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11th February 2019

Dear Pilgrimage Director

I am writing to you as Chair of the NCSC which is a national commission mandated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales with responsibility for setting the strategic direction of safeguarding policy and monitoring compliance. The NCSC has been informed about safeguarding incidents at the baths in Lourdes. This was discussed at our last meeting and members expressed safeguarding concerns about children and young people being exposed to risk at the baths.

As a result of these concerns, the NCSC is writing to all Pilgrimage Directors to strongly advise that children and young people under the age of 18 years are not encouraged to use the baths unless under parental supervision, and to seek reassurance that use of the baths by children, young people and adults at risk is risk assessed.

If you have any queries or concerns you wish to raise about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or seek advice from Dr. Colette Limbrick, Director CSAS.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chie Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Chair NCSC

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission oversees the safeguarding arrangements for children and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church in England and Wales on behalf of the Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious.