Each of the Church of England’s 42 dioceses has a professionally qualified safeguarding officer/team and are the first point of contact for any concerns or queries in their area. See the national map which has links to relevant contacts in your diocese.

The information below outlines the national structures and roles supporting safeguarding and providing scrutiny.

**Lead safeguarding bishops**

- **Bishop of Stepney, Joanne Grenfell** - Overall strategic lead, with responsibility for Church engagement, culture and governance.
  
  Contact: joanne.grenfell@churchofengland.org

- **Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett**, Deputy lead

- **Bishop of Birkenhead, Julie Conalty** - Deputy lead, survivor engagement

**National Safeguarding Steering Group**

The National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG), established by the Archbishops, has strategic oversight of national safeguarding activity. Its membership consists of a range of representatives from across the Church. The activities of the NSSG and membership are set out in its Terms of Reference.

**National Safeguarding Programme** - key safeguarding national workstreams

**Independent Scrutiny**

The Independent Safeguarding Board, ISB, was set up in 2021, following a decision by the Archbishops’ Council and House of Bishops to support the development of an independent safeguarding oversight body.

2023

- Archbishops’ Council statement on the future of the ISB

- **Professor Alexis Jay**, former IICSA chair, commissioned to look at proposals for independent safeguarding scrutiny and other related issues of independence. More information at ‘Future of Church Safeguarding’ website (independent of the Church of England)

- Interim Commissioner announced to ensure that the small number of case reviews promised by the former ISB can continue.

- Independent Review announced into first phase of Church’s ISB by barrister Sarah Wilkinson

2024
Response group announced for Wilkinson and Jay reviews

National Safeguarding Panel

The National Safeguarding Panel (NSP) was set up in 2014 to resource the Church of England’s leadership with high level strategic advice and to offer guidance on policies and practice in safeguarding seeking to ensure that the Church of England meets accepted best practice. The panel was independently chaired since 2018 by Meg Munn who resigned from the role in June 2023.

In November 2023 an interim chair and vice chair were appointed

National Safeguarding Team

The National Safeguarding Team (NST) manages complex safeguarding cases (involving a number of dioceses) and those relating to senior clergy including bishops and deans. The NST is also responsible for leading on House of Bishops policy and practice guidance, and developing safeguarding training.

- Director of Safeguarding - Alexander Kubeyinje
- Deputy Director, Development - Julie O'Hara
- Deputy Director, Strategy and Casework - Zena Marshall
- Deputy Director, Partnerships - Nathalie Ballard

The National Safeguarding Team can be contacted at safeguardingEO@churchofengland.org. Read the complaints handling policy and procedure for the NCIs and associated privacy notice.

Source URL: https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-governance