

Selecting the representative sample

11.1 The Commission received information about complaints, suspicions or knowledge of child sexual abuse in respect of 172 named priests and 11 unnamed priests. (Some or all of the 11 unnamed priests may, of course, be included in the 172 named priests.) After a preliminary examination, the Commission concluded that 102 of these priests were within remit. Of those priests who were not within the Commission's terms of reference, two main reasons for their exclusion were identified:

- the complaint was made outside the time period 1975 – 2004;
- the priest was not operating under the aegis of the Archdiocese of Dublin at the time of the alleged abuse. The priests in question here were mainly priests belonging to religious orders and societies who were working in Dublin but not on behalf of the Archdiocese.

11.2 The Commission decided that the only realistic way in which it could select and report on a representative sample of those complaints and suspicions was to select a representative sample of the priests concerned. Otherwise, the Commission may have had to investigate every priest within remit. The representative sample was chosen from the group of 102 priests who were within remit. The Commission took the view that it was impractical to make two separate samples for those against whom complaints were made and those about whom there were suspicions or concerns. Almost invariably, there were suspicions or concerns expressed about those against whom complaints were made. There was a very small number of priests about whom suspicions or concerns were expressed but about whom no actual complaints were made.

11.3 From the outset, the Commission was of the view that the purpose of sampling was to allow the Commission to examine and report on the complete picture in an efficient and expeditious manner. Accordingly, the sample selected had to ensure coverage of the entire of the relevant period, being January 1975 to May 2004. It had to encompass single abusers and multiple abusers to allow examination of differences in treatment (if any). It had to include instances where there was interaction between Church and State authorities in respect of complaints, knowledge, suspicions or concerns

of child sexual abuse so that the Commission could discharge its function of reporting on the levels of communication that prevailed between all relevant authorities and indeed whether there was any evidence of attempts on the part of the Archdiocese or other Church authorities or on the part of public or State authorities to obstruct, prevent or interfere with the proper investigation of such complaints. Another factor to be borne in mind is the volume of information available on each case. This led the Commission to conclude that it should examine every case in which the relevant priest had been convicted in the criminal courts. Furthermore, issues such as confidentiality and damage to reputation or good name are less difficult in such cases.

11.4 While bearing these criteria in mind, the Commission engaged the services of a prominent statistician, Dr Teresa Brannick of University College Dublin to devise the sampling method so as to ensure that the sample selected was genuinely representative. She compiled a list of 47 priests spread over the three decades about whom there had been complaints or suspicions relating to child sexual abuse.

11.5 Documentary research into all priests in the representative sample was completed. As a result of this research one priest was found not to have been within the Commission's terms of reference leaving a total of 46 priests to be examined. Later on, the Commission became aware of a small number of other complaints which would have brought the cleric concerned within remit. It would have been impossible for the Commission to revise the representative sample when it became aware of these complaints and, in any event, Dr Brannick was satisfied that the original sample selected was an adequate representative sample even for the larger group.

11.6 The Commission conducted its investigation by means of oral evidence and in-depth analysis of the documentation supplied by all parties. Where gaps in the evidence were apparent, the Commission filled them, where appropriate and possible, with questionnaires and follow up interviews. Follow up was not always possible because a number of the significant participants are dead or too ill to be interviewed.

The priests

11.7 Of the 46 priests in the representative sample, 11 are or were members of religious orders; four of these are dead. One priest belongs to a UK diocese. Of the 34 priests from the Dublin Archdiocese, ten are dead, 20 are out of ministry and four are in ministry. Of the 20 who are out of ministry, 11 are being financially supported by the Archdiocese; nine are laicised.

11.8 Of the 46 priests whose cases were examined by the Commission, 17 were 40 years of age or older when complainants indicated that the first incidence of abuse had taken place. This is a worrying feature in the view of the members of the Commission. Although there is no evidence that any of these priests abused prior to age 40, the Commission, given the evidence it has uncovered, would be reluctant to conclude that no abuse took place prior to the age of 40.

The complaints

11.9 It is important to realise that it was not the function of the Commission to establish whether child sexual abuse actually took place but rather to record the manner in which complaints were dealt with by Church and State authorities. While a significant number of the priests against whom allegations were made admitted child sexual abuse, some denied it. It is also important in the Commission's view not to equate the number of complaints with the actual instances of child sexual abuse. Of those investigated by the Commission, one priest admitted to sexually abusing over 100 children, while another accepted that he had abused on a fortnightly basis during the currency of his ministry which lasted for over 25 years. The total number of documented complaints recorded against those two priests is only just over 70.

11.10 Of the 46 priests surveyed, 11 pleaded guilty to or were convicted in the criminal courts of sexual assaults on children.

11.11 There is one clear case of a false accusation of child sexual abuse – Fr Ricardus*.⁵² There are two cases where there were suspicions or

⁵² Names marked with an asterisk are pseudonyms.

concerns but no actual complaint of child sexual abuse – Fr Guido* and Fr Magnus*.

11.12 Of the 320 plus complaints that the Commission is aware of from its representative sample the ratio of boys to girls is 2.3 boys: 1 girl.

Personnel in Dublin Archdiocese who dealt with complaints

11.13 The following were the main people in the Dublin Archdiocese who dealt with complaints of child sexual abuse over the period covered by the Commission:

<i>Archbishops</i>	<i>Period in Office</i>
Archbishop John Charles McQuaid	1940 – 1972 (deceased)
Archbishop Dermot Ryan	1972 – 1984 (deceased)
Archbishop Kevin McNamara	1985 – 1987 (deceased)
Archbishop Desmond Connell (Archbishop Connell became a Cardinal in 2001.)	1988 – 2004 (retired)
Archbishop Diarmuid Martin	2004 – present

<i>Auxiliary bishops</i>	<i>Period in Office</i>
Bishop Joseph Carroll (Bishop Carroll was Administrator of the Archdiocese from September 1984 when Archbishop Ryan departed for Rome to January 1985 when Archbishop McNamara was appointed and again from the death of Archbishop McNamara in April 1987 to the appointment of Archbishop Connell in March 1988.)	1968 – 1989 (deceased)
Bishop Brendan Comiskey (Bishop Comiskey was appointed bishop of Ferns in April 1984 and resigned from that position in April 2002.)	1980 – 1984
Bishop Martin Drennan (Bishop Drennan is currently bishop of Galway.)	1997 – 2005
Bishop Patrick Dunne	1946 – 1984 (deceased)
Bishop Raymond Field	1997 - present
Bishop Laurence Forristal (Bishop Forristal was appointed bishop of Ossory in 1981 and retired in 2007.)	1980 – 1981
Bishop James Kavanagh	1972 - 1998 (deceased)

Bishop James Moriarty	1991 - 2002
(Bishop Moriarty is currently bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.)	
Bishop Donal Murray	1982 - 1996
(Bishop Murray is currently bishop of Limerick.)	
Bishop Dermot O'Mahony	1975 – 1996 (retired)
(Bishop O'Mahony also served as chancellor from 1975 to 1981)	
Bishop Fiachra Ó Ceallaigh	1994 – present
Bishop Eamonn Walsh	1990 – present
(Bishop Walsh was dean of Clonliffe College from 1977 to 1985 and also served as priest secretary to the Archbishop from 1985 to 1990; he was Apostolic Administrator of the Ferns diocese from 2002 to 2006.)	
Bishop Desmond Williams	1984 – 1993 (deceased)

Chancellors

Period in office

Monsignor Gerard Sheehy	1965 –1975 (deceased)
Bishop Dermot O'Mahony	1975 – 1981 (retired)
Monsignor Alex Stenson	1981 – 1997
(Monsignor Stenson is now a parish priest in the Archdiocese.)	
Monsignor John Dolan	1997 - present

Director of the Child Protection Service

Mr Philip Garland	2003 – present
-------------------	----------------

Others

A number of senior priests who did not have an official role in the area but who were clearly held in high regard by the Archbishop of the time were asked to help investigate individual complaints of child sexual abuse. They included:

- Monsignor Richard Glennon who had been chancellor from 1945 to 1955 and was subsequently a vicar general (deceased);
- Monsignor James Ardlé MacMahon, who was Archbishop McQuaid's secretary from 1954 until 1972 and subsequently an episcopal vicar for religious and a parish priest (retired);
- Monsignor Jerome Curtin, who had been an assistant chancellor, a vicar general, the episcopal vicar for religious and a parish priest (retired);
- Monsignor John O'Regan who had been chancellor from 1955 to 1965 and subsequently a vicar general and a parish priest (deceased).

Once their investigations were complete these men did not generally have any further role in dealing with either the priest or the complainants.

The various secretaries to the archbishops, while they had no official direct role in dealing with child sexual abuse cases, were frequently the conduit for complaints, for receiving professional reports and for communicating with bishops and priests.

Treatment centres

11.14 Priests were sent for assessment and sometimes for treatment to various psychiatrists and psychologists. Long-term treatment was provided in a number of treatment centres of which the most important for the purposes of this report were the centres run by the Servants of the Paraclete and the Hospitaller Order of St John of God. These two organisations are Church authorities.

11.15 The Servants of the Paracletes is a religious order established in New Mexico, USA in 1947, with a stated mission of ministering to troubled priests. In its early years the order treated priests suffering disorders primarily relating to alcohol, but from the 1970s, it began treating priests who had sexually abused children. Because of the nature of its work, its existence was not widely trumpeted, but was known to Church authorities who needed to avail of its services. The order is affiliated with the Discalced Carmelites. Having been established in Jemez Springs, New Mexico in 1947, it expanded rapidly and within 12 years it had 11 houses around the globe, including houses in England and Scotland. One of those houses was in Stroud. Eight of the priests in the representative sample were sent to Stroud.

11.16 The Granada Institute was established in Dublin in 1994 by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God. Its remit is "*to provide assessment and treatment services to those who have committed sexual offences involving children and, where appropriate, to advise on the management of this client population*". It provides services to lay people as well as clerics. It has seen 25 of the priests in the representative sample.