

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, has today published its report into the Anglican Church, based on its case studies last year of the Diocese of Chichester and the response to allegations against the former Bishop of Gloucester, Peter Ball.

The 252 page [report](#) makes five recommendations about a range of issues. These will now be studied in detail and a full response released at a later date. The Inquiry's third and final hearing in the [Anglican Church case study](#) will start on Monday 1 July 2019 and run for two weeks.

This will focus on both the Church of England and the Church in Wales in the context of their responses to allegations of child sexual abuse.

The Inquiry notes that further recommendations directly relating to the findings in this report will be made following the hearing in July.

**The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, the Church's lead bishop for safeguarding, said:**

"We thank the Inquiry for the report and note the findings and recommendations which we will now study in full.

"The report states that the Church of England should have been a place which protected all children and supported victims and survivors and the Inquiry's summary recognises that it failed to do this. It is absolutely right that the Church at all levels should learn lessons from the issues raised in this report.

"Whilst the report acknowledges the progress the Church has made in safeguarding, we recognise that our work must continue at pace in order that we can ensure that the Church is as safe as possible for all. We are committed to working to bring in specific changes that will help us better protect children and vulnerable adults from sexual and all other forms of abuse. If anyone is affected by today's report I would urge them to come forward. Details of how to do this can be found on the Church of England [website](#).

We are immensely grateful to survivors for their courage in coming forward to IICSA to share their experiences of how they were treated by the Church, knowing how difficult this would have been; their testimonies have made shocking and uncomfortable listening. Since the Archbishop of Canterbury asked for the Church of England to be investigated by IICSA as a matter of priority, we have sought to help the Inquiry in every way that we can and we will now fully consider the report."

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