

Mr Vincent Doyle
Coping International

23 April 2020

Dear Vincent

Thank you for your recent e-mail.

As you know I was a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors until December 2017 and was chair of one of the working groups of the Commission – the Guidelines Working Group.

You raised the issue of the children of priests with the PCPM and it was initially considered that it did not fall within its remit. However, after various dicasteries of the Roman Curia had considered this the Secretary of State, Cardinal Parolin, asked the PCPM to re-consider. The PCPM agreed look at the issue and accepted my proposal that the Guidelines Working group should include this in its work programme.

I was very pleased with the decision of the PCPM and I have no doubt that it was entirely because of your very powerful advocacy. Shortly after the PCPM took the decision we met with Pope Francis to report on our work. I was one of the two presenters of the report and I said that we had agreed to include the 'children of priests' in our work programme. Pope Francis did not refer specifically to this in the discussion but expressed his support for all our work.

As you know I was not re-appointed to the Commission and was, therefore, unable to take this work forward but I understand that the PCPM did include it in the work programme of the Guidelines Working Group.

Thank you for all you have done, and are doing, to assist children of priests and to enable the Church to accept responsibility for them.

With very best wishes

