

Following the recommendations from IICSA in 2020, SCIE audits and PCR2, in August 2023, the Archbishops' Council appointed INEQE Safeguarding Group to carry out the next independent audits across the whole Church of England.



What is the INEQE Audit?

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Who is INEQE?

INEQE is an independent safeguarding organisation based in NI and a member of [The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub \(RSH\)](#), a UK International Development partnership to provide global access to safeguarding expertise. INEQE note they 'want this experience to be a good one for everyone. We want to help you on your improvement journey and we'll do what we can, where we can, when we can to support you in any way that we can.'

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Why do an audit?

Safeguarding Matters! The Church of England has had several high profile concerns and needs to regain trust by demonstrating good safeguarding practice. The purpose of these audits is to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are proactively working to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. The diocese and cathedral are committed to regularly reviewing safeguarding procedures.

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Where & when?

Audits are taking place across the whole of the Church of England:
42 Dioceses, 42 Cathedrals and 2 Palaces.

INEQE is in our diocese: 7 - 9 JANUARY 2026

Preparation is already underway and your assistance is needed. Those involved will be advised and briefed well in advance of any required activity.

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What does it cover?

The five National Standards set in October 2023:

1) Culture, Leadership and Capacity; 2) Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk; 3) Prevention; 4) Victims and Survivors; 5) Learning Supervision and Support

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How will it be carried out?

By sending INEQE lots of information and evidence online by end November. As well as through INEQE auditors undertaking: Discussions with individuals; focus groups with staff and volunteers at differing levels; confidential Surveys sent out on behalf of INEQE by the diocese and cathedral.

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Then what?

The audit will identify strengths and progress and those areas where practice could be reinforced or improved. These findings along with INEQE's recommendations will be shared in a report published in February 2026. The recommendations will be developed into a time sensitive action plans and will be shared widely to allow everyone to progress the safeguarding journey; this will be overseen by DSAP and Chapter.

INEQE SAFEGUARDING AUDIT 7-minute briefing