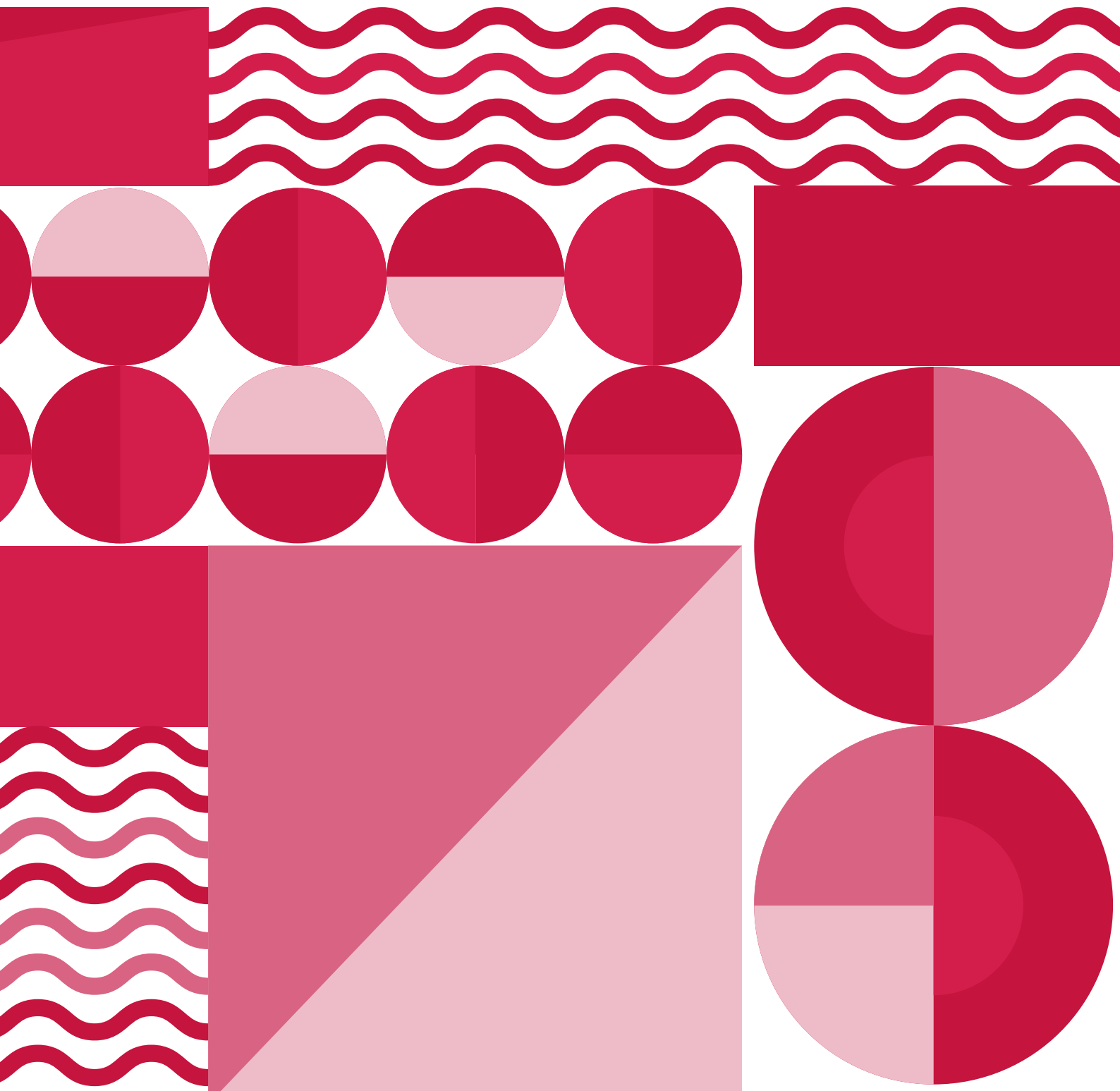


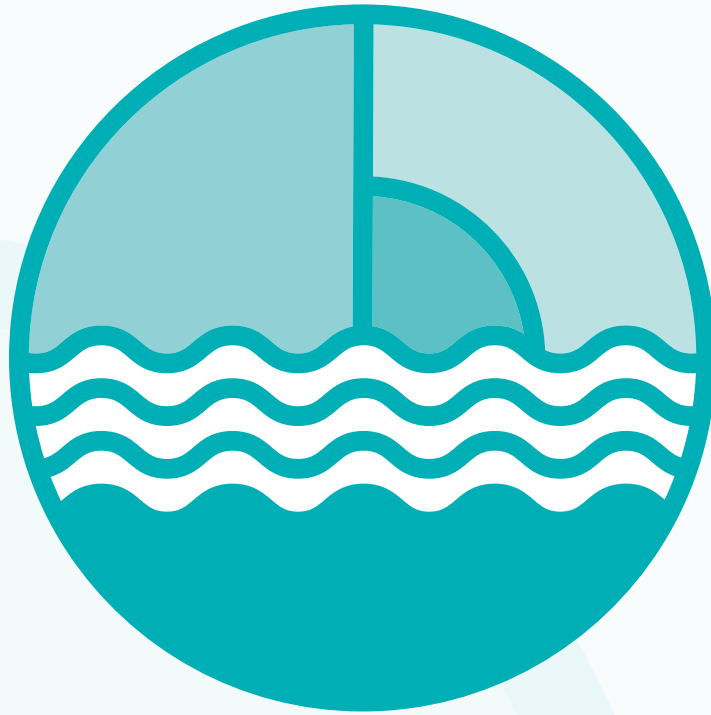


**NCSC**

National Catholic  
Safeguarding Commission

**Annual Report  
2017**

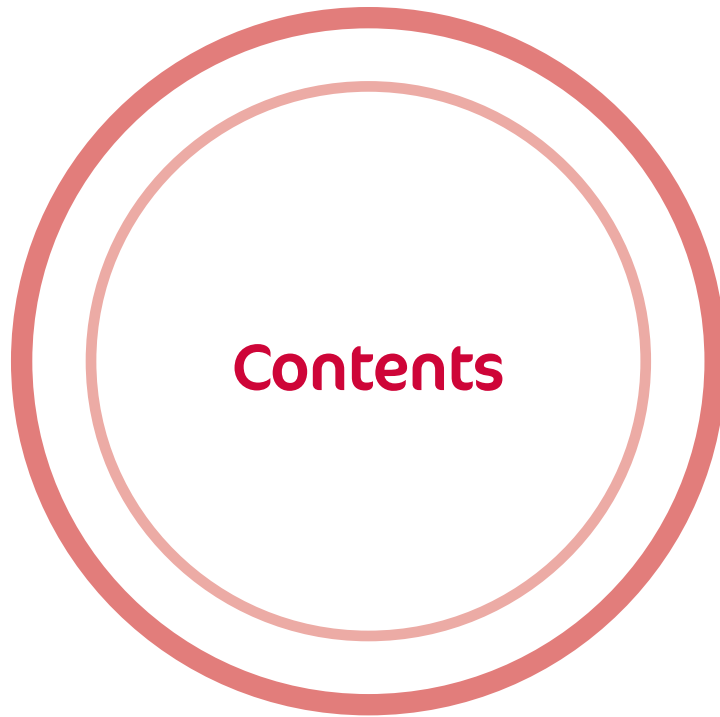




# Responding

The **process** of actively taking steps to combat abuse. Our response needs to be

*clear, positive,  
and united.*



# Contents

Foreword by Christopher Pearson	.....	Pg 3
NCSC developments 2017	.....	Pg 7
The Survivor Advisory Panel	.....	Pg 13
CSAS developments 2017	.....	Pg 17
Safeguarding developments in dioceses, parishes & religious congregations 2017	.....	Pg 23
Ongoing & future developments 2018	.....	Pg 29
Appendix one NCSC and Survivor Advisory Panel membership	.....	Pg 31
Appendix two The CSAS team	.....	Pg 34
Appendix three Safeguarding data	.....	Pg 36



# Respect

Respect the **individual**,  
their **experience** and  
what they have to say.



**A key theme that underpins the work of the NCSC is the development of a culture of sensitivity and compassion throughout the Church, which is based on listening and responding to the voices of both child and adult victims and survivors.**

Chris Pearson  
Chair NCSC



# 1

## Section one

Foreword by  
Chris Pearson



# Foreword

by Chris Pearson  
Chair NCSC

## **I am delighted to commend the publication of the 2017 NCSC Annual Report.**

A key theme that underpins the work of the NCSC is the development of a culture of sensitivity and compassion throughout the Church, which is based on listening and responding to the voices of both child and adult victims and survivors.

In this way, the voices of those hurt by abuse help us to shape how we promote best practice in Safeguarding children, young people and adults.

Learning and sharing best practice is a key focus of this report across all aspects of Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

We aim to work collaboratively with others in responding to the challenges of keeping people safe from harm; so as to maximise our impact. This approach is evident in the following strategic areas of work:

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### **Christian Pastoral Support Service**

The previous Annual Report highlighted the intention to put in place a Christian Pastoral Support Service telephone helpline for victims and survivors of faith-context abuse.

During the year we have been in discussion with the Church of England with a view to setting up the procurement of this helpline support service as a joint denominational initiative.

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### **Survivor Advisory Panel (SAP)**

SAP members and the NCSC Chair met with some members of the 'Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors' (PCPM).

The time together helped all to reflect on the positive work of the SAP and its influence in helping to shape a culture of sensitivity based on listening and responding to the voice of victims and survivors of abuse. The interface of SAP and the NCSC has demonstrated how such positive experiences could help inform the work of PCPM, particularly in the context of considering the setting up of an International SAP.

## World congress on Child Dignity in the Digital World

The NCSC Chair and Director of CSAS were invited by the Centre for Child Protection at the Gregorian University in Rome to participate at the Congress in October 2017.

The primary goal of this Congress was to bring together global leaders in science, civil society, religions, law enforcement, business and communication services, together with partners of the Pontifical Gregorian University from around the world. Gathering under one roof to engage in open dialogue and discuss the issues of online child sexual abuse was an important milestone on the road toward better protection of children in our digitalised society.

The Congress acknowledged that the internet has created numerous benefits and opportunities for social inclusion and educational attainment, especially for young people. However, there is a darker side to this new global technology which is extreme and dehumanising, specifically, the way it can be abused to promote the range and scope of child sexual abuse and exploitation and other insidious acts such as cyberbullying, harassment and sextortion.

The culmination of the Congress was a 'Declaration of Rome' call to action presented to the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

**“A Society can be judged by the way it treats its children”**

### Pope Francis

World Congress, Child Dignity in the Digital World, 'The Declaration of Rome', 6 October 2017.

**The NCSC and CSAS will be working together to interpret ways in which actions from the 'Declaration of Rome' can be achieved at national and local level in England and Wales. This work is essential and to be commended.**

**At the forefront of putting into practice good Safeguarding arrangements is the support and advice given through the excellent work of Dr Colette Limbrick and her team at CSAS.**



The report highlights, in different ways, the range of work and examples of good practice and developments across the Church promoted by Bishops and Religious Leaders within parishes, religious congregations and Safeguarding Commissions, supported by Safeguarding Coordinators and their staff and parish representatives.

This equally important work demonstrates the commitment and determination of those who hold a key role in Safeguarding to being vigilant in keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe from harm and promoting a One Church approach to Safeguarding arrangements.

*Chie Pearson*

# Recognise

Recognise the **sensitivity**,  
of the issue – create a **safe**  
and **trusting** environment  
in which to talk.



# 2

## Section two

### NCSC developments 2017



**Exploring means of developing a joint Christian helpline is evidence of the sharing of good practice on listening and responding to victims and survivors of abuse.**



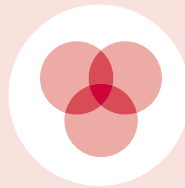
# NCSC developments 2017

## The NCSC has three key priorities:



1

Developing a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church



2

Promoting the 'One Church' approach to Safeguarding



3

Modelling and promoting good Safeguarding governance

## 1. Developing a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church

Based on listening and responding to both child and adult victims and survivors of abuse.

### **National Christian Pastoral Support Service:**

Last year's report set out the intention that the National Christian Pastoral Support Service would be available to victims and survivors through the provision of a telephone helpline commissioned from an external provider.

Since taking steps to submit the proposals to the Bishops Conference and Conference of Religious Executive, there have been discussions taking place with the Church of England (which had put together proposals for a similar project under the heading, Safe Spaces). While these joint discussions are at the early stages of development, it seems eminently sensible to consider the joint procurement of a helpline service as a cross-denominational initiative.

This work will be progressed through setting up a joint Management Board and Operational task group to develop the details of jointly securing a provider helpline service for survivors and victims of faith context abuse.

The original aim and commitment of setting up a helpline remains the same; a telephone helpline managed by an independent provider who is experienced in working with and listening and responding to victims and survivors of abuse, and therefore able to assist in overcoming boundaries to accessing support.

The helpline is not separate to the Church's pastoral commitment to take ownership and responsibility for the provision of support to victims and survivors, but rather recognises that some victims and survivors do not want to have direct contact with the Church.

**It will work alongside the existing ways in which victims and survivors are supported by the Church's Safeguarding arrangements.**



**Justice, mercy and compassion.**



The key objectives of the scheme are:

- Victims and survivors of abuse to be treated with justice, mercy and compassion and for the provision of a Christian pastoral support service with a theology of justice at its heart.
- A pastoral support provision which enables and complements existing Safeguarding arrangements, but is facilitated externally to help overcome potential barriers to supporting individuals.
- A unified 'One Church' approach that gives a consistent response to those who need pastoral support.

## 2. Promoting the 'One Church' approach to Safeguarding

To ensure that what is done in the name of Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is open and transparent.

The NCSC has developed a 3-year business plan which sets out its strategic direction in an open, transparent and coherent way and is designed to guide the commission in realising its strategic objectives. These objectives were mandated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) and the Conference of Religious (COR) when both conferences accepted the 'Safeguarding with Confidence' recommendations of the Cumberlege Commission Review (CCR).

The strategic objectives are:

- To model and promote good governance with respect to Safeguarding within the Church.
- To set the standards for Safeguarding arrangements for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.
- To oversee the development and updating of national policies and monitor compliance with those national policies and making recommendations for action.
- To annually collate and disseminate Safeguarding data gathered from dioceses and religious congregations in England and Wales.
- To develop a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church based on listening and responding to both child and adult victims and survivors.
- To ensure that what is done in the name of Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is open and transparent.
- To set the strategic work programme of the CSAS in consultation with CBCEW and COR. This will specifically seek to:
  - i) Develop a "culture of Safeguarding"
  - ii) Promote the "One Church Approach"
  - iii) Commission the CSAS to undertake thematic investigations to assist the NCSC to oversee compliance with nationally agreed policies and to report annually to the CBCEW and COR on the progress of the NCSC and CSAS.

**The Business Plan sets out in detail how these objectives are translated into action against specific milestones. Full details of the Business Plan can be accessed via the NCSC website, but some key operational activities for this year are:**

**NCSC Communication Strategy: Website.**

It is acknowledged that the NCSC website needs to be updated to better inform the wider public of the role of the NCSC and interface in a more dynamic and engaging way with its potential audiences, especially young people.

Content and presentation of information has accordingly been reviewed in preparation for this update.

The NCSC's communication strategy highlights the NCSC's intention to publish information leaflets relating to the work of the commission and the management of allegations. The aim is also to produce a leaflet to support Bishops and Religious Leaders in making a pastoral response to survivors and victims of abuse.

**3. Modelling and promoting good governance**

With respect to Safeguarding within the Church.

The development of a 'Quality Assurance Framework' was completed by CSAS during 2017 and this was approved for implementation by the NCSC. The priority areas identified by the NCSC for quality assurance during 2018-2019 relate to the key

areas of management of Safeguarding concerns and allegations and risk identification, assessment and management.

Specifically, quality assurance will focus on:

- The management of allegations and concerns (referral to statutory agencies).
- The management of risk of those in ministry where concerns remain.

This year's annual reporting dataset includes additional areas such as the gender of survivors and victims and the age at which abuse was suffered. Interpretation of the data will help us identify further strategic objectives.

The Chair of the NCSC and the Director or CSAS were invited to attend the World Congress on Child Dignity in a Digital World in Rome. The outcome from this event was a "Declaration of Rome" signed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, which sets out key global actions needed to raise world awareness and to identify ways in which we can better protect and promote online safety of children.

**In the coming year, CSAS and the NCSC will work together to consider ways in which we can address the challenges raised by the Declaration and what we can do collaboratively to raise awareness of the abuses of social media and the grievous harm it can do to children and young people.**

**Extending Links**

The creation of the Survivor Advisory Panel (SAP) shows that the NCSC embraces the perspectives of victims and survivors and puts this at the heart of its work.

SAP members and the NCSC Chair met with some members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) who are considering whether an international SAP can be developed.

Recognition at such a high level in the Church of the approach taken in England and Wales as regards embracing the perspective of victims and survivors, reflects the sense of establishing the SAP, the commitment and contribution of its members, the leadership provided by Dave Marshall and its internationally recognised influence in helping to shape a culture of sensitivity based on listening and responding to survivors.

The chair of the NCSC is a member of the Church of England Safeguarding Board which provides opportunities to share good practice and consider ways in which we can work collaboratively in shared learning and developments. The development of exploring a joint Christian helpline is evidence of the sharing of good practice to listen and respond to victims and survivors of abuse.

Representative members from the NCSC, CSAS and Safeguarding Co-ordinators attended the annual Safeguarding Conference in Rome led by Scotland and Malta, which had the keynote theme of 'Safeguarding and Celebrating Hope'.



# Responding

When **active listening** leads  
to a strong response with

*care, consideration,  
and empathy.*



# Respond

Respond **appropriately**  
with **genuine** concern,  
compassion and  
understanding.



**Promoting the development of the SAP to provide the NCSC with advice, knowledge, insight and recommendations to ensure an appropriate response to victims and survivors.**



# 3

## **Section three** Survivor Advisory Panel

# Survivor Advisory Panel

**The primary function of the SAP is to ensure that the NCSC receives appropriate and timely information and advice from a survivor perspective, to inform the work of the NCSC regarding Safeguarding policies, procedures and practices within the Catholic Church of England and Wales.**

In line with this and in support of the NCSC strategic aim 'To develop a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church based on listening and responding to victims and survivors' (encompassed in their operational objective 'To promote the development of the SAP to provide the NCSC with advice, knowledge, insight and recommendations to ensure an appropriate response to victims and survivors'),

the SAP continues to endeavour to provide the NCSC with:

- Advice/recommendations on matters relevant to victims/survivors.
- Knowledge/insight into experience of abuse.
- Positive contributions to improve responses regarding victim disclosures and Church support.
- Information to influence its work – including previously unidentified areas/topics for attention.
- Input on the NCSC media and communications strategy.



**They will necessarily perform the function of a 'critical friend'**





## SAP membership and meetings

The SAP currently has 7 members of the maximum permitted 12, a secretary and in addition a link member from both the NCSC and CSAS. The chair also attends the NCSC meetings. Since the SAP's inaugural meeting in February 2016 it has now had eight meetings, with four meetings planned to be held each year.

The SAP members have a breadth of experience in relation to the issues impacting on survivors of abuse from both a professional and personal perspective.

Full details are listed on the SAP page of the NCSC website.

At the end of 2018, it is planned for there to be a review of the SAP Terms of reference in conjunction with a formal evaluation of their 3 year pilot phase.

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## SAP work plan

**The SAP has an ongoing work plan and in the last year has been involved with contributions in the following areas.**

- A number of inputs to training and awareness of the perspectives of victims and survivors and the role of SAP at:
  - i) Diocese of East Anglia Safeguarding event in New Market.
  - ii) Diocese of Westminster Safeguarding Commission Meeting.
  - iii) Chapter meeting at Ampleforth Abbey, York.
  - iv) NCSC training day 'Through the eyes of a survivor' at which the SAP members led the majority of the day with a number of presentations based on their personal and professional experiences in relation to issues impacting on victims/survivors.

- Inputs to updated policies and procedures including:
  - i) 'Safeguarding plans – Management of risk and support within the Church' – in relation not only to those who present a risk but also to those impacted by that person including victim/survivors, family and Church community.
  - ii) 'Hurt by Abuse' and related leaflets.
  - iii) NCSC Risk assessment tool.
  - iv) Discussions in relation to the proposed Christian pastoral support service.
- Commenced research to identify existing good practice and initiatives in each of the dioceses and religious congregations which the SAP can evaluate from a victim/survivor perspective, with a view to sharing these with others – linking with the NCSC communication strategy.
- Intensive two day meeting with members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors at Worth Abbey to explore ways of interacting with victims/survivors, including considering the possibility of establishing an International SAP. This work has received media coverage and is commented on further in the 'Forward' and 'Extending Links' sections of this report.

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### Listening and Responding

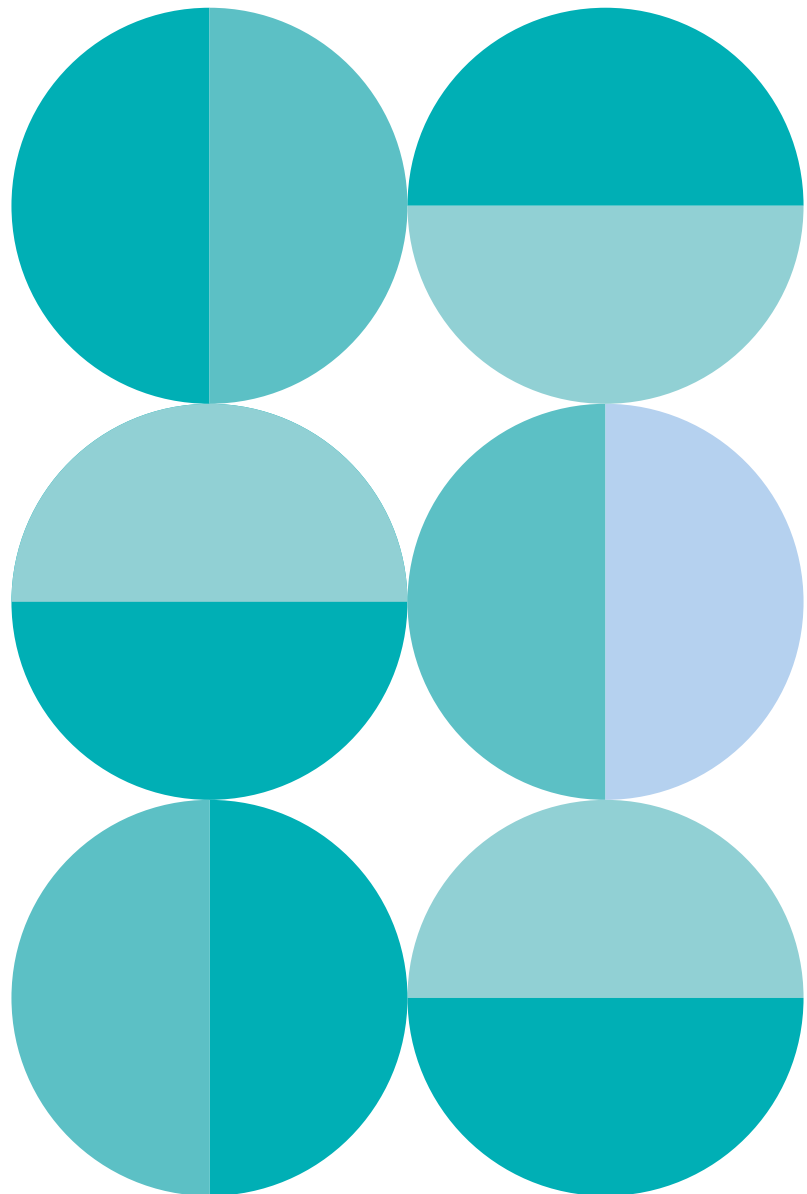
**The SAP recognises that it is not the existence of policies and procedures that actually support victims/survivors but a robust implementation and resourcing of those policies and procedures.**

In some areas the SAP will necessarily continue to perform the function of a 'critical friend', identifying areas where progress is still required as well as good practice. The SAP will itself also endeavour to listen and respond in an appropriate and timely manner, to support the work of NCSC and CSAS within their one Church approach.



# Reassure

Reassure the individual,  
offer **continual** support  
and convey **confidence**  
in them.





**CSAS continues to work with the NCSC and now the Church of England to develop the National Christian pastoral support service.**



# 4

## Section four

### CSAS developments 2017



**Whereas the NCSC is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Church’s Safeguarding policy, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) is responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice.**

The primary role of CSAS is one of co-ordination, advice and support to the Catholic Church in England and Wales in respect of Safeguarding children, young people and adults.

Recommendation 16 of the Cumberlege Commission report ‘Safeguarding with Confidence’ (2007) sets out the responsibilities of CSAS, which include:

- Provision of advice to the Church about Safeguarding issues.
- Overseeing and co-ordinating Safeguarding training within the Church.
- Policy development and review.
- Co-ordination of investigations and reviews.
- Being the point of liaison with other national stakeholders concerned with Safeguarding.

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**CSAS is also the Registered Body with the Disclosure and Barring Service for the processing of DBS Disclosures within the Catholic Church in England and Wales.**

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## Provision of advice and support

CSAS provides support to a wide range of members of the Catholic Church. This includes: Religious Congregations and Orders, diocesan offices, Catholic organisations, members of the public, other faith organisations and professionals. Advice might relate to specific cases, safer recruitment and DBS processing, the application of policy and procedure or general Safeguarding matters.

During 2017, increased support was given to Catholic organisations which are developing localised Safeguarding policies and procedures in relation to safer recruitment processes, recognition and referral of abuse and creating safer environments. To assist Catholic organisations in this process CSAS has developed a Safeguarding Policy and Procedure writing toolkit which can be accessed via the CSAS website.

A comprehensive review of the CSAS websites has taken place and the new website is due to be launched in 2018. In addition to revisions to content, all Safeguarding resources will now be contained within the one site. The site will also feature an internal resource for the exchange of information and ideas by Safeguarding Commissions across England and Wales.

**CSAS continues to work with the NCSC and now the Church of England to develop the National Christian Pastoral support service.**

## Oversight and co-ordination of Safeguarding training within the Church

The National Safeguarding Training Programme introduces Safeguarding and continues to be delivered as part of the Church's commitment to promoting a one-Church approach to Safeguarding. During the latter part of 2017, CSAS commenced a review of the programme which will conclude in 2018.

The Seminary Safeguarding Curriculum continues to be implemented across the six seminaries, co-delivered by Safeguarding Co-ordinators and a member of clergy within the seminary. During 2017, it was agreed with seminary rectors, that evaluation of learning would include formal feedback from pastoral placements as to how Safeguarding practice has been demonstrated by seminarians on placements.

As at the 31 December 2017, the Safeguarding E-Learning package launched by the Catholic Church in England and Wales in July 2015 and made available to every member of the Catholic community free of charge, had an average of 7171 registrations across the suite of modules. Modules include: Child Protection, Child Protection in Education, Child Exploitation & Online Safety, Child Protection refresher, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Adults Refresher and Mental Capacity. This is a 65% increase on the 4339 registrations as at 31.12.16. The contract for the provision

of this service by EduCare will be renewed during 2018.

Uptake of the modules continues to be encouraged within dioceses and religious congregations via newsletters, Ad-Clerum and websites.



**During 2017, CSAS developed a learning pathway model to guide learners in deciding on the most appropriate modules to access to support their role and a suggested timescale for doing so.**

## Policy Development and Review

During 2017, CSAS continued its review of the national Safeguarding policies and procedures.

Revisions to procedures in respect of the temporary ministry of clergy within England and Wales, the commissioning of independent investigators and risk assessors and guidance on creating safer environments have been concluded and will be published in 2018.

CSAS has worked closely with Pilgrimage Directors and other relevant stakeholders to develop comprehensive guidance

for planning and running pilgrimages, which will also be published in 2018.

Work continues on developing national communication materials for use within parishes and religious congregations across England and Wales.

**During 2018, working with the NCSC, we expect to publish information leaflets relating to the work of commissions and the management of allegations.**

## Co-ordinate investigations and reviews

CSAS' review of independent risk assessors and investigators has been completed with a view to ensuring that the organisations and individuals commissioned to provide this important service to the Church are appropriately qualified, trained and experienced.

The updating of information relating to service providers ensures that dioceses and religious congregations are supported in making informed decisions when commissioning assessments and investigations.

## Quality assurance

CSAS undertook one bespoke audit of a diocese at its request and completed an audit of a religious Safeguarding commission during 2017.

CSAS also undertook a national review of the supervision and support of Safeguarding coordinator roles and found that in the majority of cases the standards were upheld. Recommendations arising from the review will be issued by the NCSC for action where required.

Work on the 'Quality Assurance Framework' was completed by CSAS during 2017 and this was approved for implementation by the NCSC. The priority areas identified for quality assurance during 2018-2019 relate to the key areas of management of Safeguarding concerns and allegations and risk identification, assessment and management.

Specifically, quality assurance will focus on:

- The management of allegations and concerns (referral to statutory agencies).
- The management of risk of those in ministry where concerns remain.

## DBS and e-bulk

During 2017, CSAS, and its agents across the dioceses and religious congregations in England and Wales, processed 14245 DBS Disclosure applications. This is a 4% decrease on the number processed during 2016.

Efforts have been made during 2017 to further refine DBS eligibility decision making to ensure that we are compliant with the legislation and are undertaking checks at the appropriate level for different roles within the Church.

During 2017, CSAS undertook a review of all Umbrella Body Agreements with Catholic organisations that use CSAS as the Registered Body for the provision of DBS Disclosures and renewed or ended Agreements where services were no longer required.

**Work is underway to streamline the data input processes associated with Ebulk and internal DBS records. Testing of processes is underway and if successful, we will seek to implement the changes during 2018.**

## The Independent Inquiry into child sexual abuse

The Independent Inquiry into the nature and extent of, and institutional responses to, child sexual abuse, established on 15th March 2015 by the Home Secretary for England and Wales, took evidence from the Catholic Church in England and Wales during November 2017. The focus was on the Abbey of Ampleforth, which forms part of the English Benedictine Congregation.

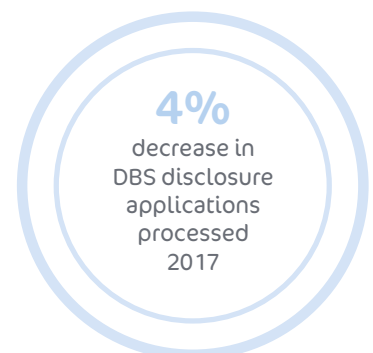
CSAS has continued to provide support and information to the Inquiry and to the Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry, jointly created by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales and the Conference of Religious, to oversee the Church's engagement with the Inquiry and the response being made across the Church.

## Biennial Conference

The CSAS biennial conference will take place during November 2018, with the theme of acting to address the impact of abuse.



**Acting to address the impact of abuse**





# Report

Report the abuse **confidentially**  
with the **consent** of the individual.





**Taking a robust approach to managing risk whilst enabling and supporting people to practise their faith is a key principle of our approach to Safeguarding.**



# 5

## **Section five**

Safeguarding developments in dioceses, parishes and religious congregations 2017

## Safeguarding developments in dioceses, parishes & religious congregations 2017

The following section highlights a range of work and examples of good practice across the Church.

### Communicating and embedding a culture of Safeguarding across the Church

**Safeguarding is about protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. The following are examples of practice across England and Wales.**

The **Clifton Diocese** has introduced parish Safeguarding representative days and support meetings as a useful way to bring people in the role together and reduce isolation. Support provided to a religious congregation who had not previously contacted the Safeguarding office was positively received.

.....

The **Jesuits website** is being enhanced to raise the profile of Safeguarding. The Order has developed a leaflet to be left with victim /survivors with information for future reference and an email leaflet is being designed for victim /survivors who do not wish to meet with the Safeguarding coordinator.

**The experience of abuse can have profound effects upon victims and survivors. The following are examples of how the Church is addressing the provision of pastoral support to those who have been harmed by abuse.**

**Ampleforth Abbey** has engaged with Circles of Support and Accountability and have several monks trained in taking part in a circle. There is funding available for two circles for members of the monastic community who want to engage in the programme.

Ampleforth has also engaged with a charity 'Survive', based in York whose workers are specialists in dealing with survivors of sexual abuse. Survive have trained several monks on how to interact with survivors of abuse to ensure the survivor has a more positive experience.

In addition, funding has been made available for 'Survive' to operate a dedicated telephone line for victims of abuse from Ampleforth to use if they do not want to deal with Ampleforth directly. If a survivor telephones Survive and they are willing they will be assessed and a recommendation will be made to Ampleforth for further services to be accessed immediately rather than being put on a waiting list to access the services.

The wider Safeguarding responsibilities within the Church are demonstrated in the **Diocese of Northampton**, where there are good examples of the action taken by parish Safeguarding representatives. Through a culture of sustained vigilance, parish Safeguarding representatives have recognised and responded to exploitation of parishioners who do not necessarily fit the statutory definition of an adult at risk.

The actions of the parish Safeguarding representatives have led to arrests of perpetrators and the provision of a range of support to victims. Parish Safeguarding representatives have also recognised vulnerabilities, engaged with parishioners who have been reluctant to seek support and facilitated assessment and the provision of support by statutory services and from members of the Church locally.

The **Diocese of Northampton** has developed an initiative around more fully considering the impact upon a parish when a priest has been subject to court proceedings and trying to manage this more effectively. This has involved visiting the parish team to listen to the impact upon the parish and to jointly discuss and agree ways that may reduce the further impact that could be felt, including arranging a community meeting following a significant update to offer support. The views of the parish have then been fed back into the communications team and proved useful when dealing with any future similar events.

**The operation of safer recruitment processes is extremely important to ensure that robust checks are undertaken when people are appointed to positions within the Church.**

A DBS rechecking pilot is underway in the **Archdiocese of Westminster** to start the rechecking process.

**Those in key Safeguarding roles within the Church require adequate training and support to enable them to carry out their work confidently and competently.**

Dioceses and religious congregations delivered 305 sessions covering the national training modules and 450 other training events during 2017 to Church leaders, clergy, religious congregations, chaplains, seminary students, commission members, employees, care staff, trustees, governors, teachers, retreat centre teams, parish volunteers, pilgrimage volunteers, catholic organisations, parish Safeguarding representatives, youth groups, administrators and parishioners.

#### **The training delivered included:**

- Safeguarding basic awareness
- Safeguarding refreshers
- Safeguarding within faith groups
- Responding to allegations and disclosures
- Safeguarding scenarios
- Safeguarding plans
- National training modules for clergy and Safeguarding representatives
- Parish Safeguarding Representative induction/role
- Commission member induction
- Responding to allegations and concerns
- Cultural issues in Safeguarding
- Internet safety
- Grooming
- DBS processes
- Safer recruitment
- Adults at risk/vulnerable adults
- Understanding capacity
- Dementia-friendly
- Lone working
- Human trafficking
- Understanding coercive control
- Domestic abuse
- SAFESYS
- E-learning modules



**Training and support is provided using a range of different methods demonstrated by the examples below.**

In the **Diocese of Brentwood**, during 2017 there was a greater participation with and from Religious Orders. Several training events were specifically written for Religious and Female Religious Orders, which according to the feedback received, were a positive experience for all participants.

**Jesuits** have developed a training strategy to ensure all Jesuits in ministry of the British Province complete a 3-hour programme in the first year – September 2017-July 2018. There will be mop up events and events to capture new ‘visitors’ in August 2018.

The programme is based on the CSAS model. It is being delivered to the whole British Province. The programme will be rolled out to people providing Jesuit works, if they are not accessing training within a diocese.

Educare training for SVP Holy Island volunteers was provided by the **Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle**, and included a number who were not able to complete the course online by preparing a written exam to ensure that the minimum standards required were met.

A Safeguarding Conference for external organisations e.g. Police, Fire and Rescue, Papryus (Young people suicide awareness), Catch22 (CSE), Dementia Awareness was delivered in the **Archdiocese of Liverpool**.

The Archdiocese also delivered workshops at a well-attended event open to all Catholics in the diocese, has encouraged parishes to seek input from the diocese and facilitated individual parish requests for Safeguarding training and utilised parish Safeguarding representative induction sessions to provide refresher training for those already in role.

In the **Diocese of Plymouth**, all new Diocesan employees are required to undergo a Safeguarding induction as part of their initial induction program. They are also required to complete appropriate Educare modules to successfully complete their probationary period.

A team approach has been adopted in some of the larger parishes, enabling parish Safeguarding representatives to make the best use of the skills of individuals. For example, one person may take on the administrative functions, whilst another is the outward face of Safeguarding in the Parish.

We also encourage Deanery peer support for Safeguarding representatives.

Recruitment of a Safeguarding Support Officer has taken place in the **Archdiocese of Westminster** to support parish Safeguarding representative and religious Safeguarding leads.

The Archdiocese of Westminster is undertaking a deanery mapping project to identify and group parish Safeguarding representatives together which will lead to stronger peer support.

The Westminster Archdiocese also has an online Safeguarding Resource Centre for access by parish Safeguarding representatives to give them better support from the central Safeguarding team.

**Multi-agency working and the sharing of information is an important and regular feature of our work in Safeguarding.**

Following a referral to the Local Authority Designated Officer in the **Diocese of Northampton**, an offer was made to deliver a training event to the Diocese – In Safe Hands. This was delivered and well received by Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs) and as a result the trainer was invited to attend an anticipated Study Day, to assist the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in gaining better understanding of Safeguarding and the Clergy and as well as improving links between the Diocese and the local authority.

In the **Archdiocese of Westminster**, the Safeguarding Coordinator attends London LADO meetings to strengthen links and co-operation.

**Sharing best practice and learning from others.**

There are many examples of Safeguarding Coordinators being involved in ecumenical Safeguarding groups across England and Wales where good practice and learning is shared.

The **Cardiff Archdiocesan Safeguarding Coordinator** is a member of the All Wales Christian Safeguarding Forum which meets three times a year. The Safeguarding Coordinator is also a member of the Lucy Faithfull Foundation steering group and attends their quarterly meetings along with Cross Party Meetings arranged at the Senydd in Wales.

The **Diocese of Lancaster** issued their first 'Top Tips' which is a targeted 5-minute briefing for Children's Liturgy Groups on responding to children with challenging behaviour.

A lot of positive feedback was received regarding the usefulness of this approach being focussed and clearly presented. Requests for similar briefings have been made relating to Working with Altar servers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who undertake home visits.

The Safeguarding coordinator is linked with Churches Together in Cumbria Initiatives on Domestic Abuse. Some of the parish Safeguarding representatives attended recent domestic abuse awareness training and parishes have responded to the invitation to contribute to a research project led by Leicester and Coventry Universities on the Response by Churches in Cumbria to domestic Abuse.

Findings relating to the research will be shared with core participants end February 2018.

Monthly 'Lite Bites' training has been introduced in the **Diocese of Leeds**. This is a model used by Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and works well; FAQs and new initiatives are identified and addressed at a 2-hour training session for groups of volunteers or Safeguarding representatives. The training is informal and can be adapted to answer the questions or issues raised by those attending.

Feedback has been very positive and it is hoped that the diocese will make this available on a regional basis.

In the **Diocese of Northampton**, during 2017, a new initiative developed in relation to a community sponsorship scheme – project OASIS. This included the involvement of parish Safeguarding representatives offering advice and guidance to those managing the project through to helping to support the safer recruitment of volunteers and enabling access to our e-learning training.

Also in the diocese of Northampton, because of a positive experience of the contact and support offered to a survivor of abuse, it is hoped that the survivor will be able to co-deliver a presentation to our parish Safeguarding representatives around Autism awareness, to both aid an increased level of understanding and to enable the person to feel they are making a positive contribution towards Safeguarding within the Catholic Church.

The Safeguarding team in the **Diocese of Plymouth** are members of the South West Ecumenical Safeguarding Forum and host meetings for that group. This is a meeting of professionals from all faith groups across the South West. The team is also a member of the Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board and receive updates from Devon, Torbay and Dorset LSCBs.

During 2017 the **Diocese of Salford** has appointed a Safeguarding officer, facilitated a Safeguarding conference, provided 'Prevent' training, and participated in conferences with religious congregations.

The Safeguarding team has also developed an electronic newsletter and a new website. The team is a member of the Faith Forum and Survivor's Manchester.

In the **Diocese of Shrewsbury**, positive feedback was received from Priest attendees at a Safeguarding training day in 2017 in relation to an 'Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness' session. Presenter commissioned from Home Instead Senior Care.

The diocese participated in a local authority 'Multi-Faith Safeguarding Forum' public event held and with the Archdiocese of Liverpool coordinated a joint 'Catholic Church' information point, providing Safeguarding resources and information from the Church.

**Taking a robust approach to managing risk whilst enabling and supporting people to practise their faith is a key principle of our approach to Safeguarding.**

In the **Diocese of Wrexham**, all Safeguarding plans include a Risk Assessment via the Safeguarding Commission and thereafter are agreed on a multi-agency basis.

The **Diocese of Nottingham** also ensures that there is a risk assessment accompanying new Safeguarding plans and that reviews are undertaken face-to-face.

Good liaison has been maintained by the **Archdiocese of Cardiff** with the Police and probation service for the management and risk assessment of high risk offenders subject to Safeguarding Plans and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

**Good governance is essential for ensuring that Safeguarding actions have a positive impact on individuals who need protection and support and more widely on the mission of the Church.**

In the **Archdiocese of Cardiff**, the Safeguarding Coordinator attends all Trustee Meetings or provides a report for the meeting on Safeguarding.

Also in the Archdiocese of Cardiff, an annual 'Parish Audit' is carried out to ascertain accurate records of volunteers working in parishes and the Religious congregations aligned to Cardiff Archdiocese for Safeguarding.

The **Plymouth Dioceses** maintains a sub group of the Safeguarding commission that dip samples and audits all case work.

The Salvatorian Safeguarding Coordinator has developed new systems and documentation in relation to record keeping and the sharing of information with the Safeguarding commission and the Provincial Council to ensure that they are updated. The Coordinator has also been meeting with a religious network and sharing resources and information.

### **The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**

The Safeguarding Coordinator and the Chair of the Safeguarding Commission in the **Archdiocese of Cardiff** attended the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Open Day meeting in Cardiff on the 31st August and the commission chair was asked to be a religious representative for IICSA.

Several dioceses along with the English Benedictine Congregation have responded to requests for information and remain committed to supporting the work of the IICSA and Safeguarding commissions across England and Wales have continued to take up opportunities to attend events organised by different stakeholders in relation to the IICSA.



## The Conference of Religious

The focus of much of the practical work of the Conference of Religious (CoR) in supporting Safeguarding during the past year has been, and continues to be on the Religious Safeguarding Representatives.

It had become apparent that Religious Safeguarding Representatives have been thought of as comparable to or equivalent to Parish Representatives in the overall Church Safeguarding Structure but that this is far from true. On the whole, Religious Safeguarding Representatives would carry much more responsibility and could find themselves leading on most of the Safeguarding matters within a congregation.

**Some thought and some discussion with CSAS about this resulted in an agreed change of title to Religious Safeguarding Lead (rather than Representative) and this change has recently been implemented.**

In response to a consistently strong request for some form of networking and support for those in the crucial role of Religious Safeguarding Lead, the Conference of Religious organised four day meetings in Salford, London, Birmingham and York, with the intention of helping to organise a number of fairly local, self-sustaining groups to enable networking and support for Religious Safeguarding Leads.

**In the wake of those four meetings there are now nine Regional Networking and Support Groups established around the country and CoR is continuing to offer help to arrange more if these are required. The response from the groups established so far is very positive.**

### Alignment of Religious Congregations

A review of all religious congregations that are not formally aligned to a diocese has taken place this year. Contact has been made with the small number of congregations that this affects to establish the reasons for non-alignment and to ensure that arrangements are in place to access safeguarding advice and support as required.

## Ongoing and future developments 2018

The priorities for the year ahead are as follows:

### NCSC

- Implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework
- Develop proposals to progress and accelerate the development of the Christian pastoral support service through a cross-denominational initiative between the Catholic Church in England and Wales and the Church of England. Central to this project will be the procurement of a helpline support service for survivors and victims of faith context abuse
- Implementation of the key note actions identified within the 3-year Strategic Business Plan for 2018/2019 (accessible on the NCSC website)
- Further development of 'one Church' communication materials
- Updating of the NCSC website

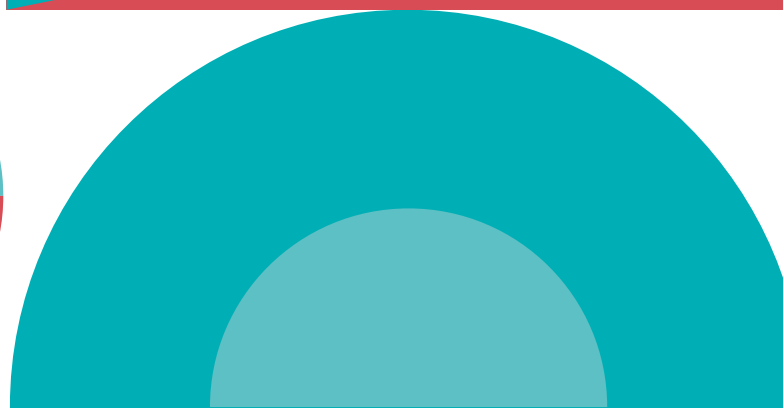
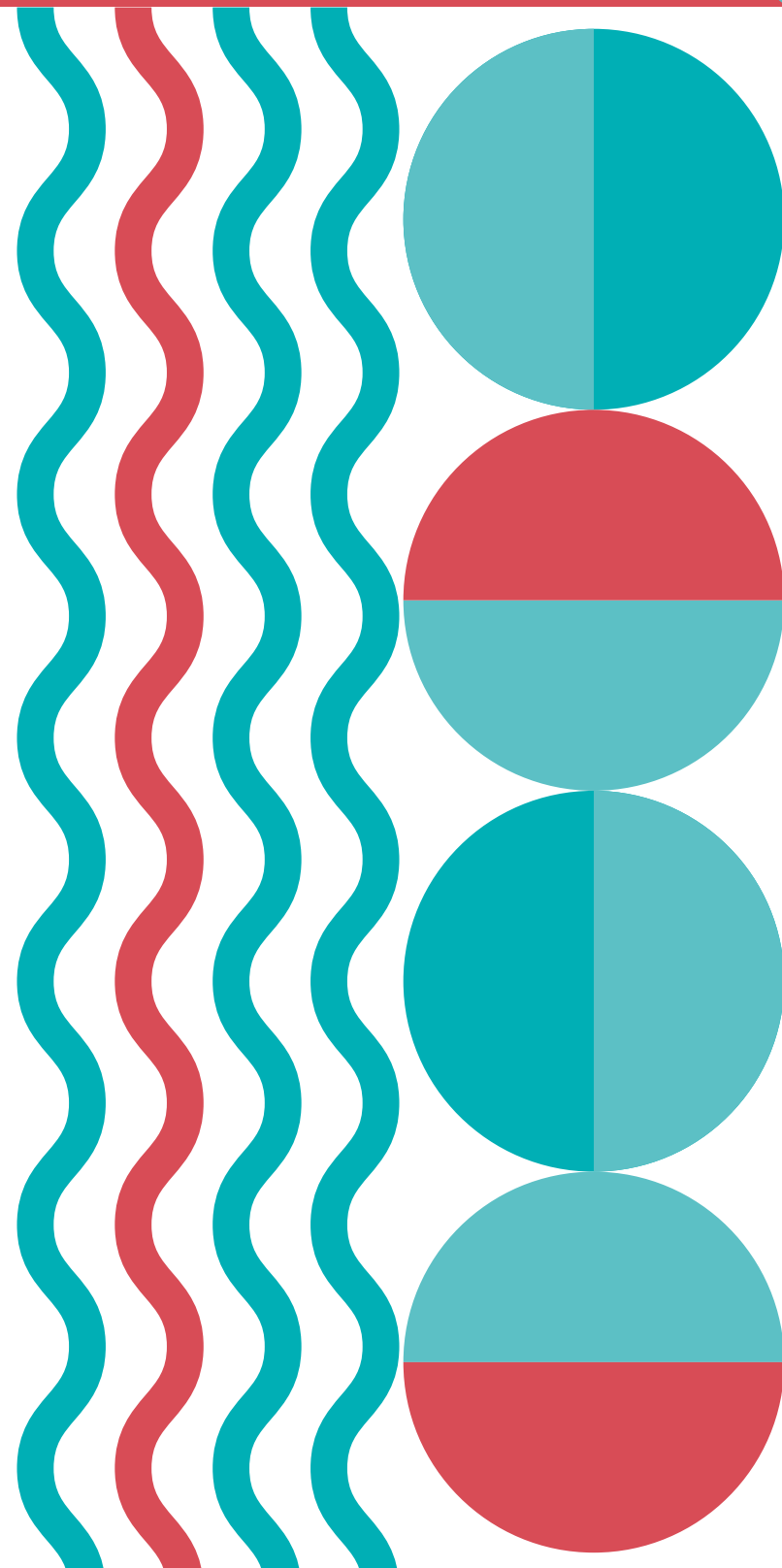
### CSAS

- Continuing to support the Catholic Council for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and development of the prevalence data collection exercise
- Ongoing review of all policies and procedures, as required
- Quality Assurance exercises to address priority areas
- Working with the NCSC to develop 'One Church' communication materials
- Working with the NCSC and Church of England to develop the Christian pastoral support service
- Reviewing the national training modules
- Launching the new CSAS website



# Reflect

Reflect on **how** and **why** this was able to happen and put further steps in place to **minimise future risk**.





# 6

## Section six

### Appendix One

#### National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

“

**The NCSC, whilst mandated by the Church, acts as an independent body which sets the standards for Safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.**

”

## National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC)

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) was mandated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) and the Conference of religious (COR) at a joint meeting in April 2008, when both conferences accepted the recommendations of the Safeguarding with Confidence Implementation Group on the implementation of the recommendations of The Cumberlege Commission.

The NCSC, whilst mandated by the Church, acts as an independent body which sets the standards for Safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and oversees their implementation on behalf of the Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious.

### The NCSC will:

- Set the standards for the Safeguarding arrangements for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It will also oversee the development and updating of national policies and hold diocesan and religious Safeguarding commissions to account for the delivery of those standards.
- Make annual reports to the CBCEW and CoR about its progress in ensuring compliance with national policies and the implementation of the recommendations of The Cumberlege Commission. These reports will be open documents with the use of confidential annexes where appropriate.
- When necessary, commission the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) to undertake thematic investigations to assist in ensuring compliance with nationally agreed policies and in making reports to the CBCEW and CoR.
- Will produce an annual work plan. It will set up standing committees and working groups, of its members, to expedite its work. The Director of CSAS will be called upon to advise such committees and working groups.
- Will set the strategic work programme of the CSAS in consultation with CBCEW and CoR.

Biographies of current members can be found on the NCSC website:

[www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/who\\_we\\_are.htm](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/who_we_are.htm)

## Current membership

### National Catholic Safeguarding Commission

**Chris Pearson**  
(Chair)

**The Rt Rev Marcus Stock**  
(Vice Chair)

**Sr Lyndsay Spendelow RSM**  
(Vice Chair)

**Rachel O'Driscoll**  
(Lay Vice Chair)

**Dr Lindsay Voss**

**Peter Houghton**

**Br James Boner, OFM Cap**

**Rt Reverend Mark Davies**

**Stephen Spear**

**Rev Dr Brendan Killeen**

**Sr Philomena McCluskey FMSJ MBE**

**Elizabeth Manero**

**Kathy Perrin**  
(Co-opted Catholic Insurance Service member)

**Dave Marshall**  
(SAP Chair)

**Mick Walker**  
(Co-opted Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator)  
(from January 2017)

**Bernadette Speakman**  
(Secretary to the NCSC)

**Rt Reverend Paul Mason**  
(from June 2017)

### Members who left during the year

**Dr Dianne Swiers**  
(January 2017 to October 2017)

### Survivor Advisory Panel for National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (SAP)

**Dave Marshall QPM**

**Andrew Browne**

**Panna Modi**

**Frances Healey**

**Marie Grant**

**Anthony Griffin**

**Maxine Leigh**

### Members who left during the year

**Jocelyn Jones**

### Secretary and Link members

**Bernadette Speakman**

**Lindsay Voss (NCSC)**

**Colette Limbrick (CSAS)**

# 7

## Section seven Appendix Two The CSAS Team

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**CSAS is responsible for driving and supporting improvements in practice.**

”

## Current

**Dr Colette Limbrick**

(Director)

**Vacant**

(Safeguarding Adviser)

**Amy Roberts**

(PA to Director and Office Manager)

**Lysette Kabana**

(DBS and Ebulk Administrator, full time)

**Alicia Maddix**

(Administrator, part time)

**Beth-Anni Gaston**

(Administrator, full time)

“

**Catholic Church Safeguarding teams, members of the clergy and religious and partners from statutory agencies work collaboratively to ensure that those about whom there are concerns or who have been convicted of relevant offences against children or adults, are supervised and supported using ‘Safeguarding Plans’.**

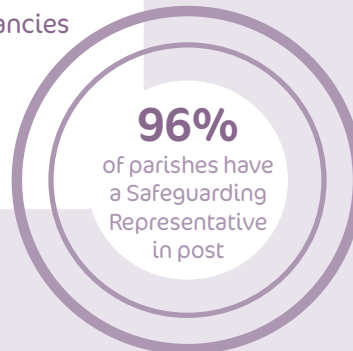
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**As at the end of December 2017:**

- 4% of parishes did not have a Safeguarding Representative in post.

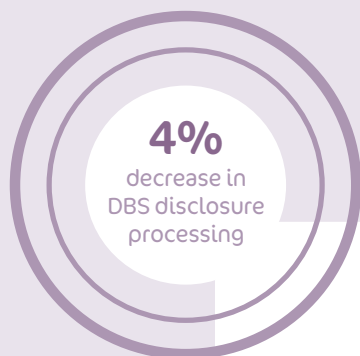
Which represents a 17% increase in vacancies compared to the previous year.

- 86% of the vacant posts did not have cover arrangements in place.



**Table 1**  
**Safeguarding Representatives**

Diocesan Returns	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
No. of parishes	2263	2294	2341	2383	2441	2394
No. of parishes with Parish Representative in post	2163	2207	2227	2276	2305	2306
No. of parishes without Parish Representative	100	87	114	107	136	88
No. of parishes without cover of the vacancy	86					
% of parishes without Parish Representative	4.42%	3.79%	4.87%	4.49%	5.57%	3.68%
% of parishes with a vacancy that do not have cover	86%					



**DBS processing is one element of the Church's safer recruitment processes.**

During 2017, the CSAS Registered Body processed 14,245 DBS disclosure requests, representing a 4% decrease on last year and a 11% increase on the number processed during 2015.

As a percentage of all disclosures in 2017, 1.40% were returned with relevant information about the applicant, which compares to 1.36% last year.

**Table 2**  
**DBS disclosures initiated**

<b>Diocesan Returns</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Number of DBS disclosure applications	14245	14909	12853	11585
Number of disclosure certificates returned without disclosure information	14048	14705	12658	11370
Number of disclosure certificates returned containing disclosure information	197	204	195	215
% of disclosure certificates containing disclosure information	1.40%	1.36%	1.52%	1.86%



**Catholic Church Safeguarding teams, members of the clergy and religious and partners from statutory agencies work collaboratively to ensure that those about whom there are concerns or who have been convicted of relevant offences against children or adults, are supervised and supported using ‘Safeguarding Plans’.**

These are agreements that are informed by a process of identifying risks and seek to hold the person to account, help them model safe behaviours, develop supportive relationships and develop skills and strategies to reduce risk and keep themselves and others safe. Additionally, the Agreement seeks to identify and address support needs.

**Table 3**  
**Safeguarding Plans<sup>1</sup>**

Year	New Safeguarding Plans	Total number in place	Total due for review	Total number reviewed	Total number discharged
2017	99	454	340	242	89
2016	88	428			
2015	92	423			
2014	104	462			
2013	96	384			
2012	96	327			



**There has been a 6% increase in the total number of Safeguarding Plans in place and a 13% increase in new Safeguarding Plans being put in place compared to 2016. 71% of Safeguarding Plans due for review during 2017 were reviewed within timescale.**

Reasons for the reviews taking place out of timescale include workload and additional resources being needed to provide information to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, lack of communication from statutory agencies, lack of availability of the subject of the Safeguarding Plan, planned rescheduling pending the availability of additional information and absences or changes in key personnel.

89 Safeguarding Plans were discharged during 2017 and the reasons for this include risks being removed due to death, moving away, non-attendance at Church, imprisonment or recall to custody, significant ill health or refusal to cooperate meaning the plan cannot be implemented.

<sup>1</sup> During 2017 ‘Covenants of Care’ were replaced by ‘Safeguarding Plans’.

## Allegations of abuse against children



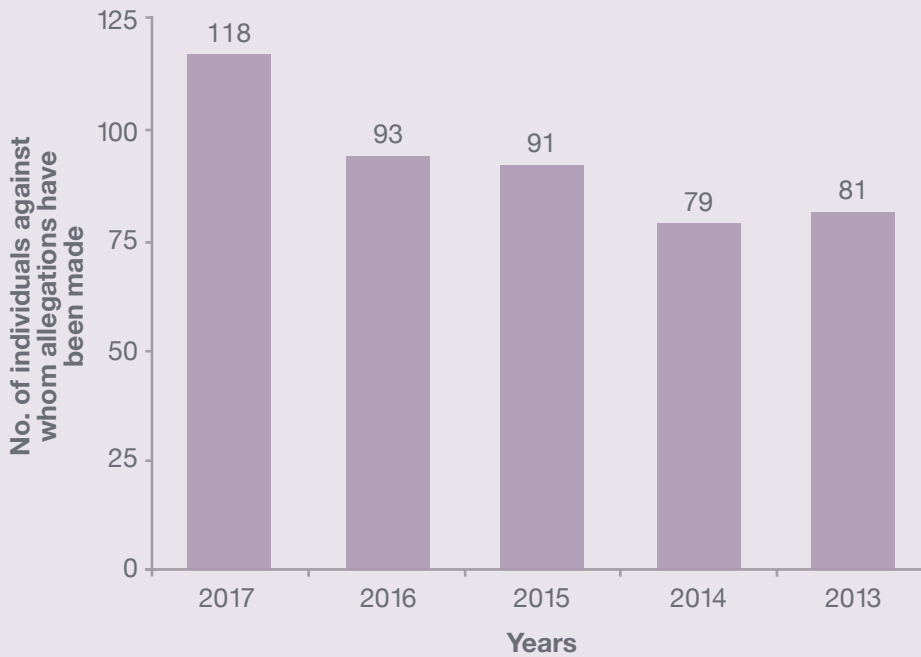
### Alleged Perpetrators

Chart 1 sets out the number of individuals against whom child safeguarding allegations have been made.

During the past year, a total of **152 people** made child related allegations<sup>2</sup> against **118 individuals**<sup>3</sup>. This is a **27% increase** in the number of individuals compared to 2016.

Chart 1

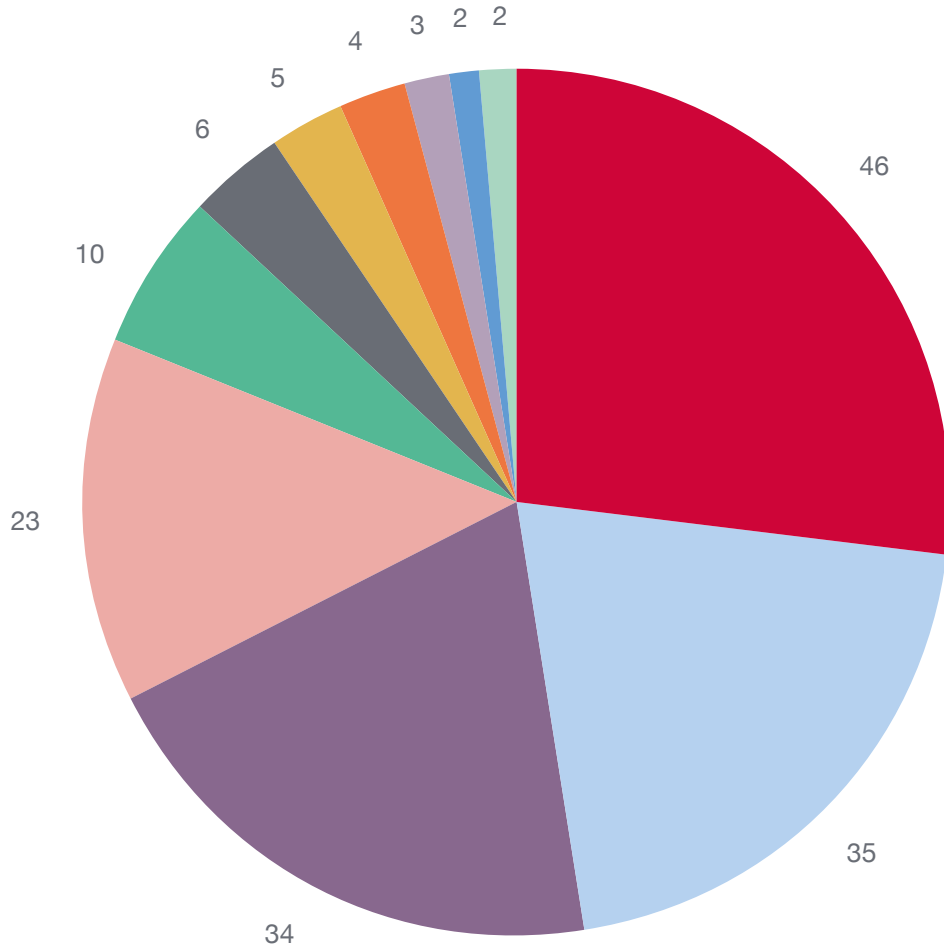
### Number of individuals against whom allegations have been made



### Chart 2 (top right) sets out the source of the allegations when reported to the Church.

The highest number of reports of abuse made to the Church come from the Police, victims/survivors and members of the Clergy/Religious or Lay roles within the Church<sup>4</sup>.

**Chart 2**  
**Source of allegations**



**Key**

- Police
- Clergy/Religious/Lay role within the Church
- Social Care agency or LADO
- Probation
- Education/School
- Other
- Self-referral
- Family member/Friend
- Parishioner
- Third party
- Anonymous

<sup>2</sup> Throughout, each of the 152 individual complaints is referred to as an allegation.  
<sup>3</sup> Some of the 118 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.  
<sup>4</sup> Some referrals are received from more than one source.

### Reporting to statutory authorities

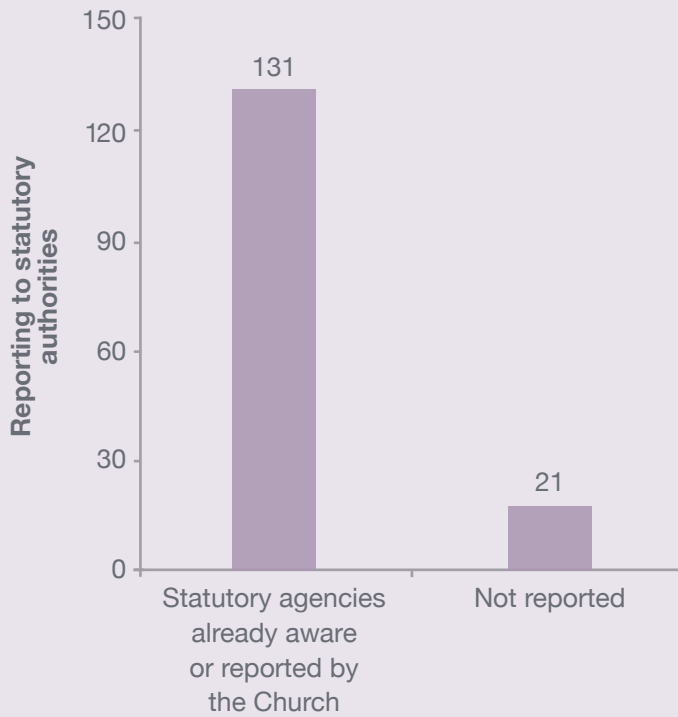
Chart 3 shows that 86% of the individuals against whom allegations were made were either already known to, or had been referred to statutory agencies by the Church.

The reasons for non-referral of the remaining 14% include there being no formal complaint, the allegation not meeting the safeguarding threshold, somebody else reporting the allegation, the victim not proceeding or the perpetrator being deceased.

At the time of collating this data, a decision about reporting had not yet been made in 1% of allegations.



**Chart 3**  
**Reporting to statutory authorities**

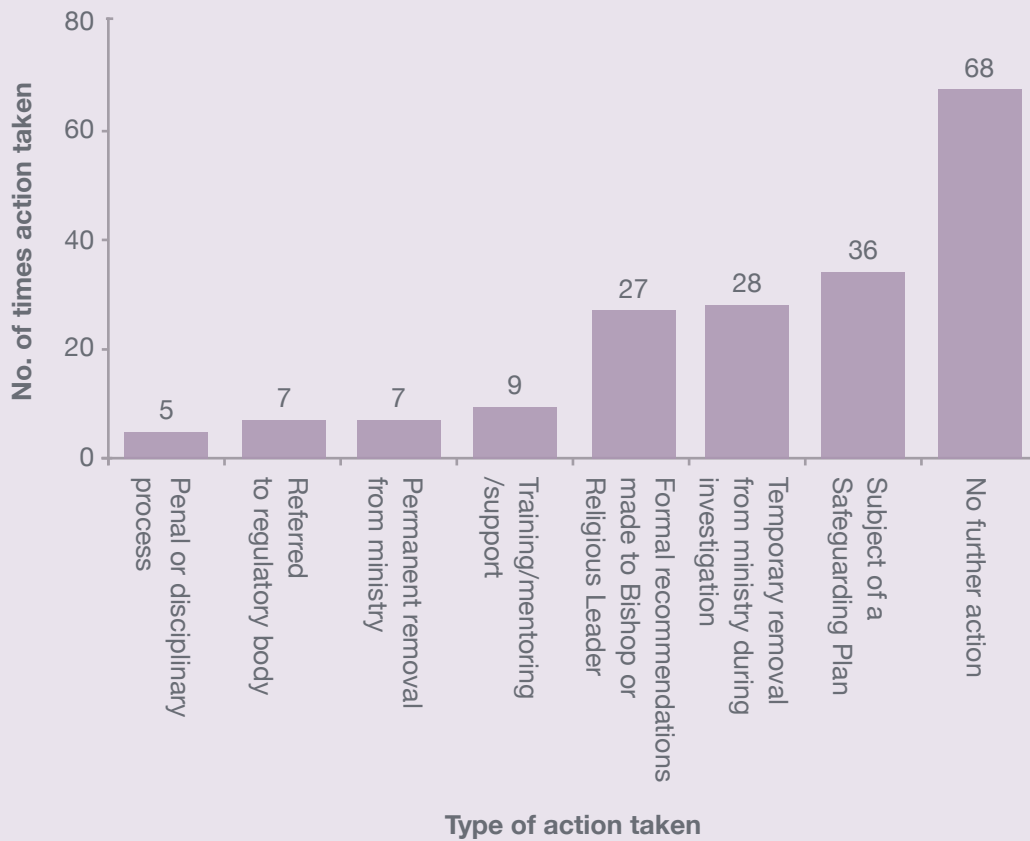


### Actions by the Church arising from the allegations

When the Church receives allegations against individuals, in addition to referral to statutory agencies, there are a range of other actions that might follow.

Chart 4 sets out the key actions taken in respect of the 152 complaints made during 2017. It is important to note that the cases in respect of 105 individuals were still open at the time this data was collected so the outcomes recorded below may not be complete.

**Chart 4**  
**Actions taken by the Church**

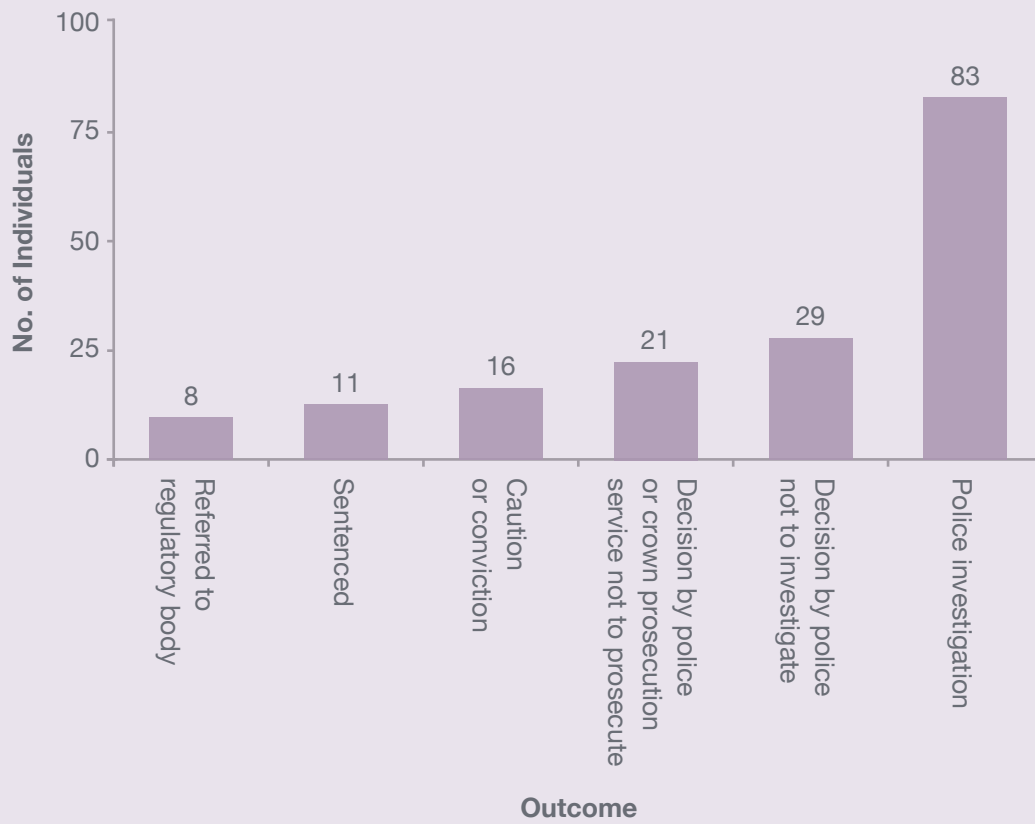


### Outcomes from referral to statutory agencies

Of the 131 cases that were either known to statutory agencies already or referred to statutory agencies by the Church, the following actions by statutory agencies are recorded<sup>5</sup>.

Chart 5

### Outcomes from referral to statutory agencies against number of individuals



<sup>5</sup> Not all cases had concluded so the outcomes below may not be complete.

Chart 6

Gender of alleged perpetrator for each of the 152 allegations

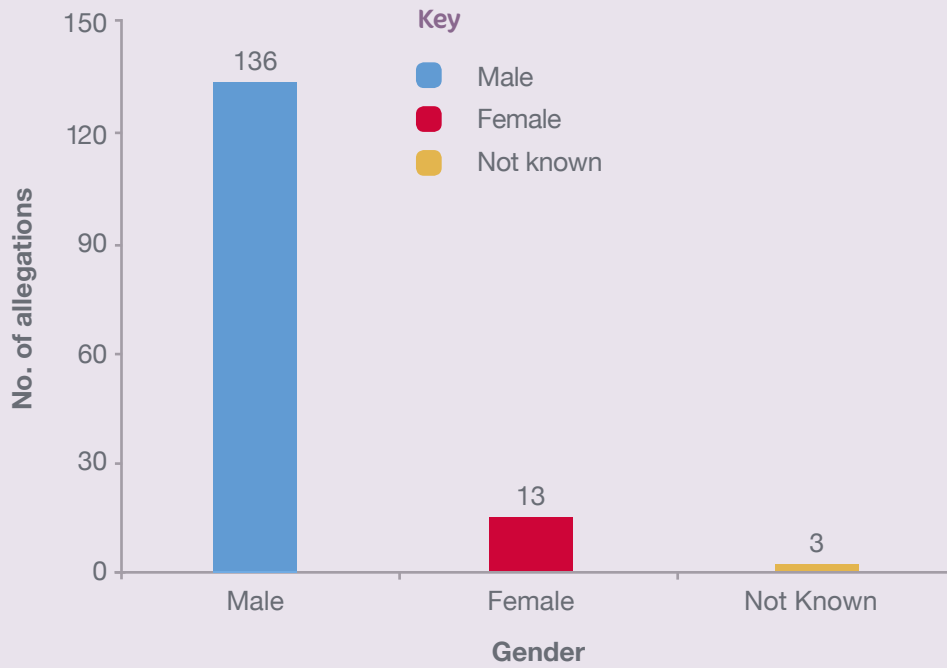
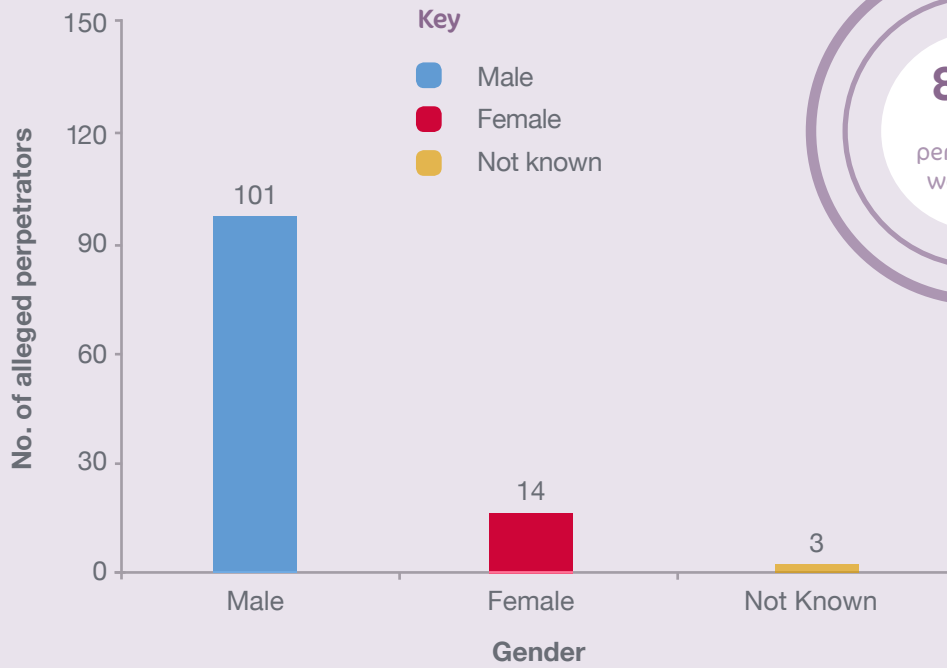


Chart 7

Gender of the 118 alleged perpetrators, removing multiple allegations against individuals



### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred by gender

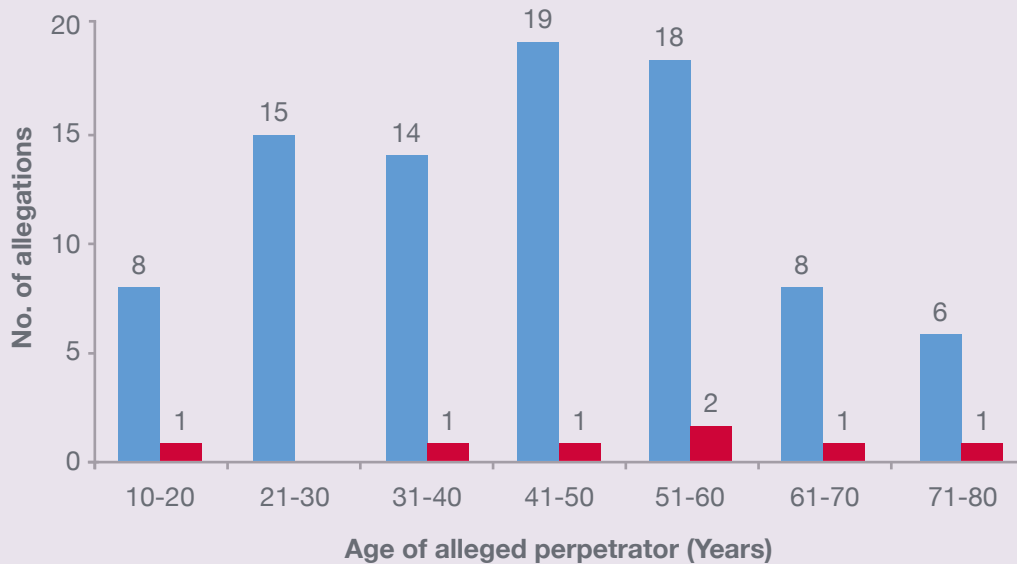
The age of the alleged perpetrator at the time abuse is said to have occurred is known for 63% (n95) of the 152 allegations<sup>6</sup>.

Chart 8 shows the recorded gender and age of the alleged perpetrator for the 95 allegations where the age of the alleged perpetrator at the time of abuse is known.



**Chart 8**

### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time abuse is said to have occurred by gender



**Key**

- Male
- Female

The mean age<sup>7</sup> of the 95 individuals whose ages at the time of the alleged abuse is known is 43.63 years.



<sup>6</sup> Some of the 118 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.



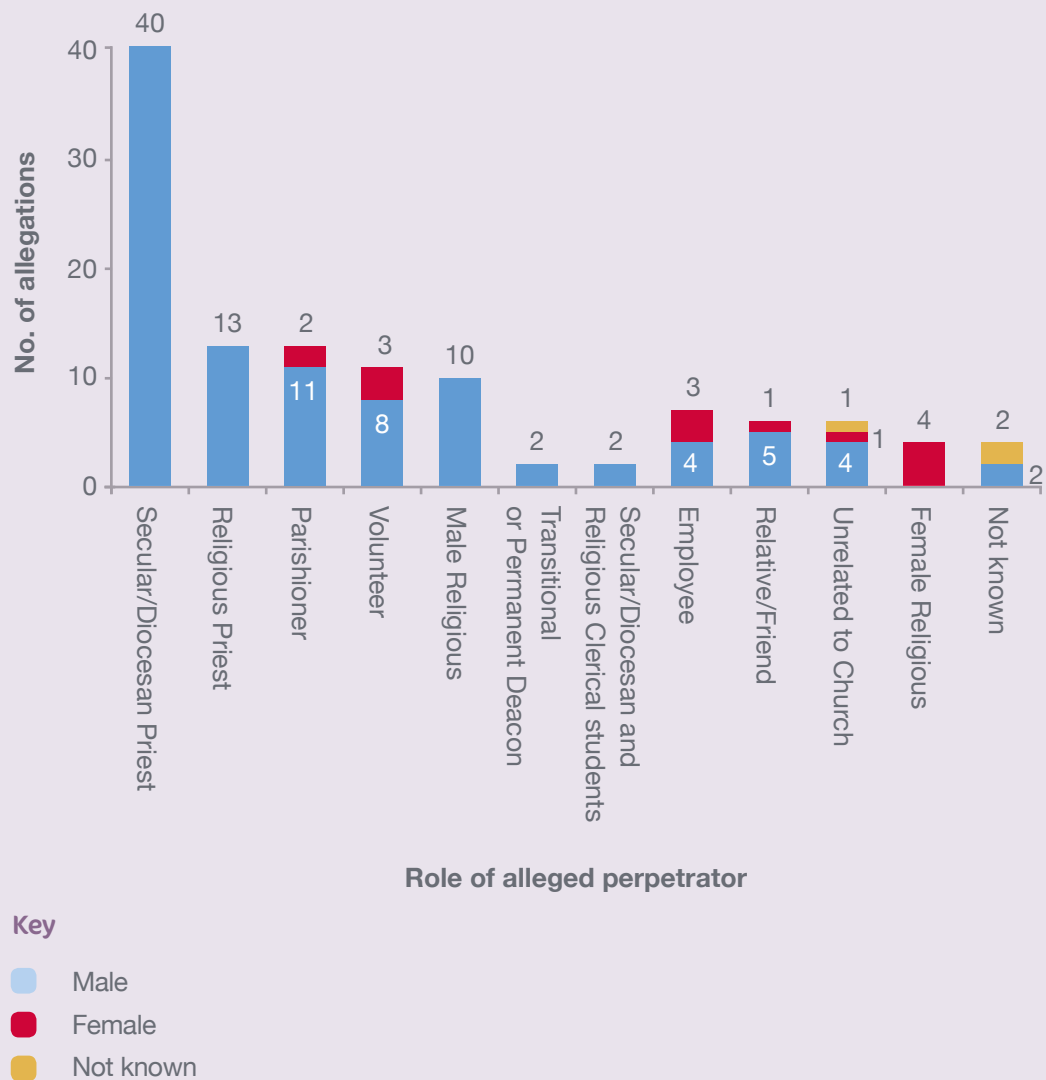
### Role of alleged perpetrators by gender

Of males, 77% of individuals against whom allegations were made were related to appointed roles within the Church and 52% were Priests.

Of females, 71% were related to appointed roles within the Church and 29% were female Religious.

Chart 9

### Role of alleged perpetrators by gender



<sup>7</sup> The mean is calculated by adding, for each individual where the age is known, the mid-point of each age range e.g. 15, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75 and dividing it by the number of individuals (n95).

### Type of abuse by gender<sup>8</sup>

- 59% of allegations relate to sexual abuse.
- 22% of allegations relate to physical abuse.

In the previous year, 61% of allegations related to sexual abuse and 15% related to physical abuse.

#### Chart 10 shows that:

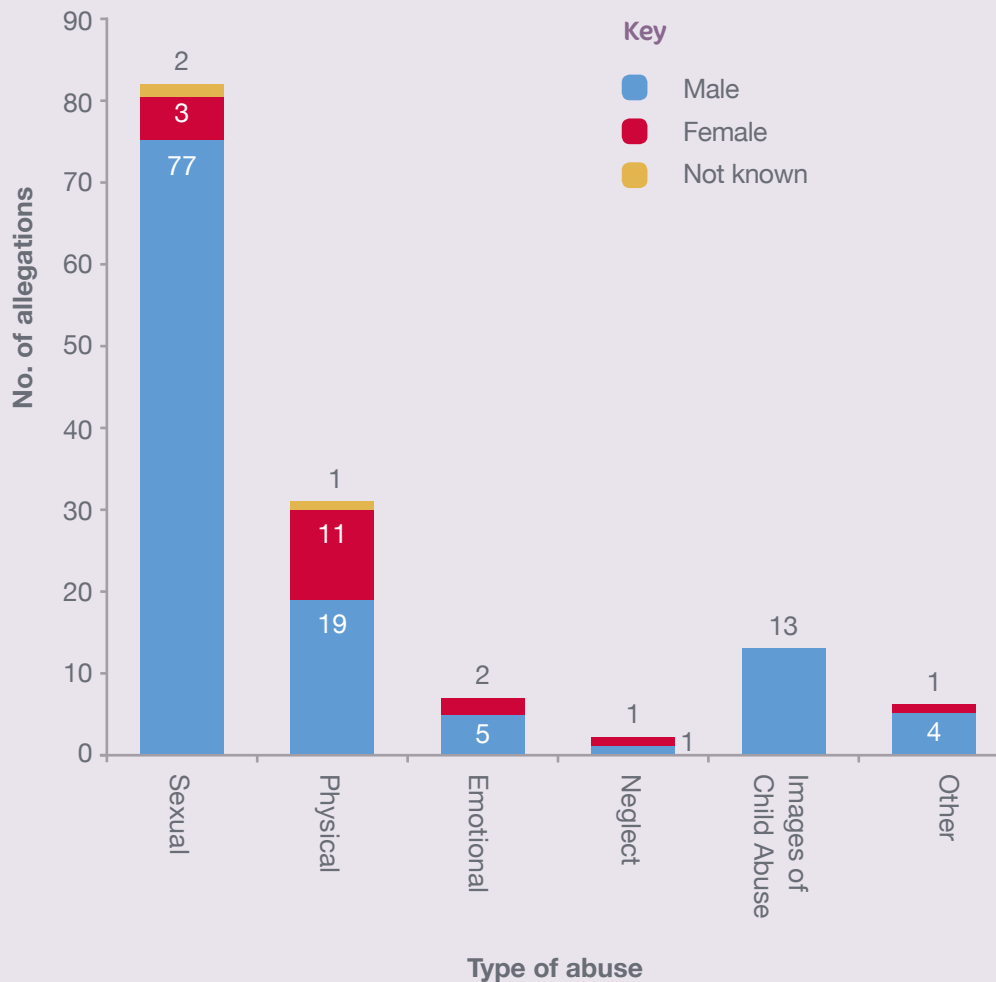
- 85% of the total count of types of abuse were made against males;
- 13% of the total count of types of abuse were made against females;
- The gender is unknown for 2% of the total count of types of abuse.

#### In respect of the types of abuse, the following were against males:

- 100% of allegations relating to images of child abuse;
- 94% of allegations of sexual abuse;
- 61% of allegations of physical abuse.



**Chart 10**  
**Type of abuse by gender**



<sup>8</sup> The total count of 140 in Chart 10 reflects that some of the 118 alleged perpetrators were accused of more than one type of abuse at the same or different times. Each type of abuse is only counted once per alleged perpetrator, even if accused of the same type of abuse in more than 1 allegation.

**The type of abuse by role of individuals against whom allegations have been made<sup>9</sup>**

**Chart 11 shows that:**

- 33% of the total count of alleged types of abuse against children were made against Secular/Diocesan priests;
- 11% of the total count of alleged types of abuse against children were made against Religious Priests.

This is an increase in the number against Secular/Diocesan Priests since last year which accounted for 24% of allegations and a decrease in the number against Religious Priests which accounted for 28% of allegations.

**Sexual abuse by Secular/Diocesan Priests accounts for:**

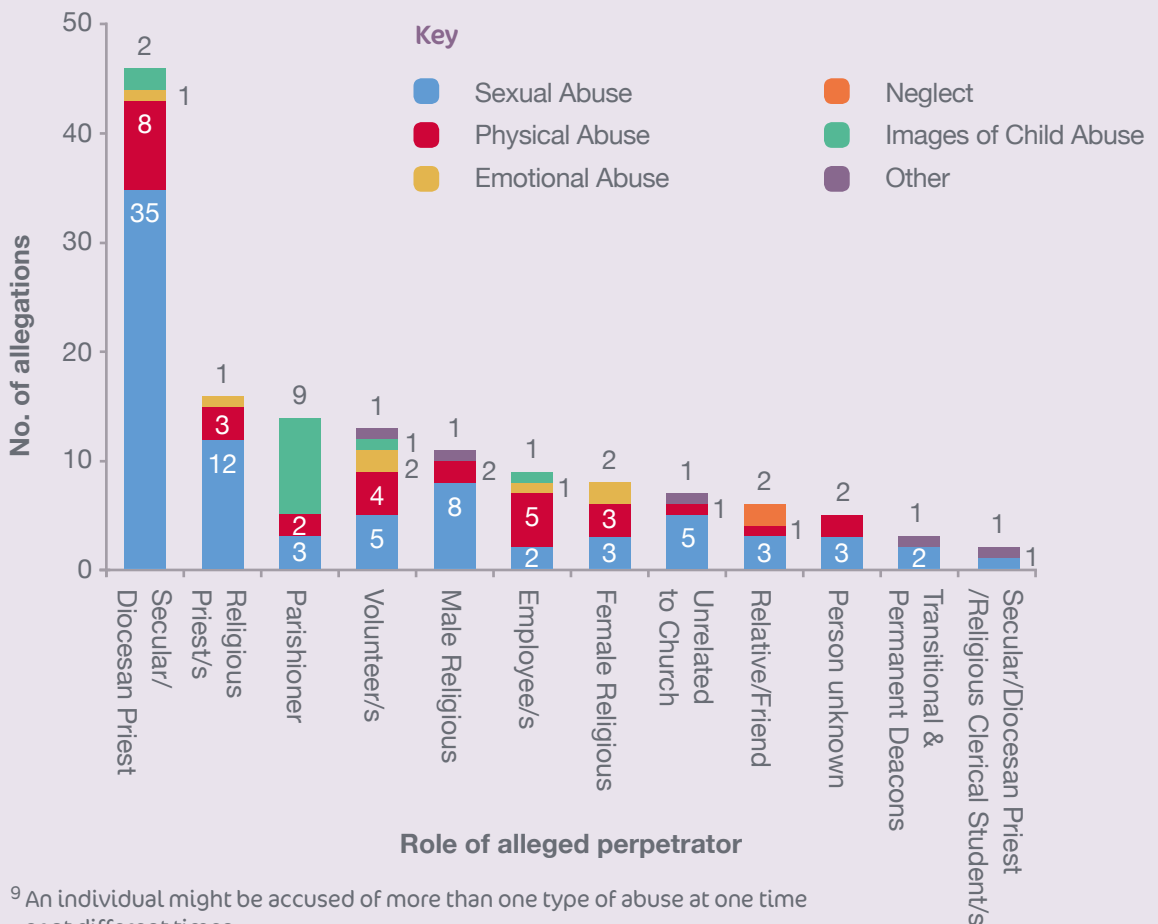
- 76% of all allegations of abuse against that role and for 25% of the total count of all types of alleged abuse.

**Sexual abuse by Religious Priests accounts for:**

- 75% of abuse against that role and 9% of the total count of all types of alleged abuse.

**Chart 11**

**The type of abuse by role of individuals against whom allegations have been made<sup>10</sup>**



<sup>9</sup> An individual might be accused of more than one type of abuse at one time or at different times.

<sup>10</sup> Where the same alleged perpetrator has been accused of the same type of abuse by different individuals, the type of abuse is only counted once.

### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time of occurrence by type of abuse

There is a total of 178<sup>11</sup> counts of type of abuse across the 152 individual allegations. The age of the perpetrator at the time of alleged abuse is unknown in 43% of cases.

#### Of those allegations where the age is known:

- 10% of all types of abuse occurred within the < 20 age range;
- 31% within the 21-40 age range;
- 42% between the 41-60 age range;
- 18% between the 61-70 age range.

#### Of those allegations where the age is known:

- Allegations of sexual abuse peak in the 31-40 and 51-60 age ranges;
- The age range 31-60 accounts for 60% of allegations of sexual abuse.

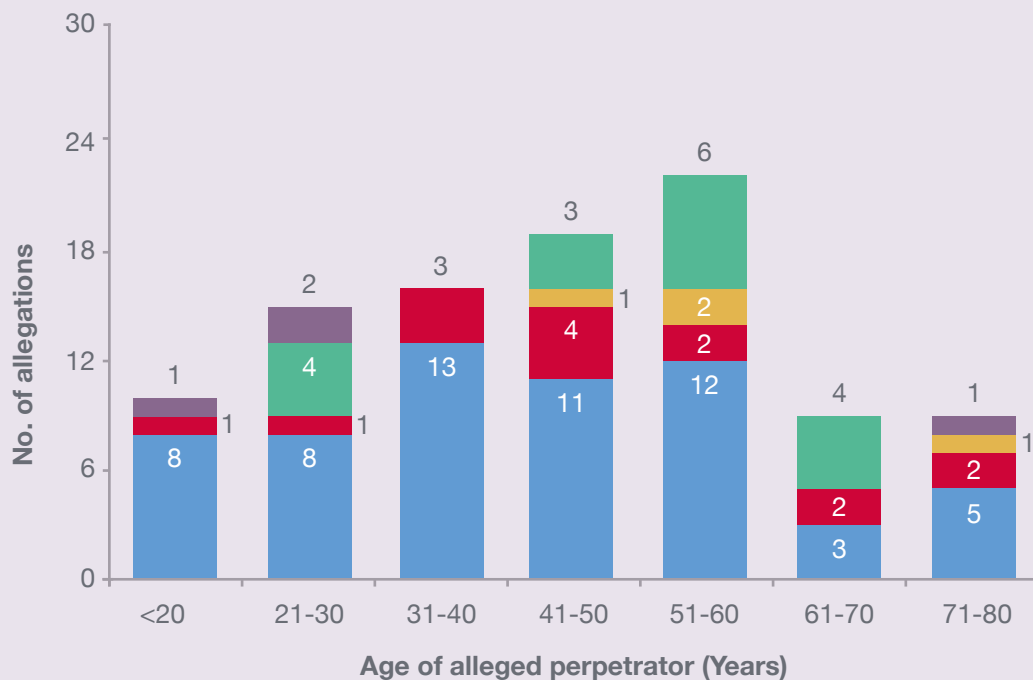
#### Allegations of physical abuse:

- Rise within the age range 21-50;
- Drop between the age range 41-60;
- Remain consistent between the age range 61-70;
- 53% of allegations are made against perpetrators aged 21-50 at the time of alleged abuse.



Chart 12

### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time of occurrence by type of abuse



#### Key

- Sexual
- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Images of Child Abuse
- Other

## Duration of abuse by gender of alleged perpetrator<sup>12</sup>

### Where the duration of abuse is known:

- Single incidents account for 39%;
- Abuse lasting 1-2 years accounts for 23%;
- Abuse lasting 3-6 years accounts for 17%;
- Abuse lasting 7-12 years accounts for 12% of all allegations.

### For the 152 individual allegations, males were accused of:

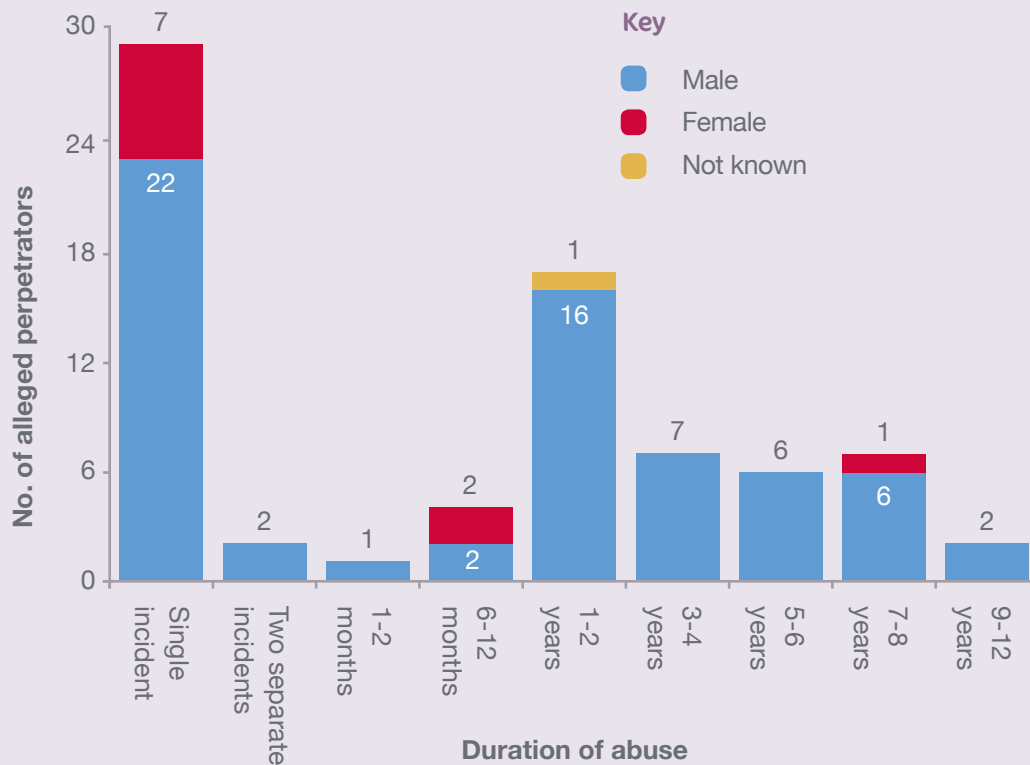
- 76% of single incidents;
- 100% of two separate incidents;
- 100% of abuse lasting 1-2 months;
- 50% of abuse lasting 6-12 months;
- 100% of abuse lasting 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 9-12 years;
- 86% of abuse lasting 7-8 years.

### For the 152 individual allegations, females were accused of:

- 24% of single incidents;
- 50% of abuse lasting 6-12 months;
- 14% of abuse lasting 7-8 years.

Chart 13

## Duration of abuse by gender of alleged perpetrator



<sup>11</sup>This figure is reached because some individual allegations involved more than 1 type of abuse.

<sup>12</sup>Total count of 152 includes each individual allegation.

## Victims/Survivors

### Gender and age of victims/survivors at the time of alleged abuse

#### Overall:

- 44% of victims/survivors are male, 37% are female and for 19% the gender is not known.

**Chart 14 shows the recorded gender and age of the individual victim/survivor at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred.**

#### Of the 152 individuals alleging abuse:

- The age at which abuse occurred is unknown in 45% (n69) of cases.

#### Of victims/survivors whose age is known (n83):

- 4% were under the age of 5 years;
- 42% were aged between 6 and 9 years;
- 29% were aged between 10 and 13 years<sup>13</sup>;
- 19% were aged 14 and 15 years<sup>14</sup>;
- 5% were aged 16 and 17 years.

#### Where the age is known:

- 31% of allegations by males and 24% of allegations by females relate to abuse occurring between the ages of 8-9 years;
- 13% of allegations by males and 15% of allegations by females relate to abuse occurring between the ages of 12-13 years;
- 7% of allegations by males and 13% of allegations by females relate to abuse occurring between the ages of 14-15 years.

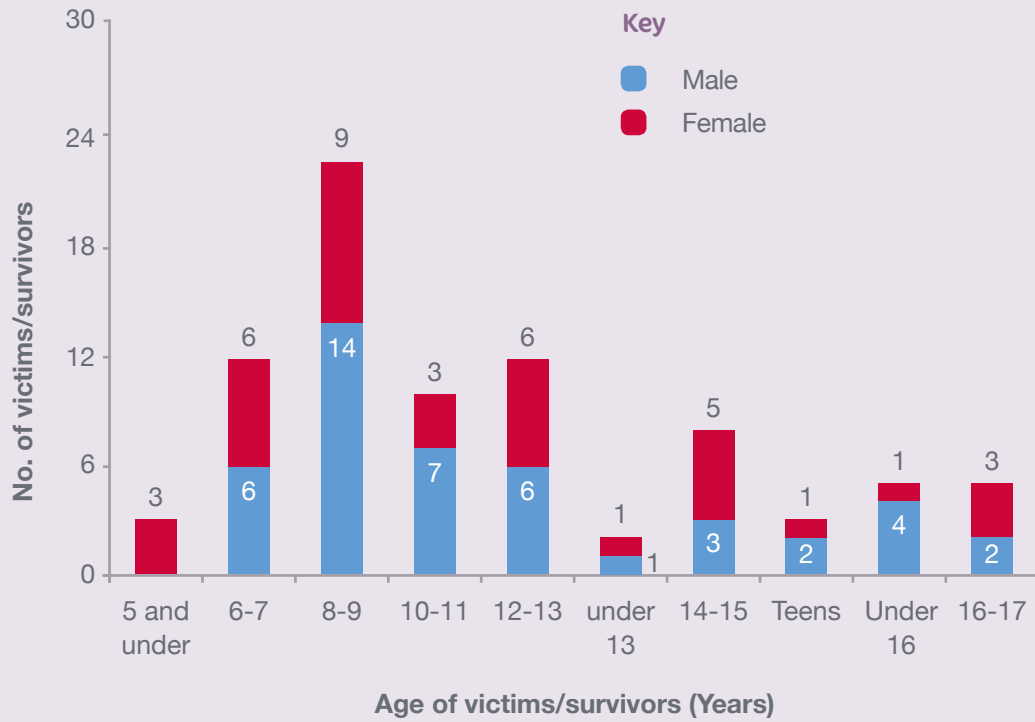


<sup>13</sup>This includes 2 children aged under 13 years.

<sup>14</sup>This includes 3 children said to be in their teens and 5 children said to be under the age of 16 years.

**Chart 14**

**Gender and age of victims/survivors at the time of alleged abuse**



The mean age of the 83 individuals whose age is known at the time of the alleged abuse is known is 10.46 years.

### Type of abuse by gender of victims/survivors

#### Where the gender is known:

- 55% of sexual abuse allegations and 64% of physical abuse allegations were made by males.

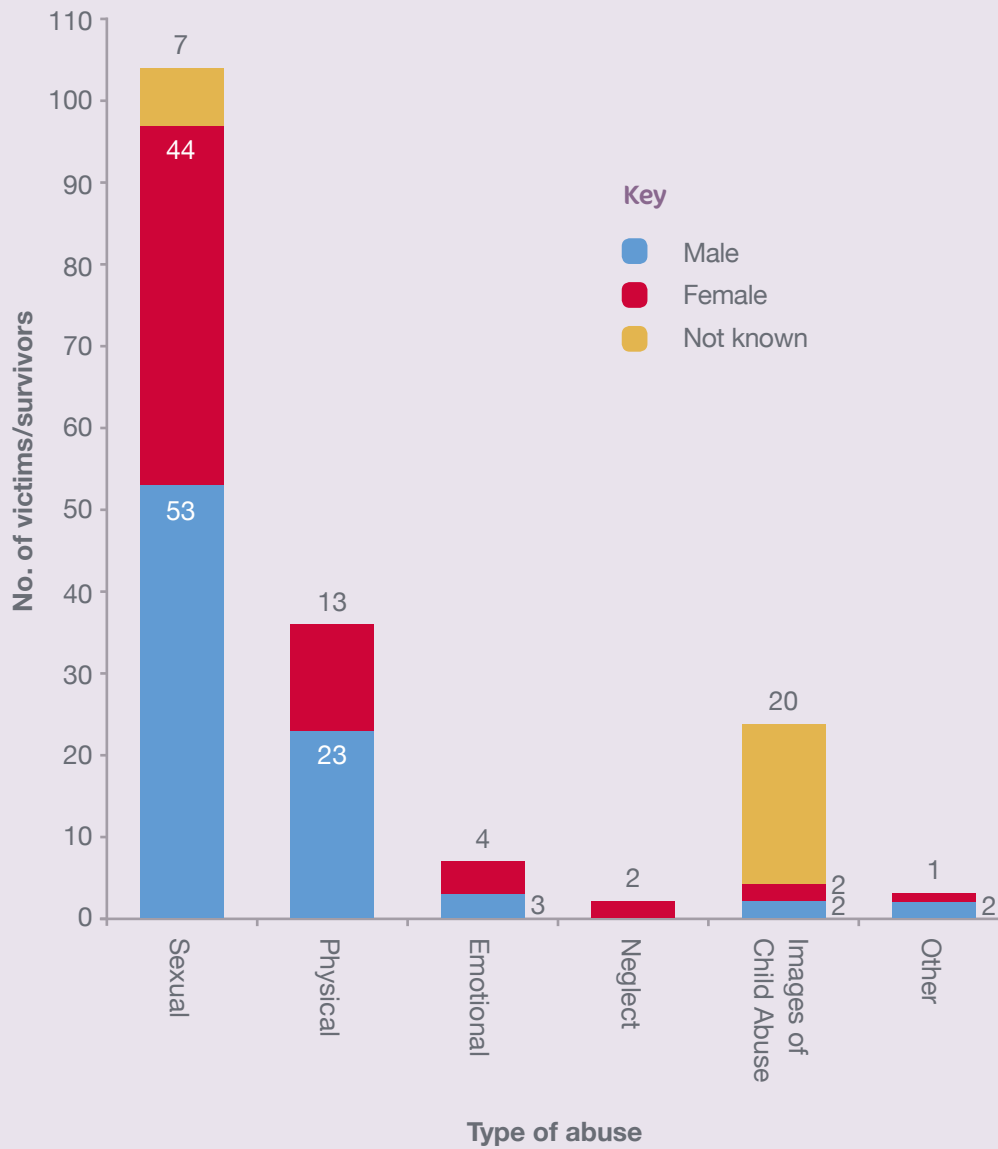
#### Where the gender is not known:

- 83% of allegations concern images of child abuse and 24% concern sexual abuse.



Chart 15

### Type of abuse by gender of victims/survivors





### Age of victim/survivor at time of alleged abuse by type

#### 152 Individuals complained of abuse.

Chart 16 shows the age at which the abuse was said to have been experienced. The total figures are higher than 152 because some individuals experienced different types of abuse at the same time.

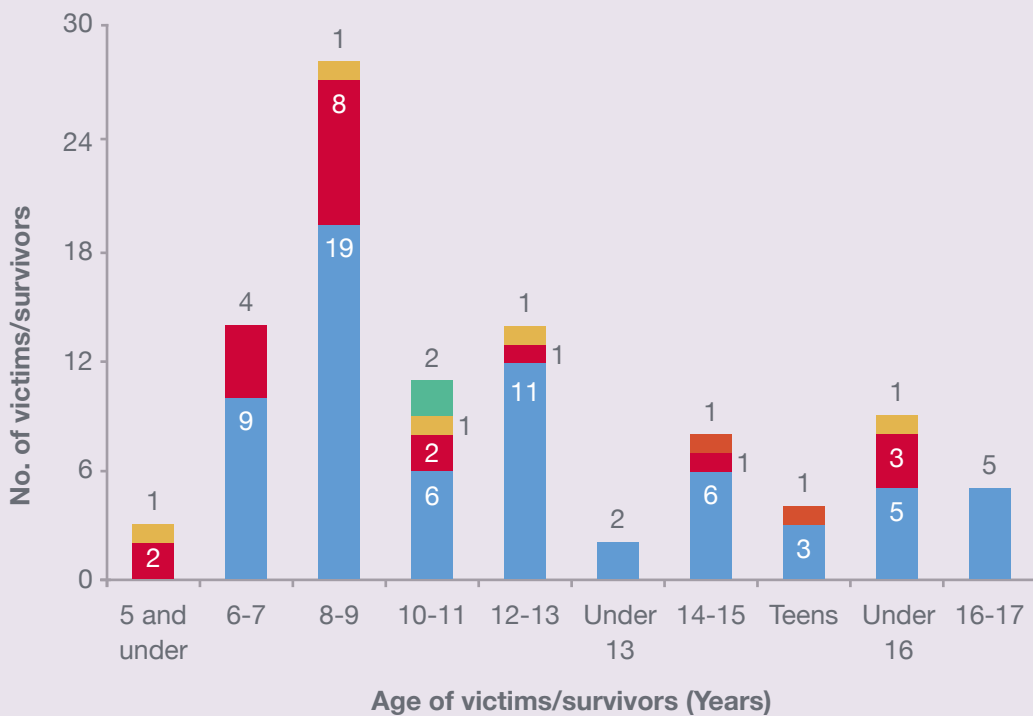
The age at which different counts of abuse are said to have occurred is unknown in 46% of cases.

#### Of the remaining counts of abuse where the age is known:

- Sexual abuse occurred predominantly in the 8-9 years (29%) and 12-13 years (17%) age ranges;
- Physical abuse occurred predominantly in the 8-9 years (38%) age range;
- The age range of 92% of children in relation to child abuse images is unknown.

Chart 16

### Age of victim/survivor at time of alleged abuse by type



#### Key

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Images of Child Abuse
- Other

### Date when abuse first occurred by number of victims/survivors and type of abuse

---

The date that abuse first occurred is not known for 20% of victims/survivors.

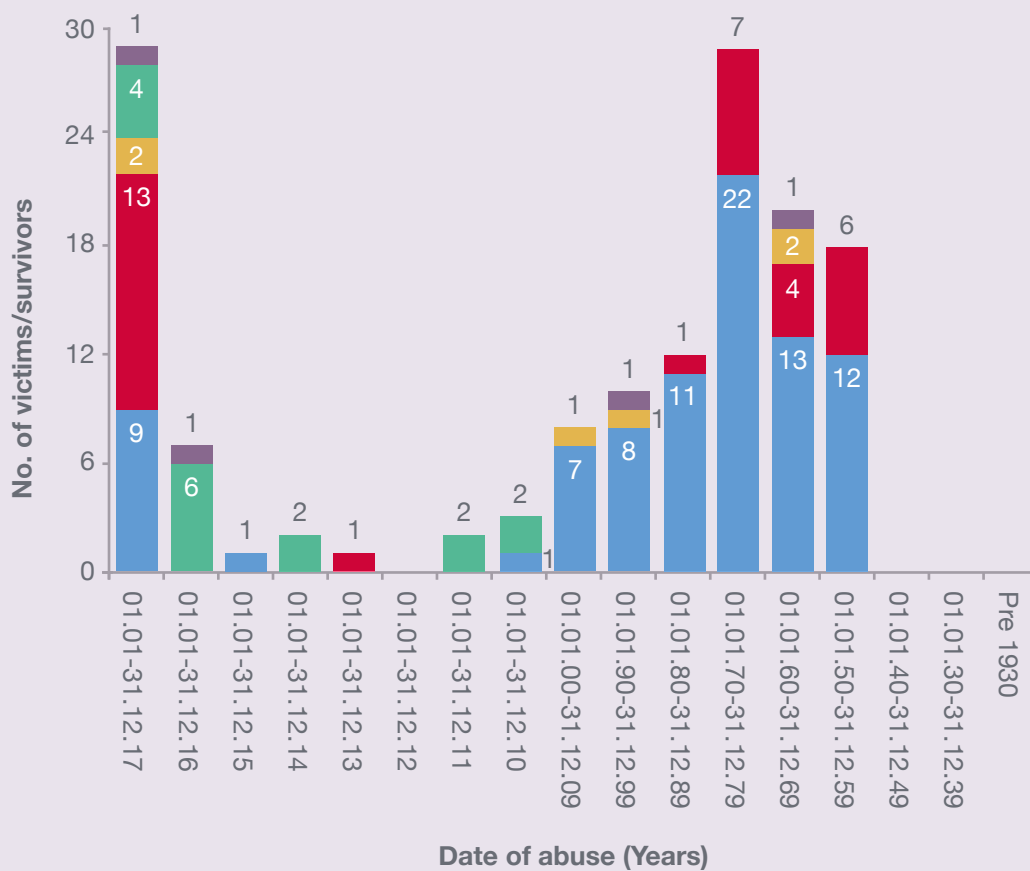
#### Where the date is known:

- 20% of allegations relate to incidents during the past year;
  - 25% during the past 2 years;
  - 27% during the past 4 years;
  - 32% during the past 8 years;
  - 68% of allegations relate to incidents occurring between 1950 and 2000.
- 
- 30% of alleged sexual abuse occurred between 1950 and 1969;
  - 26% occurred between 1970 and 1979;
  - 23% between 1980 and 1999;
  - 11% occurred between 2000 and 2016;
  - 11% occurred during the past year.
- 
- 31% of alleged physical abuse occurred between 1950 and 1969;
  - 22% between 1970 and 1979;
  - 6% between 1980 and 2013 and 41% during the past year.
- 
- 62% of alleged abuse relating to images of child abuse occurred between 2000 and 2014;
  - 38% occurred during the past two years.



**Chart 17**

**Date when abuse first occurred by type and total number of victims/survivors**



**Key**

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Images of Child Abuse
- Neglect
- Other

### Duration of abuse by role of alleged abuser

The length of time that abuse continued is not known for 51% of individuals making the allegations.

#### Where the length of time that abuse endured is known:

- Single incidents account for 39% of accusations.

#### and of these accusations:

- 24% were against secular/diocesan priests;
- 24% were against volunteers;
- 21% were against religious priests;
- 10% were against employees;
- 10% were against parishioners.

#### Where the length of time is known:

- Abuse lasting between 1 and 2 years accounts for 23% of accusations.

#### and of these accusations:

- 65% were against secular/diocesan priests.

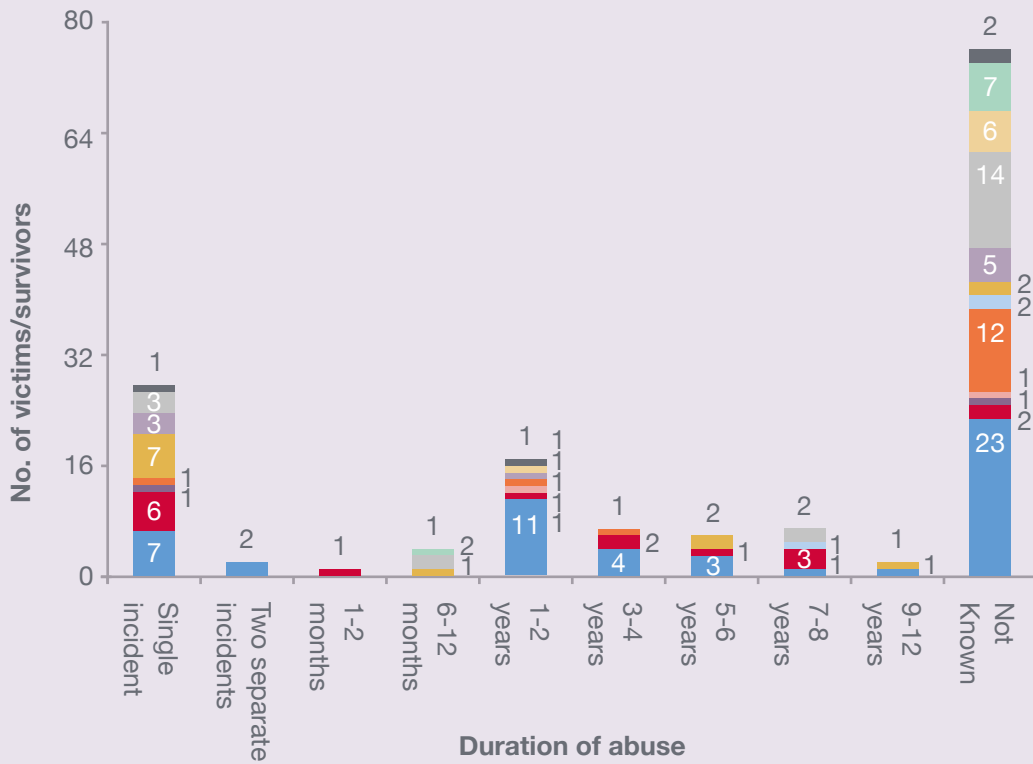
#### Abuse lasting between:

- 3-4 years accounts for 9% of accusations;
- 5-6 years accounts for 8% of accusations;
- 7-8 years accounts for 9% of accusations.
- 9-12 years accounts for 3% of accusations.



Chart 18

Duration of abuse by role of alleged abuser



Key

- Secular/Diocesan Priest
- Transitional or Permanent Deacon
- Male Religious
- Religious in formation
- Employee
- Relative/Friend
- Person not known
- Religious Priest
- Secular/Diocesan and Religious Clerical Students
- Female Religious
- Volunteer
- Parishioner
- Unrelated to Church

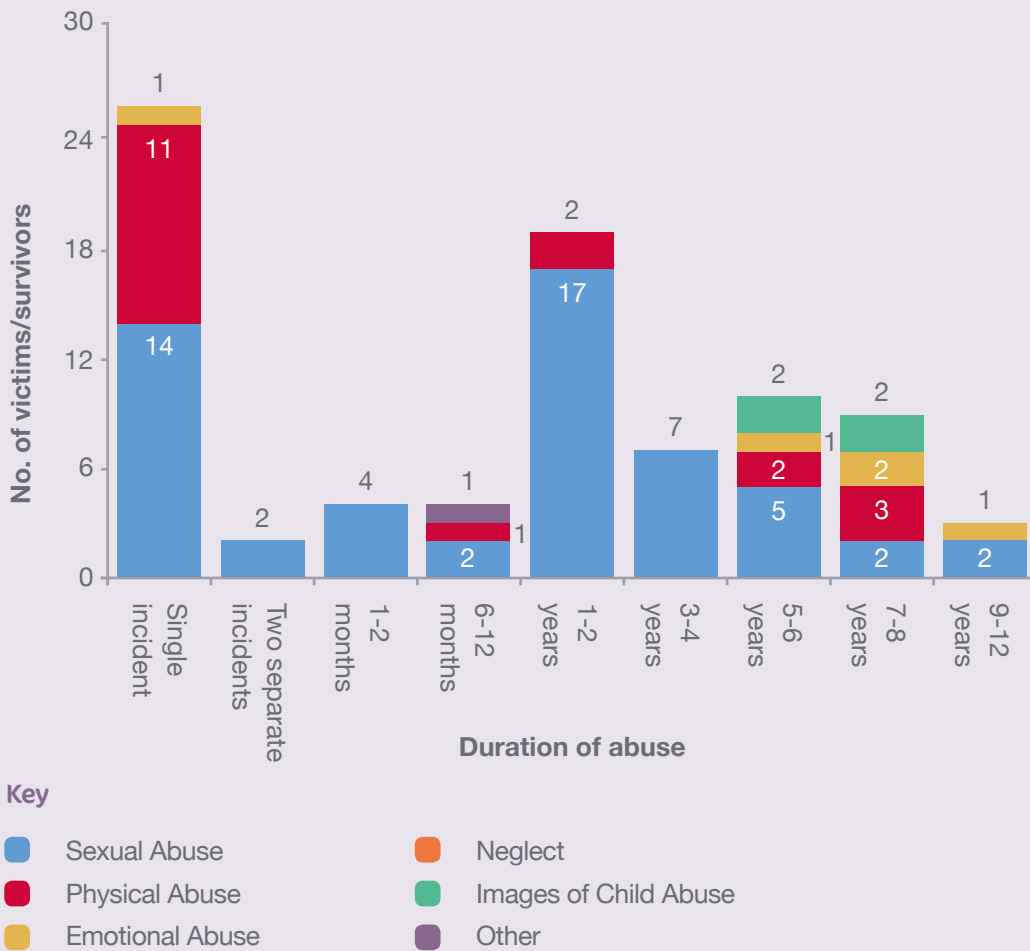
### Duration of abuse by type

The length of abuse is not known for 53% of the total count of types of abuse.

Where the length of time is known, of the total count of types of abuse experienced by 152 individuals:

- Single incidents of sexual abuse account for 17%;
- Sexual abuse lasting 1-2 years accounts for 20%;
- Sexual abuse lasting 3-4 years accounts for 8%;
- Single incidents of physical abuse account for 13%.

**Chart 19**  
Duration of abuse by type



## Duration of abuse by age of victim/survivor at the start of abuse

### Where the age of the child is known:

- 45% of single incidents occurred in the 6-11 age range;
- 50% occurred in the 12-17 age range;
- 50% of allegations lasting 1-2 years occurred in the 8-11 age range;
- 50% occurred in the 12-17 age range;
- 50% of allegations lasting 3-4 years occurred in the 6-11 age range;
- 50% occurred in the 13-17 age range;
- 75% of allegations lasting 5-6 years occurred in the 6-11 age range;
- 25% in the 12-13 age range;
- 83% of allegations lasting 7-8 years occurred in the <5-9 age range;
- 17% occurred in the 10-13 age range.

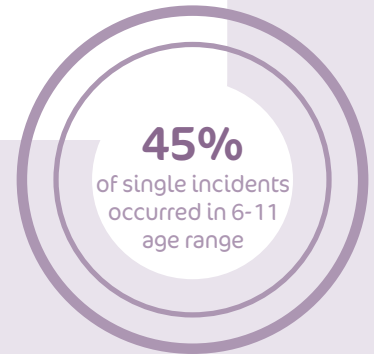
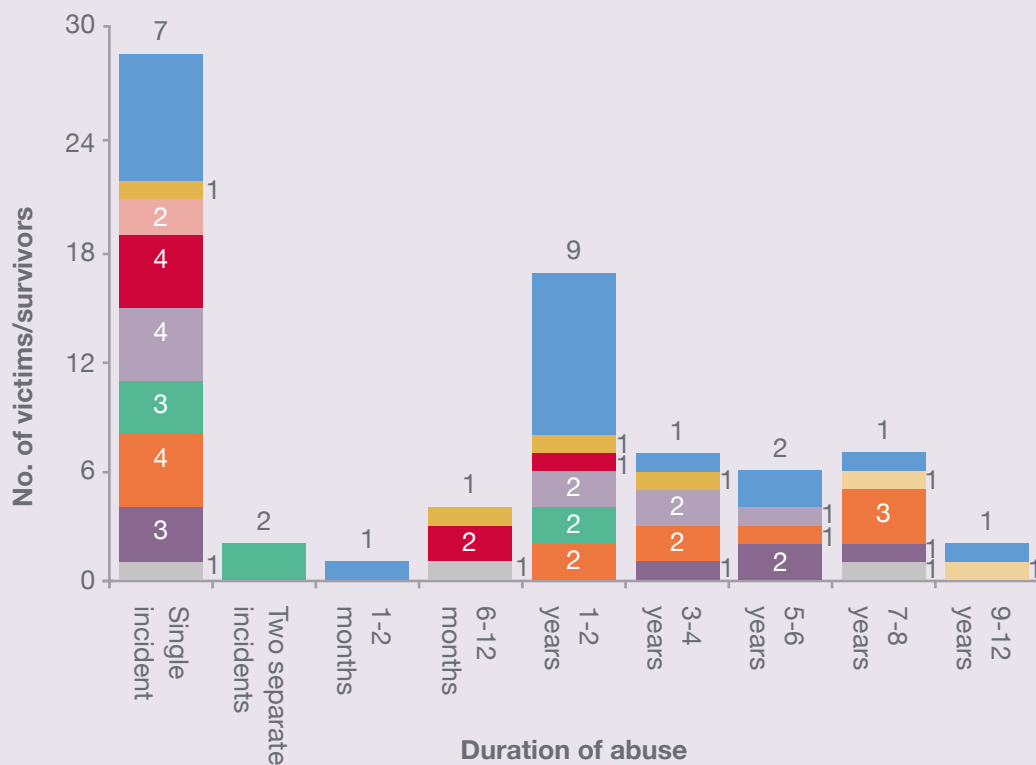


Chart 20

### Duration of abuse by age of victim/survivor



#### Key

- <5 years
- 6-7 years
- 8-9 years
- 10-11 years
- 12-13 years
- <13 years
- 14-15 years
- Teens
- <16
- 16-17
- Not known

**Time interval between the alleged abuse occurring and being reported by gender**

For 80% (n 121) of the 152 individual complaints, the time<sup>15</sup> interval between abuse and reporting was known.

**Of this 121:**

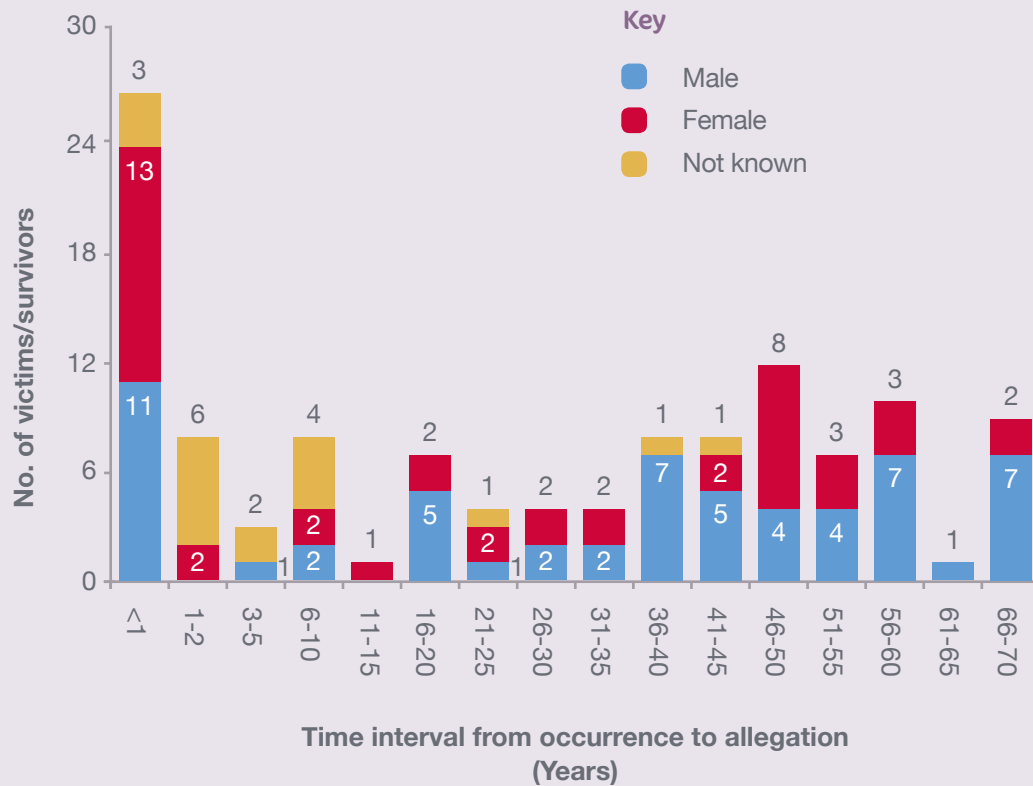
- 22% of individuals reported abuse within one year of occurrence;
- 29% of individuals reported within two years of occurrence;
- 38% of individuals reported within 10 years of occurrence.

**Counting in decades of occurrence:**

- 7% of individuals reported between 11 and 20 years;
- 7% of individuals reported between 21 and 30 years;
- 10% of individuals reported between 31 and 40 years;
- 17% of individuals reported between 41 and 50 years;
- 14% of individuals reported between 51 and 60 years;
- 8% of individuals reported between 61 and 70 years.

**Chart 21**

**Time interval between the alleged abuse occurring and being reported by gender**



<sup>15</sup>This might be an approximate time interval based on recall of the individual making the complaint.



**Where the time interval is known:**

- 19% of males reported abuse within 1 year of occurrence;
  - 3% of males reported abuse within 6-10 years of occurrence;
  - 14% of males reported abuse within 16-30 years of occurrence;
  - 31% of males reported abuse within 31-50 years of occurrence;
  - 33% of males reported abuse within 51-70 years of occurrence.
- 
- 29% of females reported abuse within 1 year of occurrence;
  - 7% of females reported abuse within 1-5 years of occurrence;
  - 7% of females reported abuse within 6-15 years of occurrence;
  - 13% of females reported abuse within 16-30 years of occurrence;
  - 27% of females reported abuse within 31-50 years of occurrence;
  - 18% of females reported abuse within 51-70 years of occurrence.



### Time interval between alleged abuse and reporting by role of alleged perpetrator

#### Of those allegations against priests where the time interval is known:

- 9% were reported within 2 years of occurrence;
- 2% were reported between 3-10 years of occurrence;
- 19% were reported between 11-30 years of occurrence;
- 37% were reported between 31-50 years of occurrence;
- 33% were reported between 51-70 years of occurrence.

#### Of those allegations against volunteers, employees and parishioners where the time interval is known:

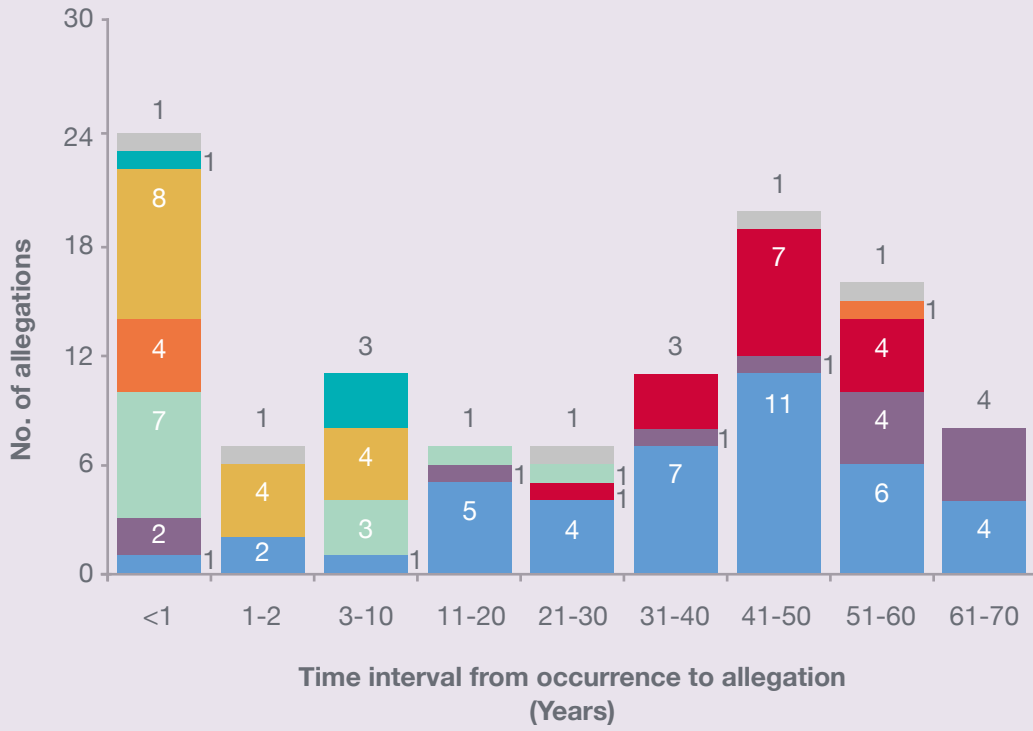
- 70% were reported within 2 years of occurrence;
- 21% were reported between 3-10 years of occurrence;
- 6% were reported between 11-30 years of occurrence;
- 3% were reported between 51-70 years of occurrence;

- 73% of allegations against male religious were reported between 21-50 years;
- 27% of allegations against male religious were reported between 51-70 years;
- 100% of allegations against female religious were reported between 51-70 years.



Chart 22

Time interval between alleged abuse and reporting by role of alleged perpetrator



Key

- Secular/Diocesan Priest
- Religious Priest
- Male Religious
- Volunteer
- Employee
- Parishioner
- Relative/Friend
- Unrelated to Church

## Allegations of abuse against adults



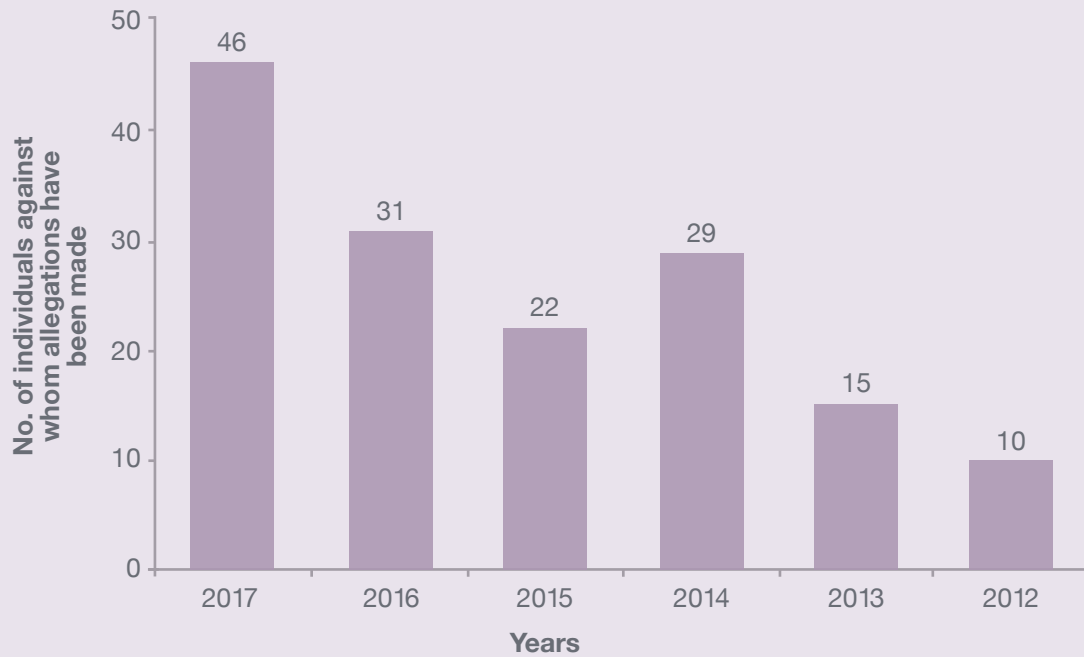
### Alleged Perpetrators

Chart 23 sets out the number of individuals against whom adult Safeguarding allegations have been made.

During the past year, a total of **55 people** made adult related allegations<sup>16</sup> against **46 individuals**<sup>17</sup>. This is a **48% increase** in the number of individuals compared to 2016.

Chart 23

### Number of individuals against whom adult related allegations have been made

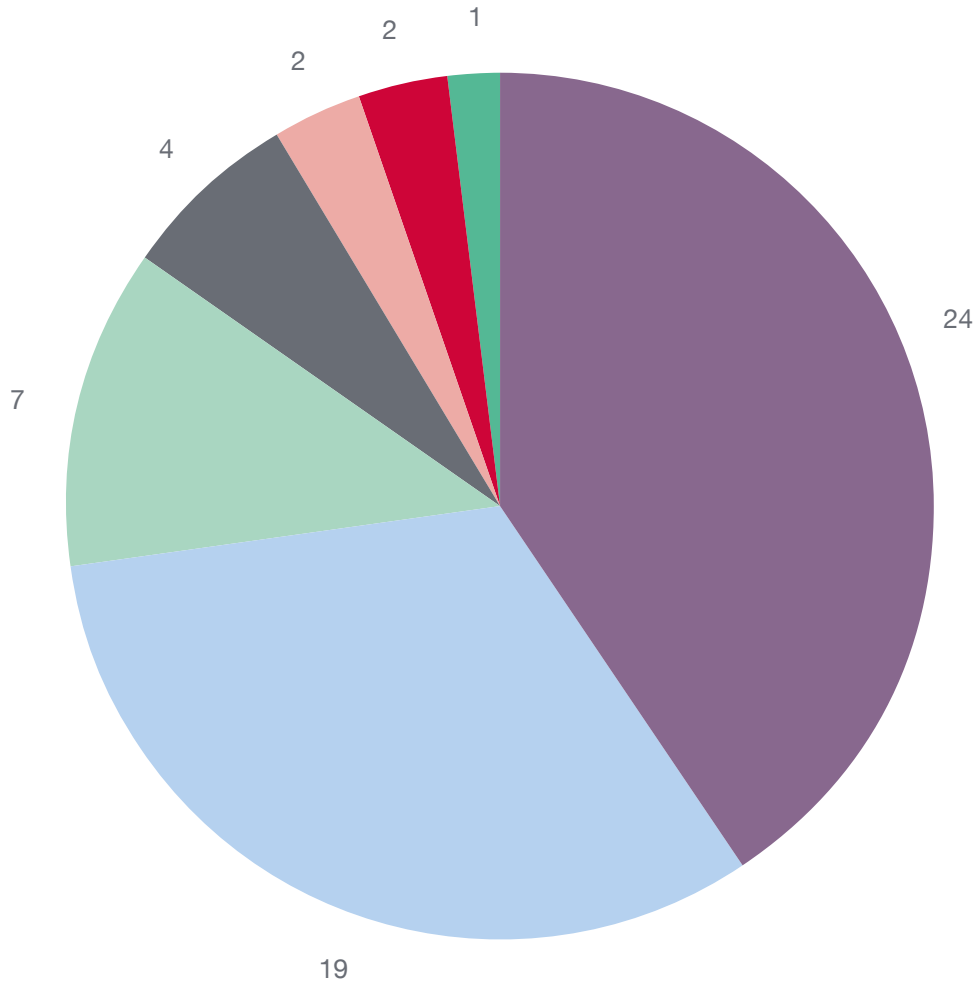


### Chart 24 (top right) sets out the source of the allegations when reported to the Church.

The highest number of reports of abuse made to the Church come from the Police, victims/survivors, members of the clergy/religious or lay roles within the Church<sup>18</sup>.

Chart 24

Source of allegations



Key

- Police
- Clergy/Religious/Lay role within the Church
- Social Care agency or LADO
- Other
- Self-referral
- Family member/Friend
- Parishioner

<sup>16</sup> Throughout, each of the 55 individual complaints is referred to as an allegation.

<sup>17</sup> Some of the 46 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.

<sup>18</sup> Some referrals are received from more than one source.

### Reporting to statutory authorities

Chart 25 shows that 65% of the individuals against whom allegations were made were either already known to, or had been referred to statutory agencies by the Church.

The reasons for non-referral of the remaining 35% include there being insufficient information or the allegation being unsubstantiated, the matters referred to the Church not being adult Safeguarding issues or appropriate to refer to statutory authorities, complainants not consenting to referral to statutory agencies and further enquiries being required.



**Chart 25**  
**Reporting to statutory authorities**



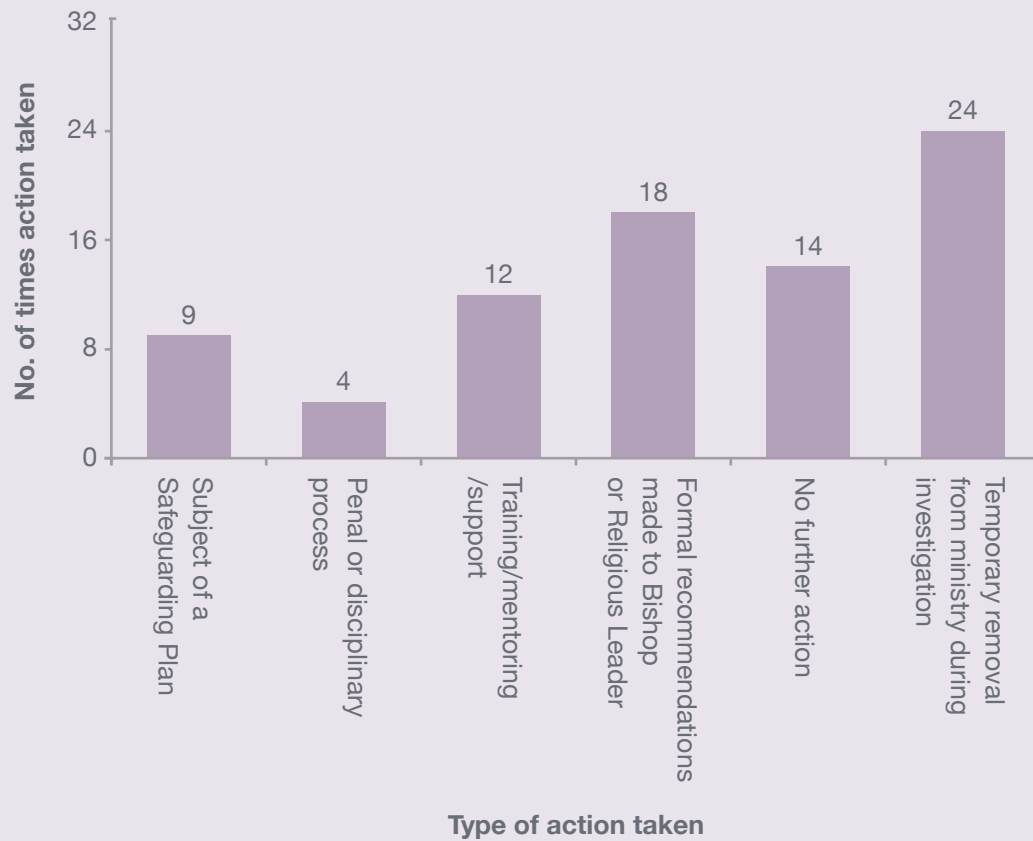
### Actions by the Church arising from the allegations

When the Church receives allegations against individuals, in addition to referral to statutory agencies, there are a range of other actions that might follow.

Chart 26 sets out the key actions taken in respect of the 55 complaints made during 2017. It is important to note that the cases in respect of 21 individuals were still open at the time this data was collected so the outcomes recorded below may not be complete.

Chart 26

### Actions taken by the Church

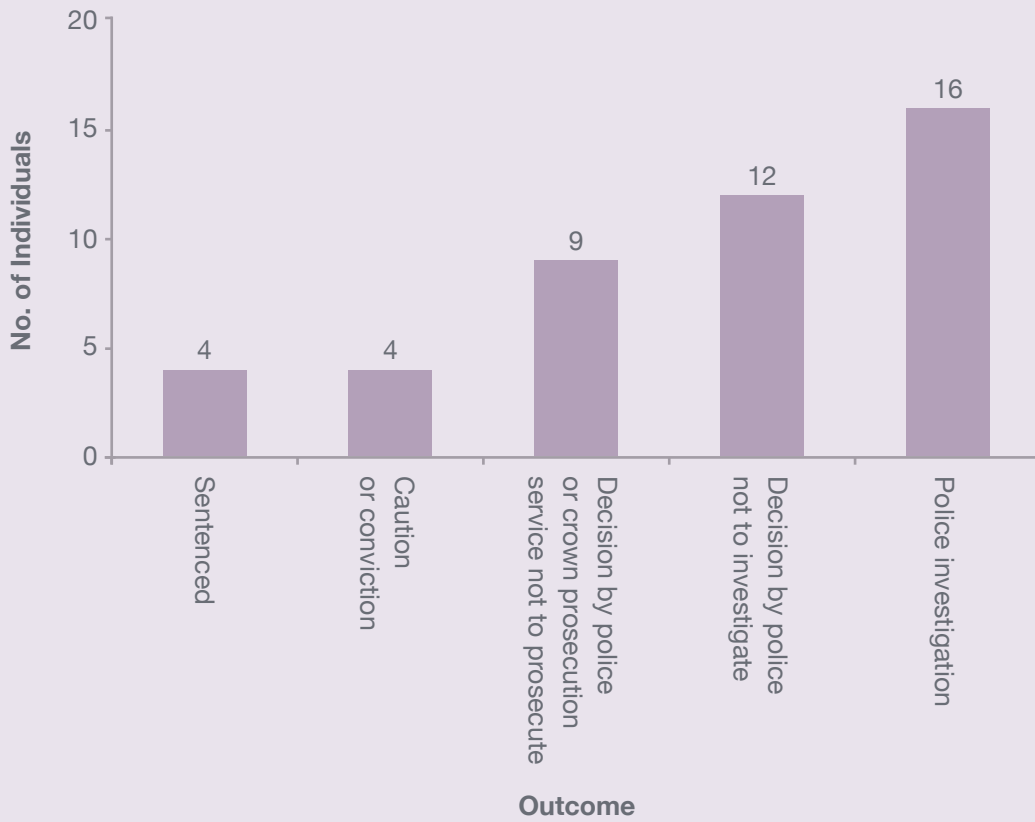


**Outcomes from referral to statutory agencies**

Of the 36 cases that were either known to statutory agencies already or referred to statutory agencies by the Church the following actions by statutory agencies are recorded<sup>19</sup>.

**Chart 27**

**Outcomes from referral to statutory agencies against number of individuals**



<sup>19</sup> Not all cases had concluded so the outcomes below may not be complete.



Chart 28

Gender of alleged perpetrator for each of the 55 allegations

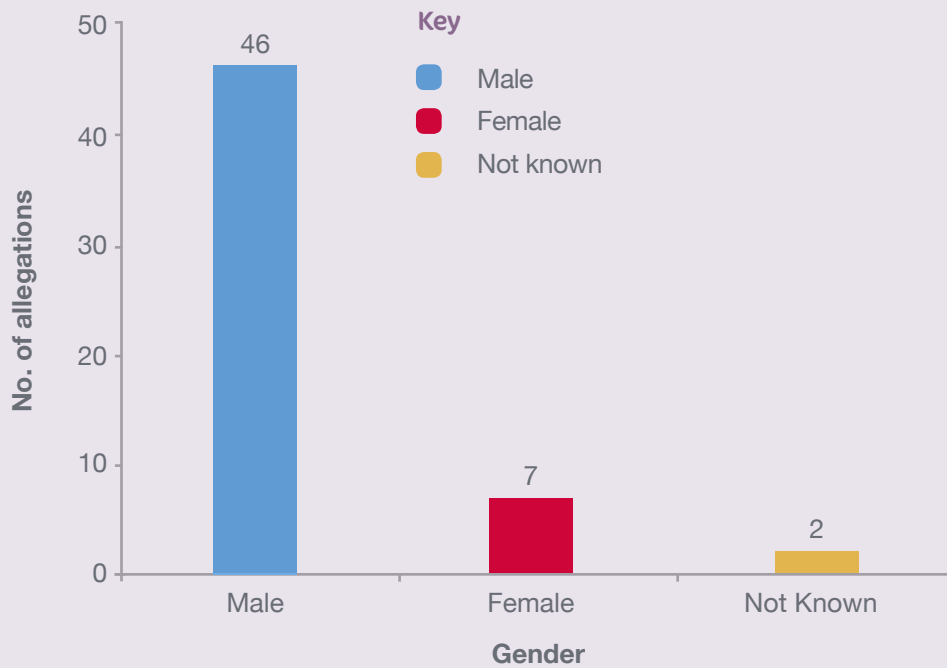
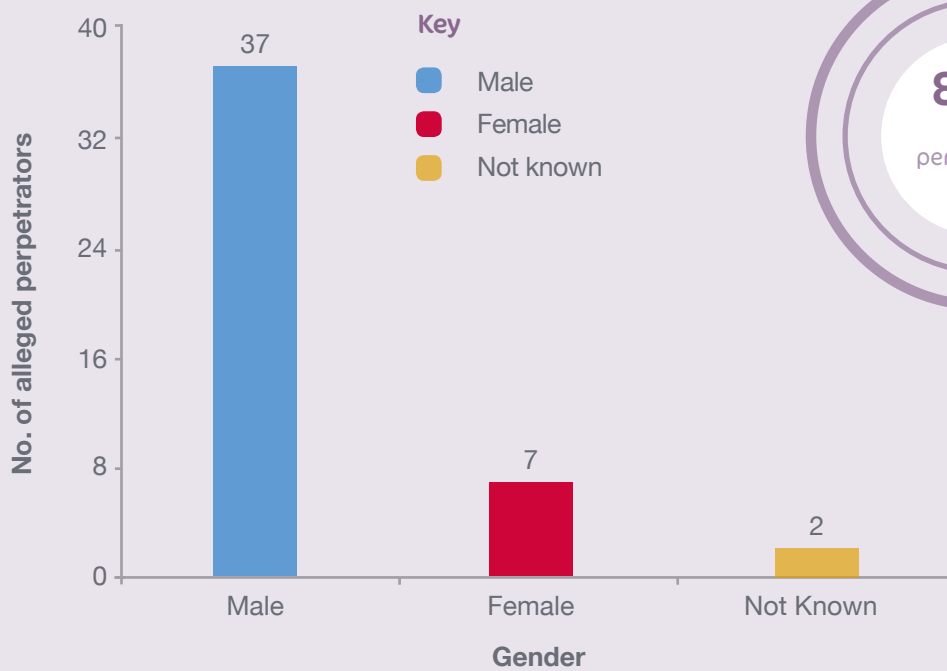


Chart 29

Gender of the 46 alleged perpetrators, removing multiple allegations against individuals



Males only were accused of abuse by more than one person.

**Age of alleged perpetrators at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred by gender**

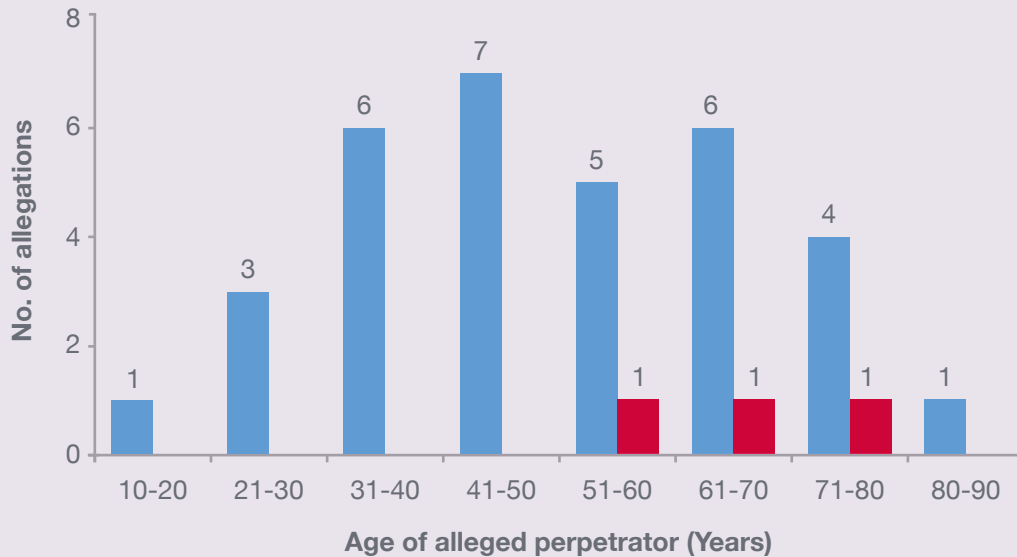
The age of the alleged perpetrator at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred is known for 65% (n36) of the 55 allegations<sup>20</sup>.

Chart 30 shows the recorded gender and age of the alleged perpetrator for the 36 allegations where the age of the alleged perpetrator at the time of abuse is known.



**Chart 30**

**Age of alleged perpetrators at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred by gender**



**Key**

- Male
- Female
- Not known

The mean age<sup>21</sup> of the 36 individuals whose ages at the time of the alleged abuse is known is 51.66 years.



<sup>20</sup> Some of the 46 alleged perpetrators were complained about by more than one person.

<sup>21</sup> The mean is calculated by adding, for each individual where the age is known, the mid-point of each age range e.g. 19, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75, 85, 90 and dividing it by the number of individuals (n36).

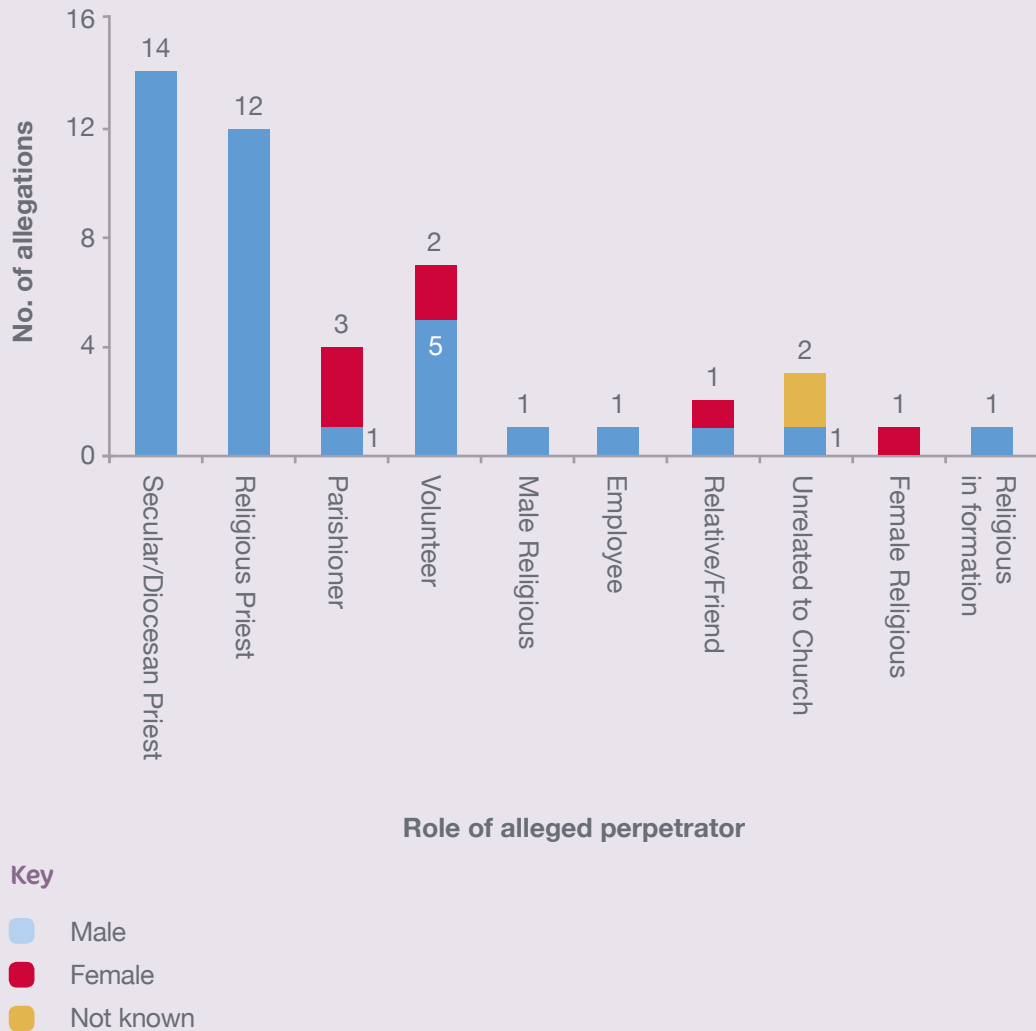
### Role of alleged perpetrators by gender

Of males, 92% of individuals against whom allegations were made were related to appointed roles within the Church and 70% were Priests.

Of females, 43% were related to appointed roles within the Church and 14% were female religious.

Chart 31

### Role of alleged perpetrators by gender



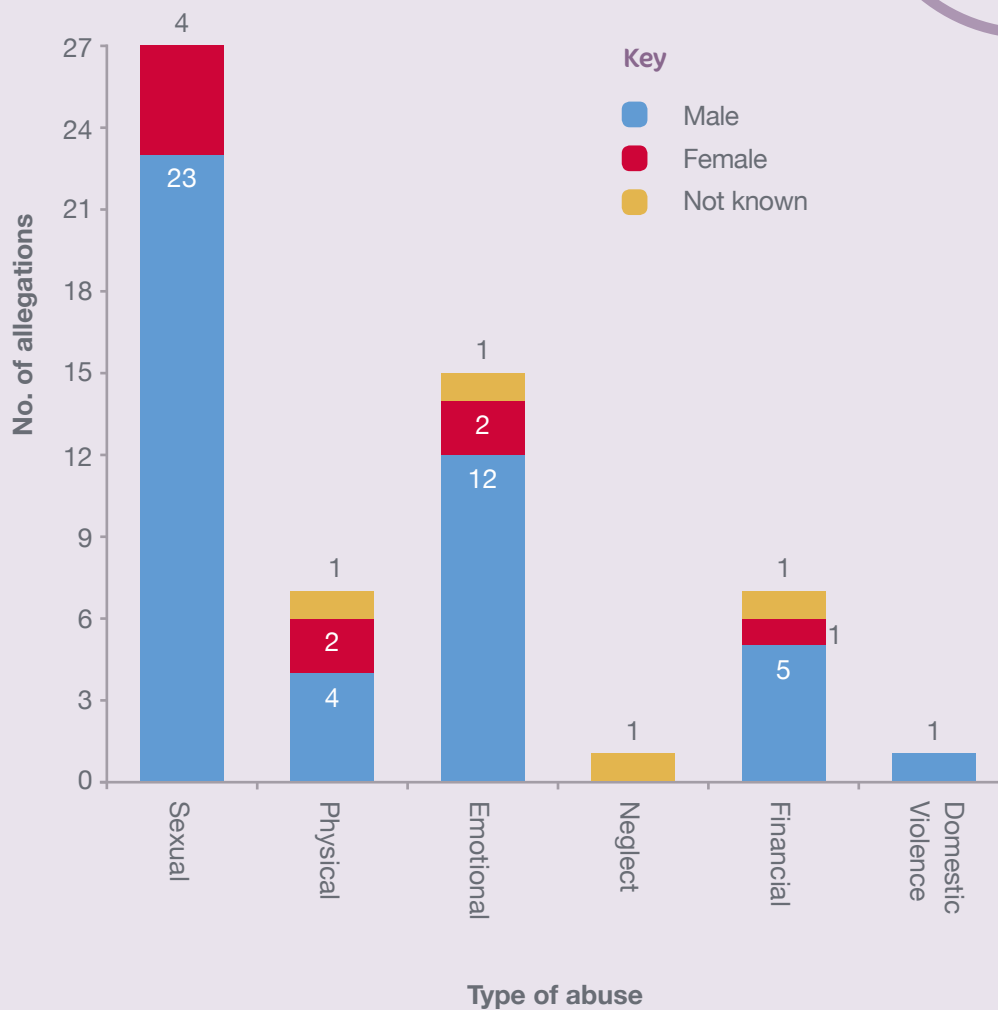
Type of abuse by gender<sup>22</sup>

Chart 32 shows that in respect of the types of abuse, the following were against males:

- 85% of sexual abuse allegations;
- 80% of emotional/ psychological abuse allegations;
- 71% of financial abuse allegations.



**Chart 32**  
Type of abuse by gender



<sup>22</sup> The total count of 58 in Chart 32 reflects that some of the 46 alleged perpetrators were accused of more than one type of abuse at the same or different times. Each type of abuse is only counted once per alleged perpetrator, even if accused of the same type of abuse in more than 1 allegation.

<sup>23</sup> An individual might be accused of more than one type of abuse at one time or at different times.

<sup>24</sup> Where the same alleged perpetrator has been accused of the same type of abuse by different individuals, the type of abuse is only counted once.

**The type of abuse by role of individuals against whom allegations have been made<sup>23</sup>**

**Chart 33 shows that:**

- 34% of the total count of alleged types of abuse against adults were made against secular/diocesan priests;
- 22% of the total count of alleged types of abuse against adults were made against religious priests.

This is an increase in the number against secular/diocesan priests since last year which accounted for 26% of allegations and an increase in the number against religious priests which last year accounted for 0% of allegations.

**Sexual abuse by secular/diocesan priests accounts for:**

- 40% of all allegations of abuse against that role and for 14% of the total count of all types of alleged abuse.

**Sexual abuse by religious priests accounts for:**

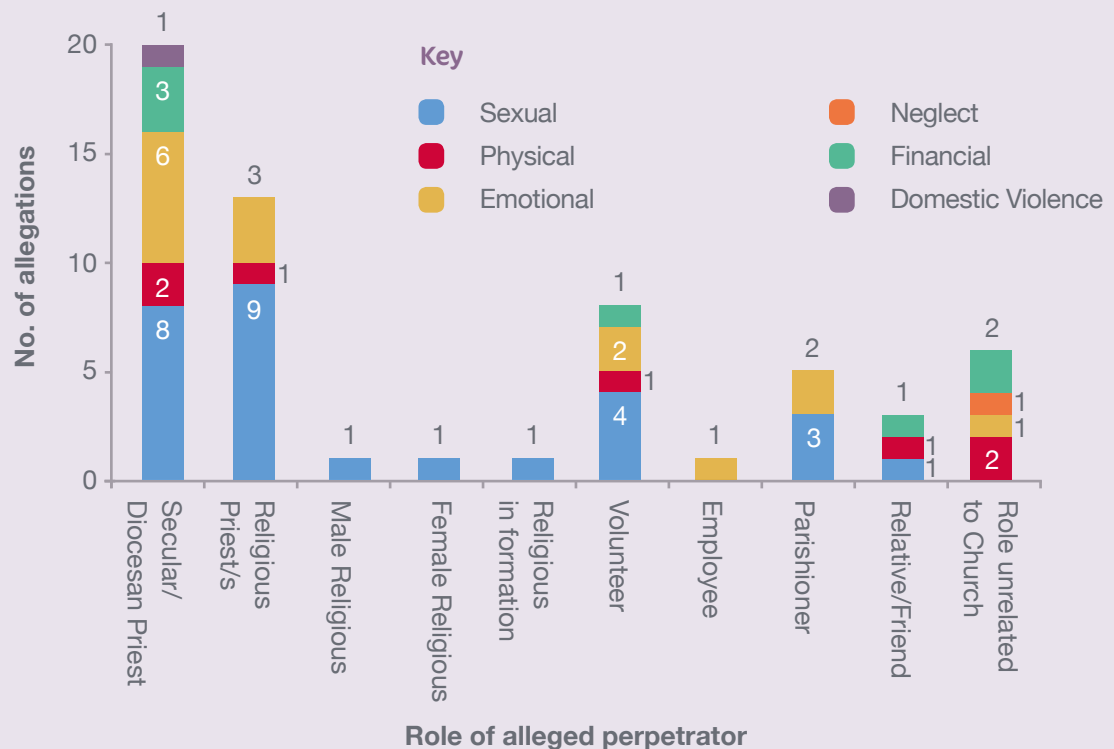
- 30% of abuse against that role and 14% of the total count of all types of alleged abuse.

**Emotional/psychological abuse by secular/diocesan priests accounts for:**

- 30% of all allegations of abuse for that role and for 10% of the total count of all types of alleged abuse.

**Chart 33**

**The type of abuse by role of individuals against whom allegations have been made<sup>24</sup>**



### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time of occurrence by type of abuse

There is a total of 67<sup>25</sup> counts of type of abuse across the 55 individual allegations. The age of the perpetrator at the time of alleged abuse is unknown in 33% of cases.

#### Of those allegations where the age is known:

- 2% of all types of abuse occurred within the < 20 age range;
- 29% within the 21-40 age range;
- 36% between the 41-60 age range;
- 29% between the 61-80 age range;
- 4% between the 81-90 age range.

#### Of those allegations where the age is known:

- The age range 50-80 accounts for 49% of allegations of sexual abuse;
- Allegations of physical abuse rise within the age range 30-40;
- 88% of allegations of physical abuse are made against perpetrators aged between 40 and 70 years at the time of the alleged abuse.

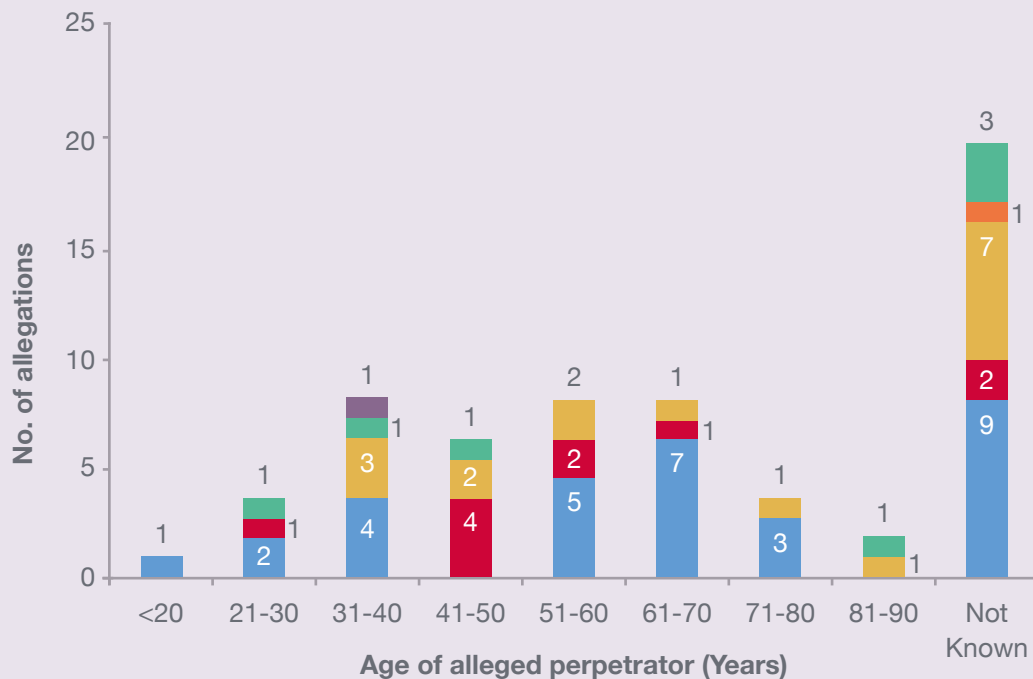
#### At the time of the alleged abuse:

- 70% of allegations of emotional abuse were made against the 30-60 age range;
- 75% of allegations of financial abuse were made against the 20-50 age range.



Chart 34

### Age of alleged perpetrators at the time of occurrence by type of abuse



**Key**

- Sexual
- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Neglect/Self-neglect
- Financial
- Domestic Violence

### Duration of abuse by gender of alleged perpetrator<sup>26</sup>

The duration of abuse is known for 84% of the 55 individuals making allegations.

#### Where the duration of abuse is known:

- Single incidents account for 43%;
- Abuse lasting 1-2 years accounts for 15%.

#### For the 55 individual allegations, males were accused of:

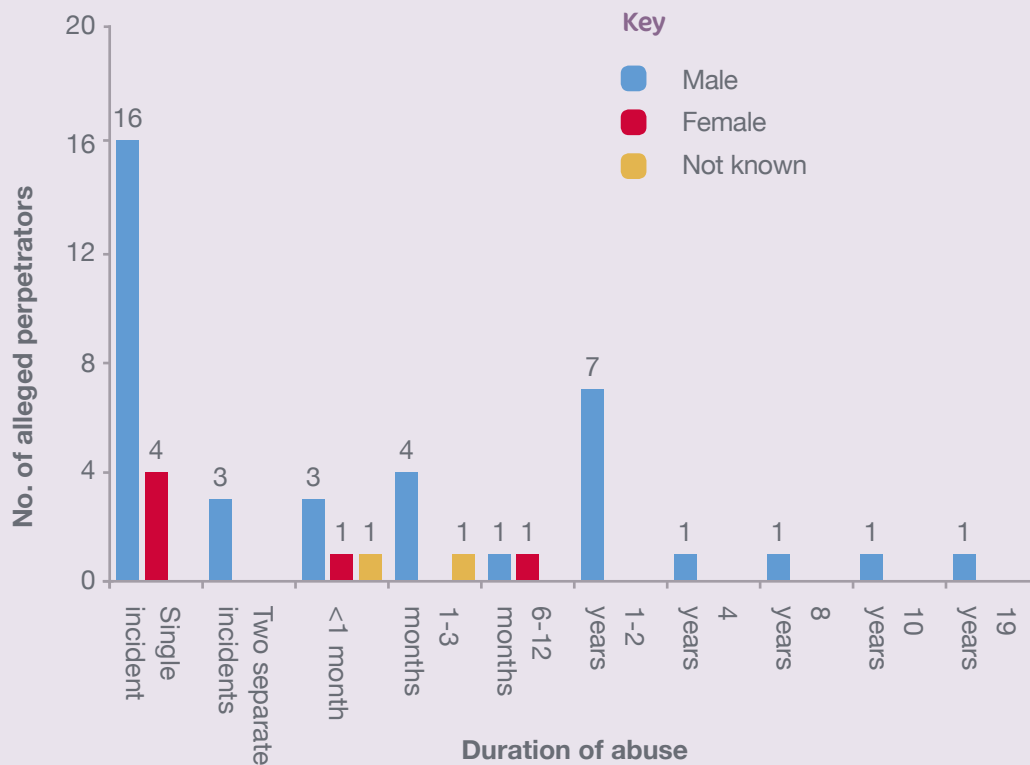
- 80% of single incidents;
- 100% of two separate incidents;
- 80% of abuse lasting 1-3 months;
- 50% of abuse lasting 6-12 months;
- 100% of abuse lasting 1-2, 4, 8, 10 and 19 years.

#### For the 55 individual allegations, females were accused of:

- 20% of single incidents;
- 50% of abuse lasting 6-12 months.

Chart 35

### Duration of abuse by gender of alleged perpetrator



<sup>25</sup>This figure is reached because some individual allegations involved more than 1 type of abuse.

<sup>26</sup>Total count of 55 includes each individual allegation.

## Victims/Survivors

### Gender and age of victims/survivors at the time of alleged abuse

#### Overall:

- 71% of victims/survivors are female, 27% are male and for 2% the gender is not known.

**Chart 36 shows the recorded gender and age of the individual victim/survivor at the time abuse is alleged to have occurred.**

#### Of the 55 individuals alleging abuse:

- The age at which abuse occurred is unknown in 47% (n26) of cases.

#### Of survivors/ victims whose age is known (n29):

- 59% were under the age of 40 years;
- 28% were aged between 41 and 70 years;
- 14% were aged between 71 and 90 years.

#### Where the age is known:

- 55% of allegations by males relate to abuse occurring between the ages of 21-30 years;
- 22% of allegations by females relate to abuse occurring between the ages of 18-20 years.

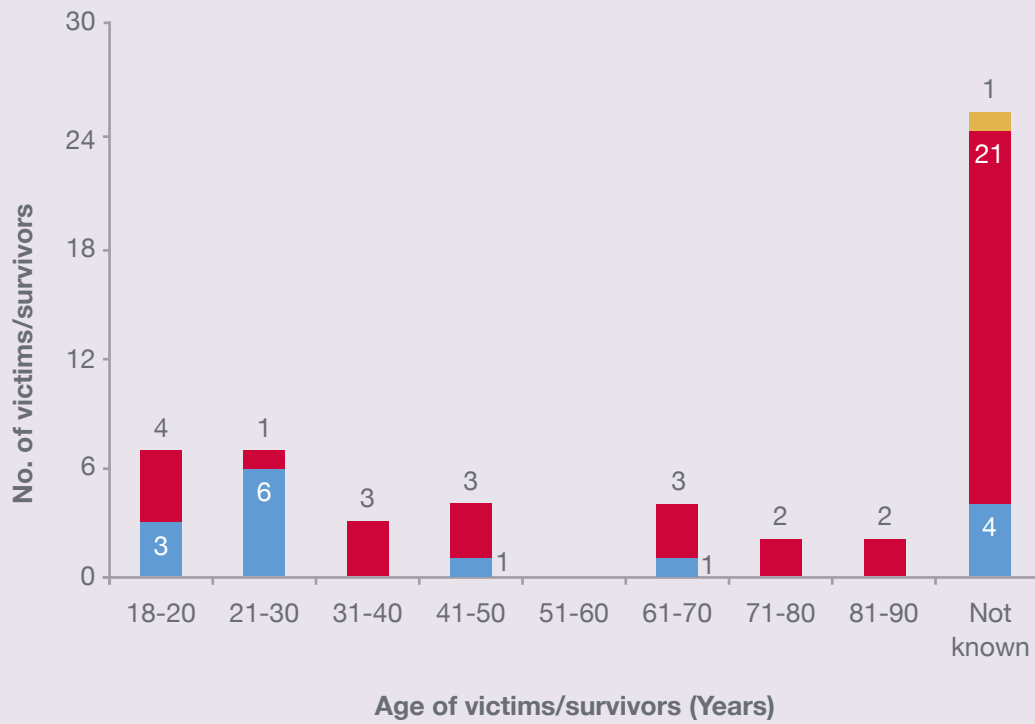
**The mean age of the 29 individuals whose age is known at the time of the alleged abuse is known is 40.44 years.**





Chart 36

Gender and age of victims/survivors at the time of alleged abuse



Key

- Male
- Female
- Not known

### Type of abuse by gender of victims/survivors

The gender of 2% of individuals making allegations is recorded as not known.

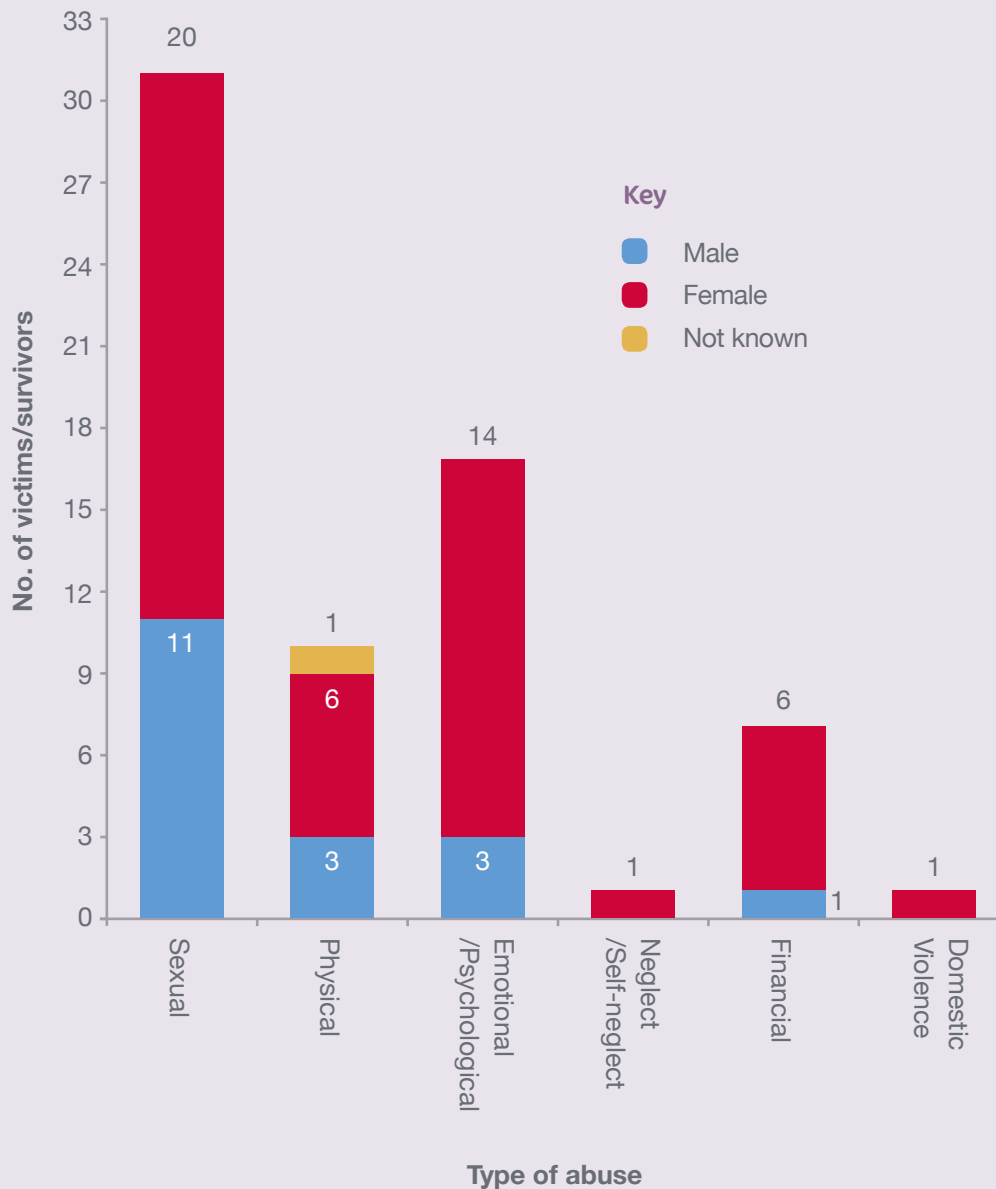
Where the gender is known, the following allegations were made by females:

- 65% of sexual abuse allegations;
- 60% of physical abuse allegations;
- 86% of financial abuse allegations;
- 82% of emotional/psychological abuse allegations.



Chart 37

### Type of abuse by gender of victims/survivors



### Age of victim/survivor at time of alleged abuse by type

#### 55 individuals complained of abuse.

Chart 38 shows the age at which the abuse was said to have been experienced. The total figures are higher than 55 because some individuals experienced different types of abuse at the same time.

The age at which different counts of abuse are said to have occurred is unknown in 48% of cases.

#### Of the remaining counts of abuse where the age is known:

- 29% occurred in the 18-20 years age range;
- 29% occurred in the 21-40 years age range;
- 29% occurred in the 41-70 years age range;
- 14% occurred in the 71-90 years age range.

#### In relation to sexual abuse allegations:

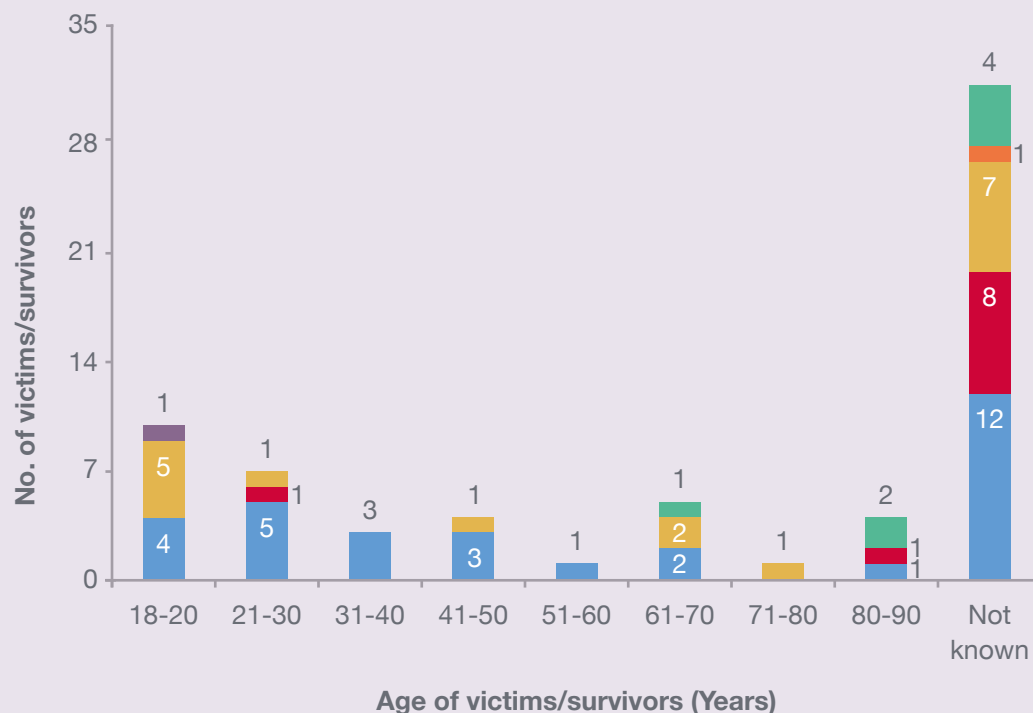
- 47% occurred in the 18-30 years age range;
- 32% occurred in the 31-50 years age range;
- 21% occurred in the 51-90 years age range.

#### In relation to emotional/psychological abuse allegations:

- 60% occurred in the 18-30 years age range;
- 40% occurred in the 40-80 years age range.

Chart 38

### Age of victim/survivor at time of alleged abuse by type



#### Key

- Sexual
- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Neglect/Self-neglect
- Financial
- Domestic Abuse

### Date when abuse first occurred by type of abuse

The date that abuse first occurred is not known for 3% of victims/survivors.

#### Where the date is known:

- 51% of allegations relate to incidents during the past year;
- 63% during the past 2 years;
- 75% during the past 4 years.

#### Where the date is known, the following abuse occurred in 2017:

- 48% of alleged sexual abuse;
- 70% of physical abuse;
- 65% of emotional/psychological abuse.

#### In relation to sexual abuse allegations:

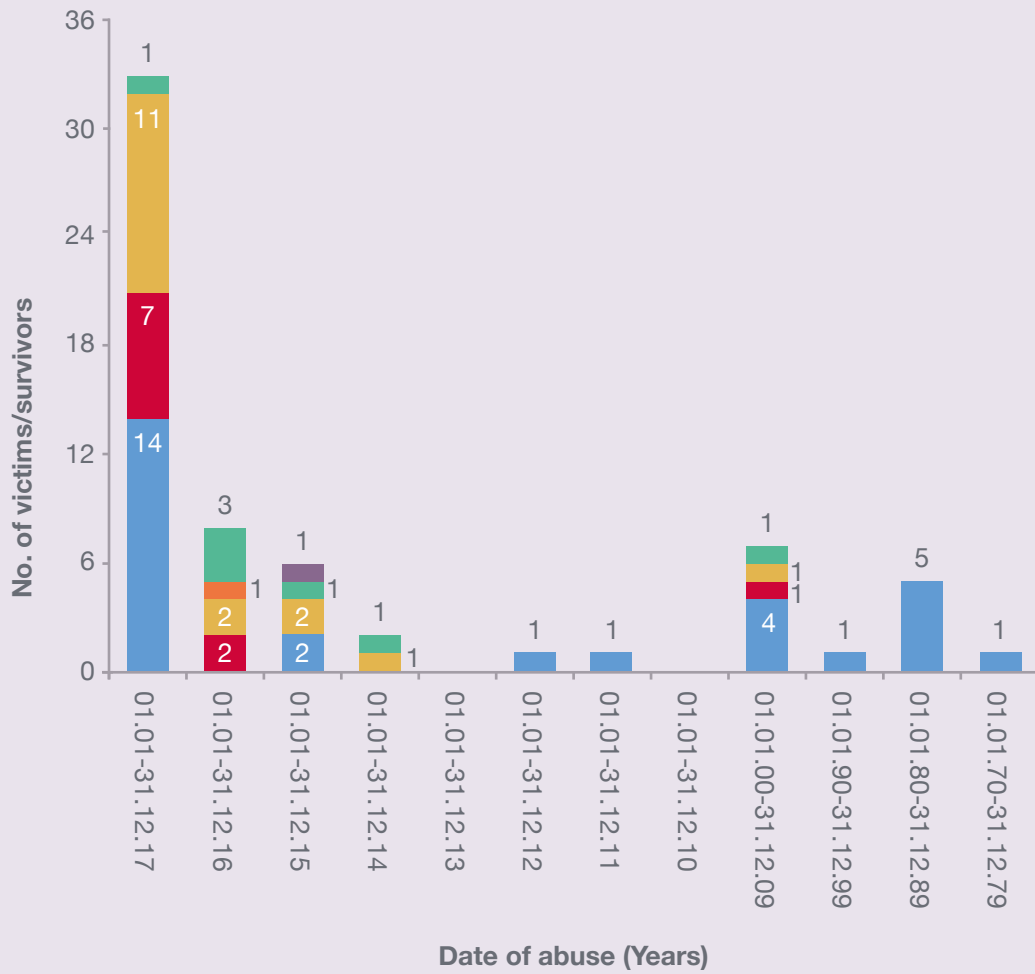
- 17% occurred between 1980 and 1989;
- 14% occurred between 2000 and 2009.

There is no abuse recorded as taking place before the period 1970-1979.



Chart 39

Date when abuse first occurred by type and total number of victims/survivors



Key

- Sexual
- Physical
- Emotional/Psychological
- Neglect/Self-neglect
- Financial
- Domestic Violence

### Duration of abuse by role of alleged abuser

---

**The length of time that abuse continued is not known for 16% of individuals making the allegations.**

**Where the length of time that abuse endured is known:**

- 17% of allegations were made against individuals that did not have Church appointed roles e.g. parishioners, relatives and friends.

**Single incidents account for 43% of allegations, and of these:**

- 20% were against Secular/Diocesan Priests;
- 50% were against Religious Priests;
- 5% were against Female Religious;
- 10% were against Volunteers.

**Abuse lasting less than one month accounts for 11% of allegations, and of these:**

- 20% were against Religious Priests;
- 20% were against Volunteers;
- 60% were against individuals that did not have Church appointed roles.

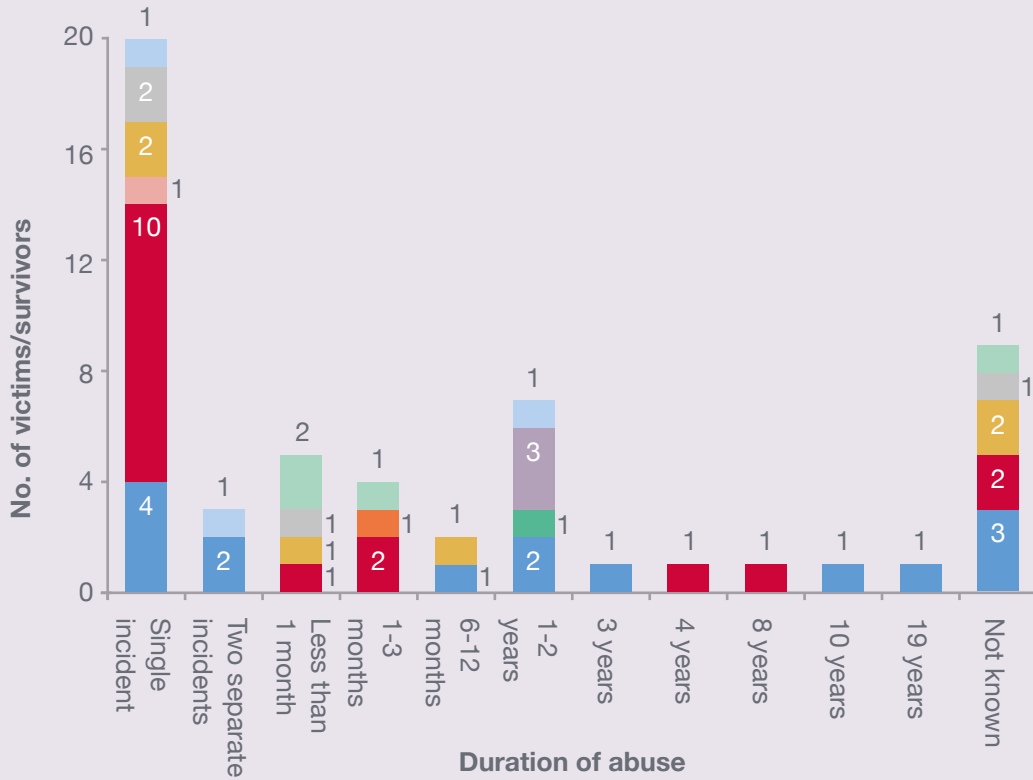
**Abuse lasting between 1 and 2 years accounts for 15% of allegations, and of these:**

- 29% were against Secular/Diocesan priests;
- 43% were against Volunteers.



Chart 40

Duration of abuse by role of alleged abuser



Key

- Secular/Diocesan Priest
- Male Religious
- Religious in formation
- Employee
- Relative/Friend
- Religious Priest
- Female Religious
- Volunteer
- Parishioner
- Unrelated to Church

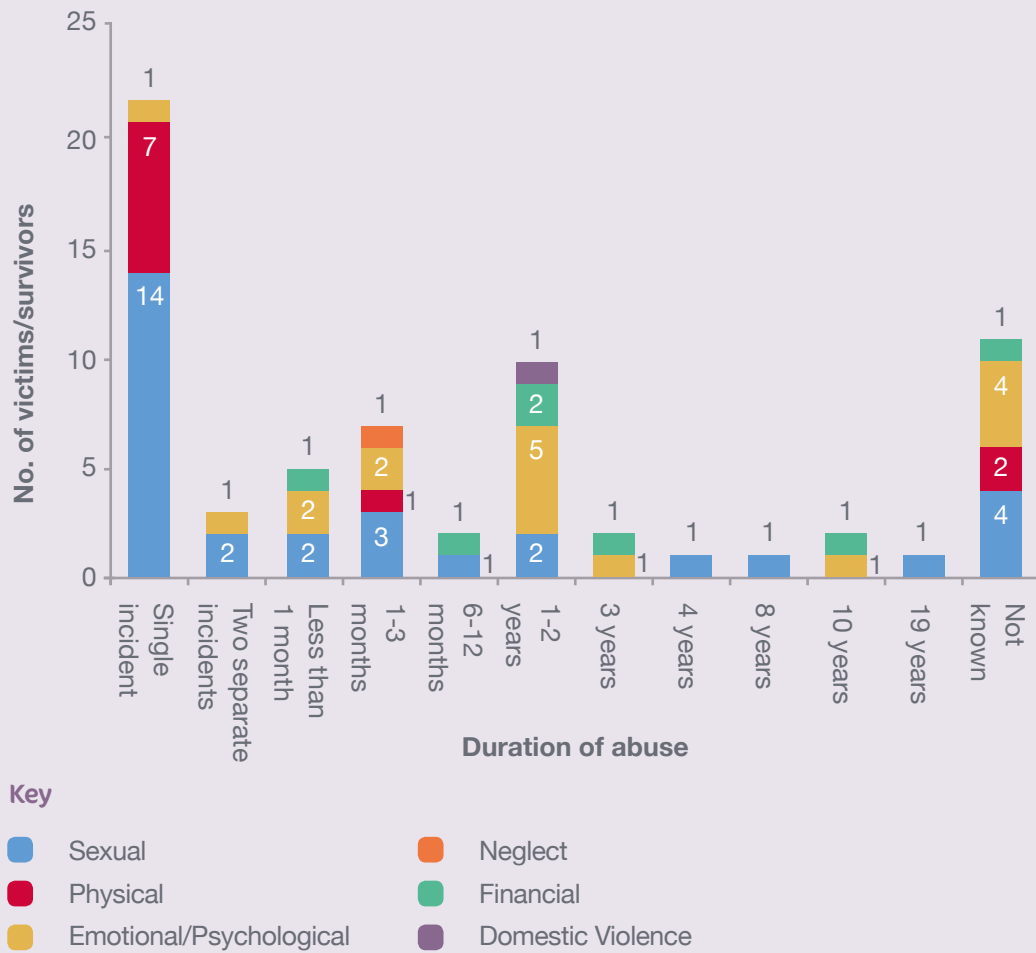
### Duration of abuse by type

The length of abuse is not known for 16% of the total count of types of abuse.

#### Where the length of time is known (n56):

- Single incidents of sexual abuse account for 25%;
- Single incidents of physical abuse account for 13%;
- Emotional abuse lasting 1-2 years accounts for 9%;
- Sexual abuse lasting 1-3 months accounts for 5% of the total count of types of abuse experienced by 55 individuals.

**Chart 41**  
Duration of abuse by type





### Duration of abuse by age of victim/survivor at the start of abuse

Where the age of the individual making the allegation is known (n29):

- 50% of single incidents occurred in the 20-30 age range;
- 80% of allegations lasting 1-2 years occurred in the 18-30 age range.

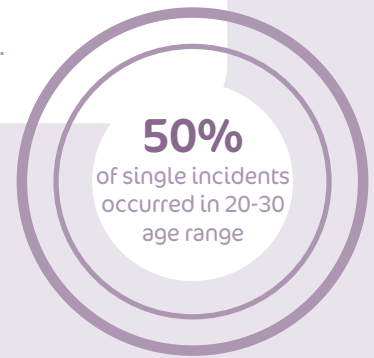
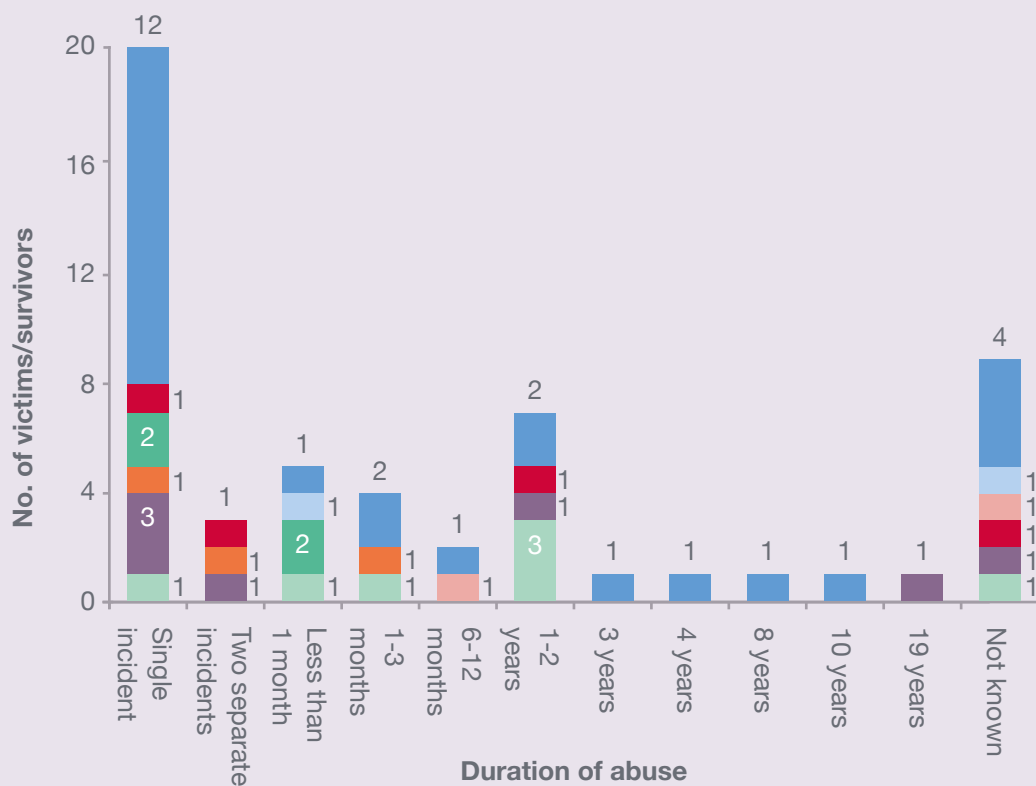


Chart 42

### Duration of abuse by age of victim/survivor



**Key**

- 18-20 years
- 21-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41-50 years
- 51-60 years
- 61-70 years
- 71-80 years
- 81-90 years
- Not known

### Time interval between the alleged abuse occurring and being reported by gender

For 96% (n53) of the 55 individual complaints, the time<sup>27</sup> interval between abuse and reporting was known.

#### Of these 53:

- 57% of individuals reported abuse within one year of occurrence;
- 72% of individuals reported within two years of occurrence;
- 85% of individuals reported within 10 years of occurrence.

#### Where the time interval is known, in relation to males:

- 57% of individuals reported abuse within one year of occurrence;
- 7% of individuals reported within 1-2 years of occurrence;
- 21% of individuals reported within 6-10 years of occurrence;
- 14% of individuals reported within 26-50 years of occurrence.

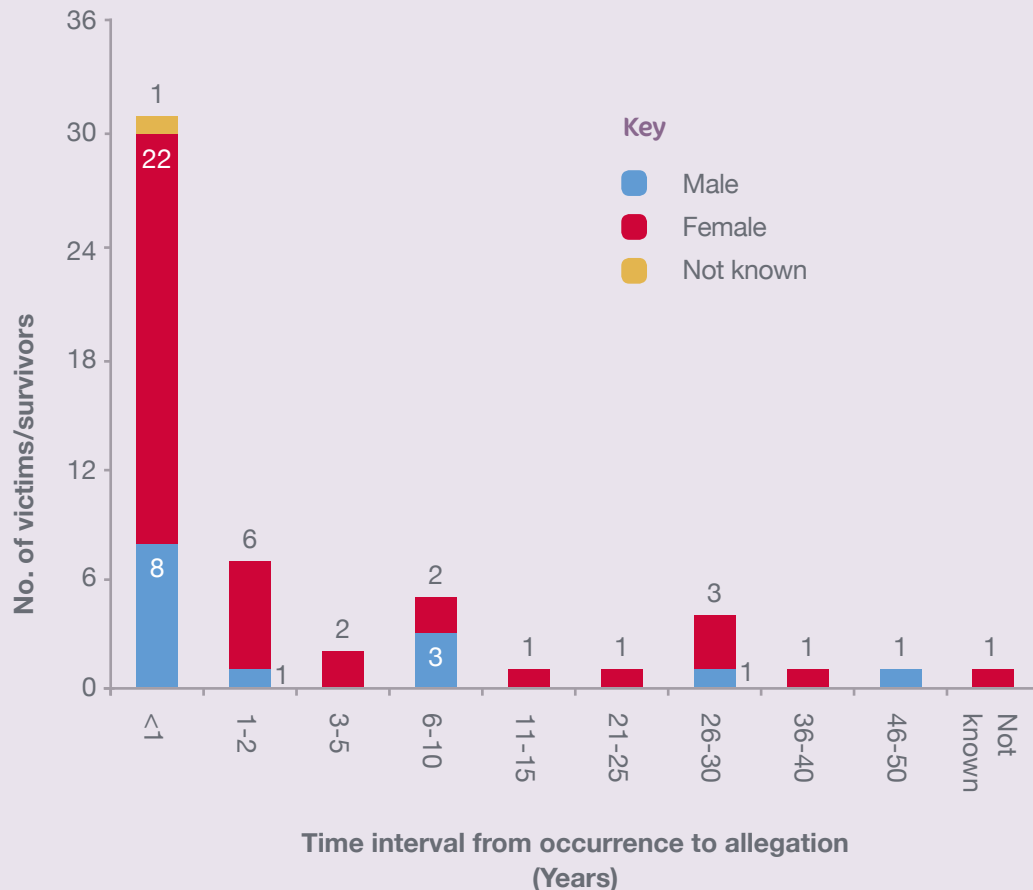
#### Where the time interval is known, in relation to females:

- 58% of individuals reported abuse within one year of occurrence;
- 21% of individuals reported within 1-5 years of occurrence;
- 8% of individuals reported within 6-15 years of occurrence;
- 13% of individuals reported within 21-40 years of occurrence.



Chart 43

### Time interval between the alleged abuse occurring and being reported by gender



<sup>27</sup>This might be an approximate time interval based on recall of the individual making the complaint.

### Time interval between alleged abuse and reporting by role of alleged perpetrator

#### Where the time interval between alleged abuse and reporting is known (n53):

- 72% of alleged abuse by adults was reported within 2 years of occurrence.

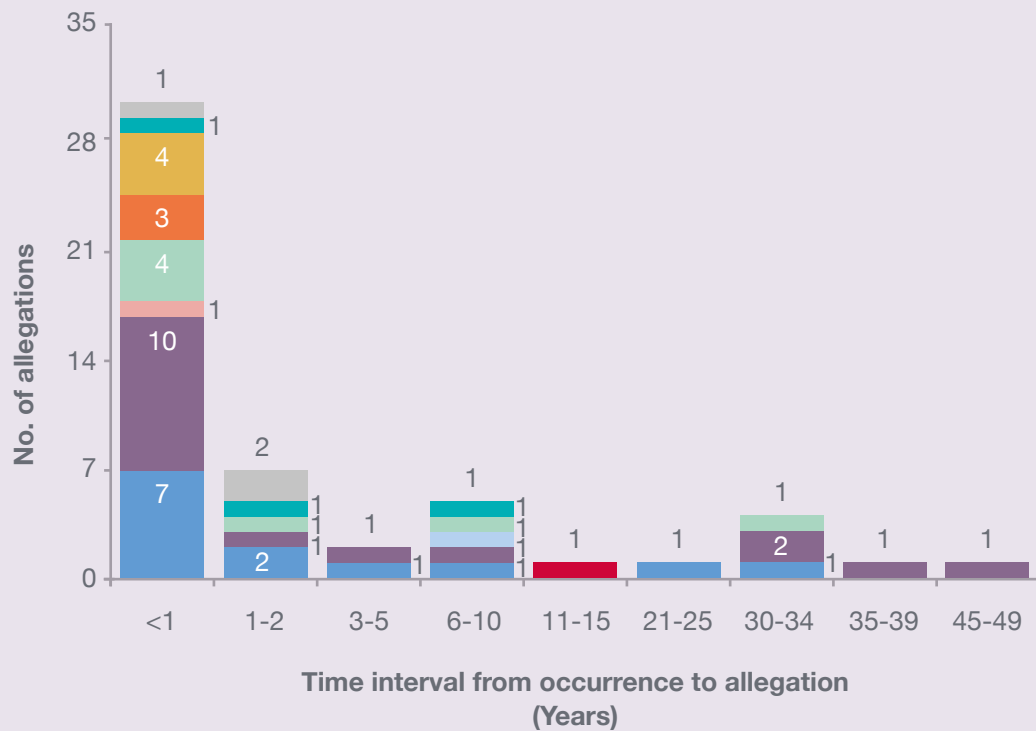
#### In terms of specific roles:

- 67% of allegations against all priests were reported within 2 years of occurrence;
- 80% of allegations against volunteers and employees were reported within 2 years of occurrence;
- 90% of allegations against individuals that did not have an appointed role within the Church were reported within 2 years of occurrence.



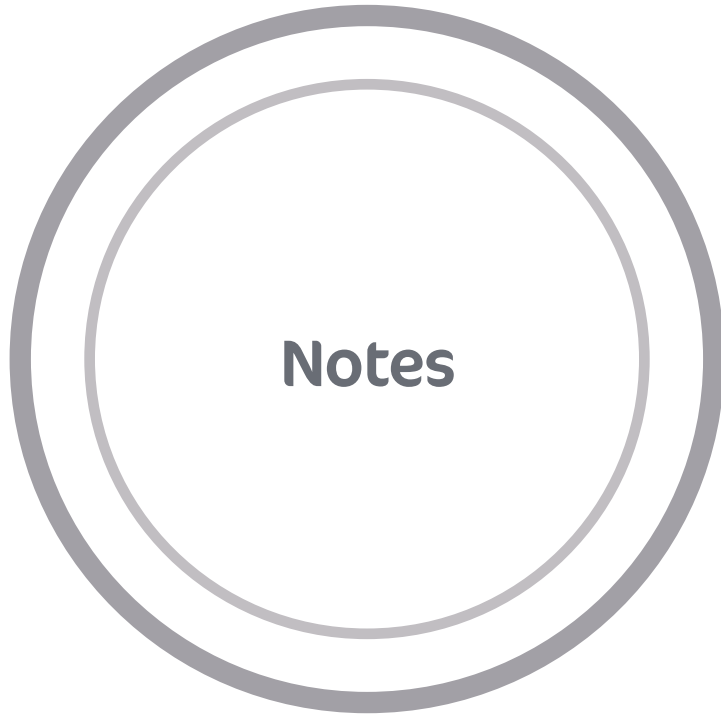
Chart 44

### Time interval between alleged abuse and reporting by role of alleged perpetrator



#### Key

- Secular/Diocesan Priest
- Religious Priest
- Male Religious
- Volunteer
- Female Religious
- Employee
- Parishioner
- Relative/Friend
- Unrelated to Church
- Religious in Formation



# Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines spanning the width of the page, intended for writing notes.





**“On many occasions, and in many different countries, I gaze into the eyes of children, poor and rich, healthy and ill, joyful and suffering.**

**To see children looking us in the eye is an experience we have all had. It touches our hearts and requires us to examine our consciences.**

**What are we doing to ensure that those children can continue smiling at us, with clear eyes and faces filled with trust and hope?**

**What are we doing to make sure that they are not robbed of this light, to ensure that those eyes will not be not darkened and corrupted by what they will find on the internet, which will soon be so integral and important a part of their daily lives?**

**Let us work together, then, so that we will always have the right, the courage and the joy to be able to look into the eyes of the children of our world.”**

**His Holiness Pope Francis**

To the participants of the congress on ‘Child Dignity in the digital world.  
Clementine Hall, 6 October 2017

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