

A statement from members of the House of Bishops in response to *The Anglican Church Case Studies* IICSA report:

"We write on behalf of the whole House following the publication last week of the IICSA report into the Peter Ball and Chichester Diocese case studies. We recognise that the publication of this report causes most hurt and concern to survivors themselves. It reopens wounds.

"At this week's meeting of the House of Bishops, Archbishop Justin asked every one of us to read and study the full report in detail and we are absolutely committed to this. The Church has failed survivors and the report is very clear that the Church should have been a place which protected all children and supported victims and survivors. We are ashamed of our past failures, have been working for change but recognise the deep cultural change needed takes longer than we would like to achieve.

"We welcome the recommendations.

"The report will now go to the National Safeguarding Steering Group next month so the Church can formulate a detailed response to the findings and recommendations as we approach IICSA's wider Church hearing in July. The lead bishop for safeguarding has been asked to report back to the House and to General Synod.

"It is absolutely right that the Church at all levels should learn lessons from the issues raised in this report and act upon them"

Bishop Paul Butler

Bishop Christine Hardman

Bishop Peter Hancock

Bishop Sarah Mullally

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