

Question 40

AS SUBMITTED by Martin Sewell

At the time of asking this question, no details of the process towards establishing the promised Independent Review into **Dr Martyn Percy's complaint into "the deliberate weaponisation of safeguarding allegations, with intent to cause harm to (him), perpetrated by senior clergy, church lawyers and church PR"**, have been published. Will the President of Archbishops' Council please provide Synod with a fully particularised chronology starting 1st February 2023 setting out, who has taken what decisions and practical steps on behalf of Archbishops' Council to collate the allegations, identify the issues and evidence to be considered, agree a suitable reviewer and devise a suitable timetable whereby all material steps required to bring this to a timely conclusion are expedited.

AS PUBLISHED

At the time of asking this question, no details of the process towards establishing the promised Independent Review into **a complaint by Dr Martyn Percy** have been published. Will the President of Archbishops' Council please provide Synod with a fully particularised chronology starting 1st February 2023 setting out, who has taken what decisions and practical steps on behalf of Archbishops' Council to collate the allegations, identify the issues and evidence to be considered, agree a suitable reviewer and devise a suitable timetable whereby all material steps required to bring this to a timely conclusion are expedited?

REPLY by the Archbishop of York

Although we are not able to supply a fully particularised chronology, the Archbishops' Council recognises the importance of this Review into the handling by the Church of **safeguarding allegations made against Dr Martyn Percy** and is giving it active consideration proposing to work jointly with the Diocese of Oxford. We hope, in the near future, to be in a position to consult all interested parties on a proposed way forward. Synod members will understand that we should consult all of the interested parties first before making further details public.

Question 41

AS SUBMITTED by Martin Sewell

The Review in response to Dr Martyn Percy's complaint of "the deliberate weaponisation of safeguarding allegations, with intent to cause harm to me , perpetrated by senior clergy, church lawyers and church PR", was announced by ISB Chair Maggie Atkinson, in February 2022, "paused" in October 2022 and withdrawn in February 2023 without consultation with either the complainant or the then ISB members : can the President of Archbishops Council confirm that each of these steps occurred as result of a formal decision taken by minuted resolution of the Archbishops' Council, and if not, clarify by whom, and under whose authority each of these steps have been taken.

AS PUBLISHED

A Review in response to a **complaint by Dr Martyn Percy** was announced by ISB Chair Maggie Atkinson, in February 2022, "paused" in October 2022 and withdrawn in February 2023 without consultation with either **Dr Percy** or the then ISB members: can the President of Archbishops' Council confirm that each of these steps occurred as a result of a formal decision taken by minuted resolution of the Archbishops' Council, and if not, clarify by whom, and under whose authority each of these steps have been taken?

REPLY from the Archbishop of York

A review into the handling by the Church of **safeguarding allegations made against Dr Martyn Percy**, has been proposed by the Archbishops' Council and the Diocese of Oxford acting jointly. Detailed decisions on the handling of individual cases and reviews are not always decided at the level of the Archbishops' Council board. However, as indicated on 1st February 2023, the decision to seek a route other than the Independent Safeguarding Board was decided at an Archbishops' Council meeting in January 2023. Furthermore, the Council recognises the importance of ensuring this Review happens as soon as possible, regrets the length of time it is taking to get started, and acknowledges the importance of the questions that have been raised.