

Case Review – Mr X

The Independent Safeguarding Board has detailed terms of reference¹ which include a responsibility to receive complaints about the National Safeguarding Team’s handling of cases. The abridged version of the Independent Safeguarding Board’s report in response to complaints raised by Mr X is being published today.

The full version of this report has been provided to Mr X and has been issued to the Church of England² for action. The abridged report is redacted in accordance with independent legal advice, with minor amendments to facilitate understanding. Mr X has approved publication.

Church of England – Implementation Progress

The Church of England has not yet provided a formal response to the recommendations.

The ISB has been advised that the response to these recommendations needs to be approved by the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG). This has been legally challenging as data relating to Mr X could not be shared with the NSSG. Consent has been received for the report to be shared with senior members of Church leadership.

- Recommendation 7 – Implementation Overdue

The Church of England has failed to implement recommendation 7 within the expected timescale. This action is now significantly overdue. This recommendation addresses Mr X’s personal situation.

It was recommended that a meeting was convened within four weeks of this report, with the active participation of Mr X and/or his representatives to address his support needs.

In recognition of the urgency of recommendation 7 and concern that the accuracy checking process may delay a response to Mr X’s needs, the ISB took the exceptional step of writing to the National Safeguarding Team with advanced notice of the formal recommendation on 30th March 2023.

The Church of England’s approach to implementing this recommendation needs to be consistent with the urgency of the case and the need for a trauma-informed approach.

The ISB is aware of ongoing communication between the Church of England and Mr X/his advocate, and we will continue to monitor progress and seek a satisfactory outcome.

6th June 2023

¹ <https://independent-safeguarding.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ISB-Terms-of-Reference-March-2023.pdf>

² The Church of England is not a single body or legal entity but comprises many office holders and legal entities which are separately governed. We refer to Church of England as a shorthand for these office holders and legal entities.