

Tearfund Scotland Incident Report to the Scottish Government

Project: REDACTED

Date of incident: REDACTED 2009

In REDACTED 2009, Tearfund's Country Representative in Malawi received a verbal report from a Tearfund partner that there had been an allegation of sexual abuse by a staff member of the partner on a Scottish Government funded project. The Country Representative reported this to Tearfund's Child Development Advisor, who obtained further details and completed a Child Protection Reporting Form. This form was then submitted to Tearfund's Child Protection Officer for follow up support and advice.

The allegation was that a senior staff member of the partner had sexually abused a 16-year-old girl who attended the project. The victim was removed from the project for her safety to live with an aunt and was provided with support and counselling. The partner's disciplinary panel investigated the case and the staff member was dismissed for gross misconduct.

The victim's guardian reported the matter to the Police in Malawi and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and questioned but no charges were brought.

Tearfund's Child Development Advisor conducted a child protection capacity-building workshop for the partner and other Tearfund partners working with children at risk in Malawi in October 2009. Tearfund also supported the partner in producing its own child protection policy. A follow up child protection workshop was scheduled for January 2011 but this did not take place as Tearfund ceased working with this partner in 2010.

At the time of the incident Tearfund took all the steps it reasonably understood were necessary to safeguard the individual and deal with the situation. A summary of this incident was reported to the Charity Commission on 22 February 2018 as part of the outcome of our internal review of historical safeguarding incidents.

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26th Feb 2018