

Report finds ex-pope Benedict failed to act in four clerical abuse cases

Former pope Benedict XVI failed to stop four clergymen accused of child sex abuse in the Catholic Church in Munich, the law firm that carried out a key inquiry has said.

Pope emeritus Benedict - formally Josef Ratzinger - was the archbishop of Munich from 1977 to 1982.

He has "strictly" denied any responsibility, said lawyer Martin Pusch of Westpfahl Spilker Wastl which was tasked by the church to carry out the investigation.

But the experts do not consider this credible, he added.

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The reformist Catholic group 'Wir sind Kirche' (We are Church) called on the ex-pontiff to take responsibility for what happened while he was in charge of the Munich diocese.

"An admission by Ratzinger that through his actions or inactions, knowledge or ignorance, he was personally and professionally complicit in the suffering of many young people would be... an example for many other bishops and responsible persons," it said in a statement.

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<https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2022/0120/1274748-germany/>

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