

# DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2017

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Along with all the other annual diocesan forms, a PVG Annual Checklist was issued to PVG Coordinators in all charges. This asks for various confirmations, such as whether contact information for raising concerns was being publicly displayed, and the regularity of safeguarding being included on Vestry agendas. At the time of compiling this report, the return rate of those forms was 82% (2017: 78%) with 10 charges not submitting a return. This, inevitably, leads to safeguarding concerns in those charges, and they will be followed up by the Dean and the Diocesan Protection Officer. Key concerns from these 45 returns are:

- Only 26 vestries (57%) have a Register of Regulated Workers.
- Only 24 vestries (53%) take up references for positions where a PVG check is required
- Only 26 vestries (57%) discuss Safeguarding at each Vestry meeting

This is an area where **we need to demonstrate sound practice** right across the SEC.

Few people will be unaware of the impact of the child abuse cases in other denominations, and of the vulnerability of certain groups of people, such as the housebound, and of our responsibilities for safeguarding them. The need to infuse awareness and good practice remains a key objective within the SEC and within the diocese. We are, perhaps, fortunate not to have had any 'full' cases to deal with in recent years, but a number of matters have required my involvement over the last 12 months, which is a constant reminder of the importance of Safeguarding practice.

The Provincial website has some valuable information and resources for those involved in Safeguarding, and we encourage you to view what is available:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>

Charges are reminded that the appointment of a new PVG Coordinator has to be approved by the Bishop, via the Diocesan Protection Officer.

We have dealt with 0 cases within the diocese in 2017.

*Simon Filsell*  
**Diocesan Protection Officer**