



Safeguarding Board

Blackstone Chambers

A leading public law barrister is to head the independent review into the first phase of the Church of England's Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB), it was announced today.

The Archbishops' Council has instructed Sarah Wilkinson, a barrister from Blackstone Chambers, to undertake a review of the ISB Phase 1. She is an experienced public law practitioner who has represented the Government both as sole and junior counsel in a wide range of high-profile judicial review cases.

The Archbishops' Council has asked Ms Wilkinson to establish a clear account of the events from the conception, design and establishment of the ISB until the announcement of the termination of contracts of members, establish and identify the reasons for the action to terminate, and identify lessons to be learned based on the findings.

- [Read the full Terms of Reference for the review](#)

She will complete her review by the end of November and the Council will aim to publish this report as soon as possible following the end of November. This review will also inform the work of Professor Alexis Jay on the [future of safeguarding](#).

The review was announced at the General Synod in July by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, and follows the [statement](#) issued by the Council on the future of the ISB.

## **Finding support**

If you or anyone you are in contact with wish to talk to someone independently please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056 or visit [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the diocesan safeguarding team in your area or the National Safeguarding Team – email [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org)

There are also a range of other [support services](#) available.

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