



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

St Cuthbert's House, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY

Tel: 0191 243 3310 | Web: www.rcdhn.org.uk

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Statement to The Sunday Times, 19 January 2023

"The Diocese had previously invited the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) to conduct a review following the resignation of Bishop Byrne in December 2022. Diocesan Trustees have met and have had contact with the chief executive and representatives of the CSSA this week. They have discussed how the review, originally scheduled to happen in May 2023, will be undertaken and how the findings will be published. The review is now underway. Prior to Bishop Byrne's resignation in mid-December, Trustees were working with the Charity Commission, following their self-referral to that organisation. The Diocese will continue to work productively and swiftly with both organisations, learning where it needs to, not from rumours and misinformation, but from the facts and evidence provided. The Diocese remains fully committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and the ministry of the Church, and to providing assurance that its safeguarding procedures are appropriate and as they need to be."

STATEMENT ENDS.

Enquiries to:

Monsignor Andrew Faley

Diocesan Press Officer

Telephone: 07971875902

Email: pressofficer@rcdhn.org.uk

or

Steve O'Neill

Communications Advisor

Telephone: 07771663503

Email: Steve.ONeill@diocesehn.org.uk