

# THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Dear Colleague,

Although evidence suggests that clergy in London are probably at no greater risk than in many other dioceses, a Diocesan policy has been established in recent years, recognising the fact that clergy everywhere are no longer necessarily accorded public respect and esteem, simply by virtue of their office.

Our approach in London is threefold:

- ◆ An initial investigation resulted in a Diocesan report, "Knocking on Heaven's Door". This report, which formed the basis of the House of Bishops' national recommendations, has useful guidelines which you are urged to read. A copy of these guidelines is enclosed.
- ◆ The second approach advises on safe working practices. Short training courses are available to London clergy. Your CME Officer can give you details of such courses.
- ◆ Should you, or anyone in your house, be unfortunate enough to be threatened or assaulted, please complete the attached Incident Report form, however insignificant the incident may seem. Not only does this ensure that you receive support but the accumulated reports enable us to build up a picture of precisely what is happening and the difficulties our clergy face. If we are to respond effectively, we need facts which only clergy themselves can supply. Please remember that the accumulated information may help prevent serious injury to a colleague in the future.

I urge you to take the question of personal security seriously. It is a great tribute to us all that the damaged and disturbed in society still turn to priests in their need and that clergy themselves respond so freely. The object of this policy is to help us all feel less vulnerable and hence more confident in that service.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres DD FSA

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