

11th November, 2024 Bishop's Statement

The independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth has been published. It is available to read [here](#) and a statement from the National Safeguarding Team can be read [here](#). A statement from the Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Safeguarding Officer can also be read [here](#).

The Review refers to the current Bishop of Lincoln, The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, when he was serving as the Bishop of Ely. Bishop Stephen says:

"The victims and survivors of abuse are at the centre of my prayers as this Review is published.

"In light of the Review, I understand that there were further actions I could have taken following my reporting of the disclosures made to us in the Diocese of Ely about John Smyth. I am sorry that I did not pursue these actions at that time.

"In 2013, in following the safeguarding advice, policy and practice of that time, I believed that I had done all I could and that the allegations were being responded to appropriately.

"I know that as a Bishop I must continually strive, then as now, for the best safeguarding practice in our Diocese, and I am firm in my personal commitment to the support of all victims and survivors."

If you have been affected by this report or wish to speak to a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, the Survivor Advocate is available for support and assistance:

Email: safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org

Phone: 01522 504070

Alternatively, Safe Spaces is an independent and confidential support advocacy service.

Contact their free helpline: 0300 303 1056