

Bishop Peter Hancock, the Church of England's lead Safeguarding bishop said: "There are ongoing queries and comments around the Bishop Bell case and we would all like this matter to come to a conclusion. However, in light of General Synod questions that need to be responded to and the reference to the case in the IICSA hearing yesterday, I would like to draw your attention to this statement from the National Safeguarding Team. I would ask that we keep all those involved in our thoughts and prayers.

"Due to the confidential nature of this new information I regret I cannot disclose any further detail until the investigations have been concluded. We are currently developing an action plan in response to Lord Carlile's independent report which makes a number of considered points as to how to handle such cases in future and we have accepted the main thrust of the recommendations."

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