



**BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SCOTLAND**  
SCOTTISH CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING SERVICE



27/1/2017

Dear Colleagues

**Re: PVG Scheme Updates (for Existing members)**

Following the annual audit visit to the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service last year by VSDS, I raised with the Advisers the importance of routine checking for current members of the PVG Scheme. The current PVG Scheme will only raise alerts if a member or applicant is being considered for Listing, is already Listed or has been convicted of a serious crime. Some offences which might pose a risk to both volunteers and paid workers are below the threshold and as such SCSS is not notified. Such convictions would include for example driving offences, misuse of drugs etc.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has approved my request for every Diocese to engage in PVG Updates in the form of Existing Member applications. This cost for any paid workers and clergy is £18, but is **free** for volunteers.

The timescale is as follows:

- **for anyone who last completed a PVG to work/volunteer in the Catholic Church in 2011-2012, an Existing Member Application must be completed by the end of November 2017;**
- **in 2018 those who last completed an application in 2013 must do so by the end of November 2018 and so on.**

**Please note:** some volunteers and paid workers might have completed an Existing Member Application through other work or voluntary roles. This still means that they are required to complete an Update for the Catholic Church.

This development is another clear indication that the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland takes very seriously the safety and well-being of everyone. A PVG is just one aspect of safe recruitment but it is an important one. Many other organisations both within the voluntary and public sector already require their employees/volunteers to comply with routine updating.

I trust that you will convey this positive message and that you will contact my office for any assistance you might require to ensure that the process is completed as swiftly as possible.

Kind regards

**Tina Campbell**  
**National Safeguarding Coordinator**  
**Bishops' Conference of Scotland**