



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

“International Bodies Alerted as Caldey Abbey Fails to Implement Safeguarding Reforms”

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Investigative journalist **Andrew Sibley** has formally raised urgent safeguarding concerns regarding **Caldey Abbey Trust** and the wider governance structures responsible for safeguarding on **Caldey Island**, following a series of missed deadlines, governance failures, and a lack of transparency surrounding the **December 2024 independent safeguarding review** commissioned by Caldey Abbey.

Despite the severity of the review’s findings, there is **no evidence** that the required safeguarding actions have been implemented within the specified timeframes. Key commitments — including the establishment of a strengthened safeguarding governance framework, the appointment of independent safeguarding advisors, trustee suitability assessments, conflict-of-interest policies, and mandatory training — remain **unpublished, unverified, and overdue**.

“These missed deadlines represent significant safeguarding red flags, particularly given Caldey’s long-documented history of safeguarding failures,” Sibley said. “The public has been given no assurance that the Abbey has taken even the most basic steps required to protect children and vulnerable adults.”

Additional governance concerns have also been identified, including overlapping directorships across multiple Caldey-related entities, overdue statutory filings, and a lack of clarity regarding who holds safeguarding leadership responsibility. Despite a trustee with extensive safeguarding and public-sector background, there is **no evidence** that this expertise is being utilised.

In response, Sibley has escalated the matter to multiple agencies, including:

- **The Charity Commission**
- **The West Wales Safeguarding Board**
- **Welsh Government officials including the leader and deputy leader**
- **Dyfed-Powys Police**
- **GREVIO (Council of Europe)**
- **The UN Special Rapporteur**
- **Istanbul Convention monitoring bodies**



“All documentation — including timelines, evidence files, correspondence, and governance analysis — is being prepared for national and international media,” Sibley confirmed. “This is not about pressure; it is about ensuring that safeguarding concerns and governance failures cannot be buried behind closed doors.”

Sibley has also offered to attend a meeting with MPs to present his findings and will ensure that survivors are given the opportunity to provide further clarity and testimony.

“This is a matter of public interest, public safety, and human rights,” Sibley added. “Caldey Island’s safeguarding failures have already harmed too many people. The public deserves transparency, accountability, and independent oversight — not silence.”

Documents have been shared with government bodies and will be made available to journalists upon request.

For Media Enquiries

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