

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA)

The role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is to advise and assist the bishop in meeting his safeguarding responsibilities. These responsibilities include endeavouring to protect children and vulnerable adults in their contact with Church personnel, in Church activities, and on Church property.

The DSA is responsible for co-ordinating efforts to raise awareness of safeguarding within parish communities, including the training of Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, the recruiting of Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers and the safeguarding training of diocesan clergy.

The DSA must also advise the bishop on good practice in responding to safeguarding concerns and allegations of abuse.

It is recommended that the DSA role should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced layperson. The DSA is responsible for collaborating closely, not only within their diocesan teams, but with safeguarding colleagues across the country, as well as with the statutory authorities.

As the main link between the diocese and the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, the DSA is responsible for promoting national safeguarding standards and demonstrating compliance with them.

John is assisted in the safeguarding office by Linda Gourlay who acts as safeguarding officer. Linda brings with her to the role, vast experience in working in social work for over 25 years.

*The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for the Diocese of Dunkeld is **John Smith**. He has been working with the Diocese since 2019 and assumed the role of DSA in 2020.*

John graduated in Social Work at the University of Dundee going on to work with Dundee City Council Social in the fields of Community Mental Health and then Learning Disabilities. Prior to this John worked with people with learning disabilities supporting them in community living and day services.

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