

Archbishop of Canterbury
Archbishop of York
(By email)

5th July 2023

Dear Archbishop Justin and Archbishop Stephen,

I know that you are aware of the Mr X Case Review.

The report responds to a referral made to the Board by Mr X, who is a survivor of church abuse. In 2001 Mr X made a report to police about abuse he experienced as a child at the hands of individuals in specific positions in the Church of England. This was preceded and followed by prolonged periods of ill-health and mental distress.

The report makes nine recommendations that would help relieve the adverse impact of the Church's response to Mr X and prevent further, similar, cases developing in the future. Critically, recommendation seven was timebound and targeted at providing rapid comfort and support to Mr X. The report was issued to the National Director of Safeguarding on 11th April 2023 and no formal response has been received. The Church of England failed to implement recommendation seven. The absence of a reasonable and coherent response to this report is harmful for Mr X.

Mr X is an individual to whom the Church owes significant thanks for his collaboration and input to work designed to make the Church a safer place. Mr X is also a representative example of a group of survivors of Church abuse who are being expected to battle too hard, wait too long, and negotiate too many obstacles in their pursuit of justice.

This is the final communication I will send to you both as the Independent Member of the Independent Safeguarding Board and it is, without doubt, the most important. I would urge you to ensure that your advisors adopt a suitably trauma-informed approach to Mr X's case as a matter of urgency.

I have copied this letter to Mr X.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Reeves MBE
Independent Member