

**Dr Jacqui Philips**  
*Clerk to the Synod*

26 February 2018

Mrs Kat Alldread (Derby, 295)  
Member of General Synod

By email

Dear Mrs Alldread,

**Correction to Written Answer to GS Question no 47**

At the General Synod on 8 February 2017 the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding answered your question no 47 about the scale of safeguarding casework. I very much regret to say that part of this answer was incorrect, owing to a human error in compiling the data from which the answer was drawn. The Lead Bishop has asked me to convey his apologies to you for this error and to express his hope that neither you nor other members of Synod will have been misled by this incorrect information. The original answer is set out below, and the corrected answer is set out after that.

**Question 47**

**Mrs Kat Alldread (Derby) to ask the Chair of the House of Bishops:**

**“Given that many General Synod members may be unaware of the scale of safeguarding casework, please could you state the number of open safeguarding cases in the Church of England as a whole in 2017? Of those cases, how many involved an allegation of some form of abuse?”**

**Original Answer**

*The Bishop of Bath & Wells to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:*

“Each diocese is asked to complete an annual self-assessment circulated and collated by the National Safeguarding Team for the previous year’s activity. Our current data therefore relates to 2016 activity. In 2016, dioceses reported that they were dealing with around 3300 safeguarding concerns or allegations, the vast majority of which related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within church communities. Around 18% related to safeguarding concerns/allegations against church officers. “These figures do not distinguish between previously open and new cases that started during the year.

“During 2016, 338 risk assessments were completed by dioceses, of which 19 (6%) were in respect of members of clergy. During 2016, there were 867 Safeguarding Agreements in place of which 682 (79%) related to known offenders. A small number of complex and high-profile cases are managed by the National Safeguarding Team in collaboration with relevant dioceses.”

**Corrected answer**

*The Bishop of Bath & Wells to reply on behalf of the Chair of the House of Bishops:*

“Each diocese is asked to complete an annual self-assessment circulated and collated by the National Safeguarding Team for the previous year’s activity. Our current data relates to 2016 activity. Reporting methods used by the dioceses may vary so the numbers given are an approximate figure.

“In 2016 dioceses reported that they were dealing with around 2600 safeguarding concerns or allegations. Concerns are different from allegations of actual abuse and may cover less serious matters but may include raising issues of neglect or potential vulnerability of children or adults. 53% of concerns or allegations relate to children, and 47% to adults. Around 27% of concerns or allegations raised relate to a church officer.

“The National Safeguarding Team has commissioned further work to analyse data for safeguarding concerns or allegations. The results of this analysis will be reported to the National Safeguarding Steering Group in due course.”

Please note, a "Church Officer" is anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid - ([House of Bishops' Glossary Reference Guide](#))

Once again, I apologise for the incorrect number given in the original answer. The corrected answer will be included as a link when the Transcript of Synod Proceedings is published in final form.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jacqui Philips  
Clerk to the Synod