



## Sex Offender Liaison Officer (S.O.L.O.)

This role, based at the Church Offices in Edinburgh has been created within The Church of Scotland to advise and support congregations and to work with other agencies where a sex offender wishes to worship. Referrals come from the police, criminal justice professionals and other sources. We provide a risk-managed approach to safe inclusion in worship by means of a written agreement called a Covenant of Responsibilities, which is mandatory in our Church.



## The Good Lives Model

Many people, including sex offenders are known to benefit from having positive life goals which can include being part of worship. This can reduce the risk of re-offending and contributes to public protection in our communities.

### Contact Us

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the safe inclusion of sex offenders in worship, please contact us directly at - **Sex Offender Liaison Officer**, The Church of Scotland  
121 George Street Edinburgh EH2 4YN  
**Tel:** 0131 240 2256 **Email:** [safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
or visit our web site at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

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# Ensuring a safe church for all

## A guide for congregations, police and social work



The Church of Scotland  
Safeguarding Service



## Our Church

There are some 1400 Church of Scotland congregations with around 600,000 people attending regular worship.

Each congregation has a Safeguarding Panel charged with confidentially managing safeguarding issues.

Our priority is to ensure a safe Church for all.



## We Believe

The Gospel places the least, the last and the lost at the heart of all that the Christian Church believes and does. Survivors of abuse are always at the centre of what we are about. The Gospel also declares that everyone is within the scope of salvation. The Reports 'For of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven' (2009) and 'The Safe Inclusion of Those Who Pose a Risk' (2013) set out the implications of incorporating people who pose a risk within the fellowship of The Church.



## “Ensuring a Safe Church for All”

Our priority will always be the needs of survivors of abuse and the wellbeing of children and those who may be vulnerable in our Church.

There is nothing new about sex offenders attending Church and a significant number of sex offenders wish to worship. Whilst The Church of Scotland would always seek to make everyone welcome, it is aware of its overriding responsibility to protect the public by putting appropriate safeguards in place, where necessary.