



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh 

Autumn is here...

Sadly, the summer appears to be receding and we are now well and truly into the Autumn season. I hope you had a great summer. This newsletter contains some new updates and some reminders of previous points. As always please get in touch if you have any questions.

Scott Mackenzie

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

PVG RENEWAL

PVG checks are refreshed every 5 years. Currently, this is Church policy but is not required in law. However, when the 2020 Disclosure Bill is implemented, then 5-year renewal of PVG's will be mandatory and legally binding.

This means that anyone who has not renewed their PVG within the 5-year period will be unable to continue doing regulated work.

Although we do not yet know the exact implementation date, we expect it to be sometime in 2024.

We are therefore urging parishes to act now to ensure that no clergy, volunteers or staff are caught out by this change in the law. The Safeguarding Office has been sending out lists to PSC's and we would urge all parishes to submit update forms as soon as possible for anyone whose PVG update is overdue or approaching.

Disclosure
SCOTLAND

YOUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Full-time administrator

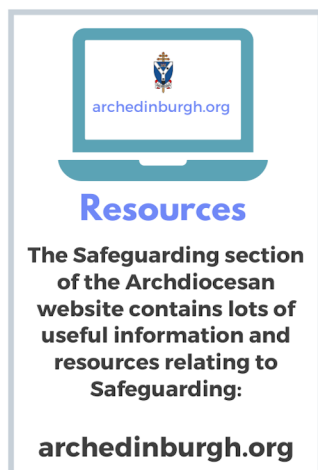
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Reporting Concerns

The Safeguarding Office has dealt with a few cases where concerns and allegations were not passed on quickly enough. We would remind everyone that any allegations or concerns should be escalated straight away.



Questions and Answers

This section is dedicated to questions that have been received, which may readers may find helpful...



QUESTION: "We are setting up a children's group in my parish and I would like to invite some 16/17 year old senior school pupils to come along and assist from time to time. Can these young people do this?"

ANSWER: Unfortunately not! Disclosure Scotland would likely view this kind of voluntary work as being "non-regulated" due to a lack of regularity, and so the young volunteers would not qualify for PVG membership.

Consequently, the young volunteers are NOT able to be left in a position of one-to-one contact or have any responsibility for supervision of children. The group would still need fully checked adult leaders.



Going on holiday? Let us know

A reminder that if you are going on holiday and need supply for your parish please contact us well in advance. This is to check that the supplying priest has all of the necessary paperwork in place. If in doubt, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Annual Safeguarding Statement

ADVANCE NOTICE!

The Annual Safeguarding Statement will be read out in all parishes on **Sunday 28 January 2024**. More information to follow.

Clergy Safeguarding Day

We had planned to hold the Clergy Safeguarding Day in the Autumn but this has been postponed as it clashed with other events.

We will therefore be planning something for early next year. More information to follow soon.

Volunteer Forms

We have introduced some automated forms to make the process of obtaining clearances easier and quicker. Below are the links to forms which you can give to volunteers who are applying for regulated roles:

- Archdiocesan Volunteer Application Form
<https://bit.ly/STANED-app>
- PVG Application Form
<https://bit.ly/pvg-app>

In addition, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators have access to an online form so that they can verify volunteer ID.

