

Following today's preliminary hearing held by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, chaired by Professor Alexis Jay, the Church of England has issued the following statement:

"We welcome today's detailed update on the investigation into the Anglican Church in England and Wales focusing on the Chichester case study to be heard in March 2018. The Inquiry acknowledged and welcomed the contributions from all core participants in responding to its detailed request for information. It is clear that there will be a real focus on learning to make the Church a safer place for all and we will continue to work cooperatively with IICSA. First and foremost our commitment must be to listen to survivors who take the courage to come forward and who will play a vital part in the Inquiry."

Bishop Peter Hancock, Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop

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