.

## **Current Status of Accused Perpetrators reported to the Statutory Authorities**

Three of the alleged perpetrators are on restricted ministry. 1 is deceased. 3 cases are currently with the Procurator Fiscal. The status of 2 is unknown and 1 person was dismissed from their post.

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<sup>6</sup> There can be more than one type of abuse reported in an allegation.