

AUDIT REPORT

2014

Prepared by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service

(Formerly National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults)

18th January 2016

Introduction

Each year the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service through the office of the National Coordinator presents a report to the Bishops of Scotland at their November meeting which details an Audit of the eight dioceses¹ in Scotland in relation to the work of safeguarding in the previous calendar year.

The Diocesan Structure

The eight Scottish dioceses 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 should have a Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator (PSC) who is a volunteer who looks after the administration of safeguarding.

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.

The McLellan Report

In August 2015 Rev.Dr.Andrew McLellan produced his report into Safeguarding within the Catholic Church in Scotland². The implementation process for the recommendations will proceed to completion at the end of 2017. Part of the recommendations referred to this Audit and the specific recommendations will be reflected in the Audits which follow the completing of the implementation of the Report's recommendations. This Audit follows the pattern of previous years with numerical details of PVGs, Training and Allegations. As in the past an appendix detailing allegations made in Religious Congregations is included, for the sake of completeness.

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

² http://www.bcos.org.uk/Portals/0/McLellan/363924_WEB.pdf

PVG

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 and who have undergone PVG Scheme membership by the end of 2104. 2013 figures are supplied for comparison.

2014 Numbers	PVGs	2013	PVGs
Clergy 558³	547	590	488
Volunteers 9,405	6,914	9,028	4,225

Training

In the year 2013 219 Clergy underwent training in Safeguarding as did all 25 seminarians who were at that stage studying for Scottish dioceses. 264 Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators also took part in training.

³ All 25 Seminarians who were at that stage studying for Scottish dioceses were members of the PVG

Allegations made during 2014

This section describes the allegations received in 2014, the category of person against whom the allegation was made, and the time frame when the allegation occurred.

Year	Number	Against whom	Timeframe ⁴
2014	9	8 priests 1 parishioner	1 Historical (unknown) 3 1960s 1 1970s 4 1980s 1 2014

Types of abuse

All 9 allegations reported were sexual.

Reported to the statutory authorities

Six allegations were reported. The others were not reported as one accused was deceased at time of reporting, another complainant was unwilling to provide further information to Diocesan authorities, and the other involved a report by a third party which did not give sufficient information to identify either the accused nor the victim.

Prosecution

As of this time one of the reported allegations resulted in a prosecution the remaining five did not.

Status of accused

Two of the accused are deceased, one has been suspended, three are on restricted ministry, and another has been removed from ministry. The other two are unknown due to an inability to identify.

⁴ 1 complainant reported the offences happening in 1960s and then again in 1970s

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 2014.

Year	Number	Against whom	Timeframe
2014	8	4 priests	1 1950s
		3 Brothers	4 1960s
		1 Employee	1 1980s
			2 2010s

Types of abuse

Five of the allegations were of a sexual nature. Three were physical and one verbal. In one allegation both sexual and physical abuse were reported.

Reported to the statutory authorities

Six allegations were reported to the authorities, one was not reported as the accused was deceased and in the remaining one no criminal activity had taken place.

Prosecution:

No prosecutions resulted from the allegations.

Status of accused

Four are deceased, three are unknown and one has been dismissed from employment.