

Response to queries in relation to Child Sexual Abuse allegations in the Diocese of Limerick

26 November 2009

The figures recorded here refer to Limerick Diocesan priests, and priests of other dioceses who at some time held an appointment in Limerick or who carried out short-term supply ministry without a formal appointment from the diocese, and against whom allegations or suspicions have arisen.

Since 1940, some 520 priests have held a diocesan appointment in the diocese of Limerick.

Based on the information currently available the following statistics have been compiled from the diocesan files. It must be stressed that these statistics constitute a record of allegations made and suspicions raised of child sexual abuse *irrespective* of their eventual outcome.

No priest of the diocese is under investigation

No priest of the diocese has been convicted of child sexual abuse in the criminal courts

Allegations have been made against thirteen priests of the diocese

Allegations have been made against a further two priests who were not priests of the diocese but who held an appointment in Limerick

One allegation has been made against one priest who did not hold an appointment in the diocese

All allegations and suspicions of child sexual abuse which come to the attention of the diocese are automatically reported to the civil authorities.

Bishop Murray reiterates an appeal, made many times before, that anyone with information regarding child sexual abuse by priests in Limerick makes contact with; An Garda Síochána, Henry Street: 061 212400 / Health Service Executive 061 482792 / Diocesan Delegate 087 3233564 or a counselling or support service of their choice. It is only by knowing the full truth of the past that we can improve the levels of safety for children today.

Ends

For further information, contact Rev Paul Finnerty,

Limerick Diocesan Office: (061) 315856 / (087) 9614665

<http://www.limerickdiocese.org/child.htm>