

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has recently published a [research report](#) on child sexual abuse in religious [institutions](#), including the Anglican Church. It is based on accounts shared by survivors at its [Truth Project](#), and its conclusions and findings are disturbing and in many places shocking.

One of the report's key findings includes that those sexually abused in religious [institutions](#) were less likely to report the abuse at the time (69 per cent) than survivors (54 per cent) in other institutions. We would urge anyone who wants [to report abuse and find support](#) to come forward and we promise they will be heard.

IICSA continues to shine a light on the safeguarding practices of religious institutions, including the Church of England, and we are working constructively with the Inquiry as we approach our [wider Church hearing](#) on July 1. We commend those survivors who have had the courage to come forward to share their experiences to the Inquiry and in particular to the Truth Project, knowing how difficult this would have been.

We [welcomed the findings and recommendations](#) published by IICSA this month, on the Peter Ball and Chichester Diocese case studies. This states that the Church of England should have been a place which protected all children and supported victims and survivors but it failed to do this. It is absolutely right that the Church at all levels should learn lessons from the issues raised in both these reports and also strengthen our resolve to make the Church a safe place for all.

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

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