

Daisy Madder

From: Rodney Fox [DPA]
Sent: 23 March 2010 07:01
To: Durell
Subject: St Benedict's
Attachments: Note on child risk assessment.jpg

Dear Durell

Please find attached the note that I made in my Inspector File immediately following my interview with the Abbot about the review that he had requested. He showed me the legal covenant that has been drawn up and read through the conditions imposed to be imposed on [RC-F41]. He said that previously the monk had been barred from the premises on his say alone but that the reviewers had recommended that the ban be made into a formal legal agreement, although this second monk had been acquitted at the time of his trial two years ago and was not involved in any way with the recent case involving Fr David.

I hope that this helps to demonstrate that the statement in the report that 'A serious recent incident involving a member of the monastic community caused the trustees (*who are the Abbot and five of his fellow monks and not the board of advisers, as is made clear in the report*) to request an independent review of the measures taken to minimise risk. The advice received from the independent experts has been fully implemented' is both true and well founded in the evidence.

Your correspondent has assumed that there is only one inquiry taking place and that this is what is referred to in the report - but in fact there are several (which it would have been very helpful to have been informed about). In fact all the information that we had access to was that volunteered by the school - if they hadn't been up-front with us from the first preliminary visit, we might have inspected this school without ever discovering anything about all this - barely referred to by parents in the pre-inspection questionnaire. And, of course, the incidents in the school date back some years since neither monk has worked in the school for some years (1976 to 1992 in the case of the one found guilty and sent to prison and subsequently as a trustee) and the recent incident took place in the monastery, which was not being inspected although I insisted on details of the CRB checks on all the monks being obtained from the diocese.

I hope that this adds further grist to your mill!

Rodney

Note on Child Protection Risk Assessment

Meeting with Fr. Abbot on Tuesday at 1.50pm.

- ① The diocesan child protection officer and a second professional in the safeguarding area were asked to review the risk posed by the continued residence of RC-F41 in the monastery. The review being necessary because, although RC-F41 was found not guilty of allegations made 2 yrs ago, there were residual concerns about him, which had led Fr. Abbot to bar RC-F41 from being on the school premises in term time.
- ② The two officials were fully conversant with the previous history and had access to a psychiatrist's report on RC-F41. They had previously been consulted at the time of the allegations.
- ③ They have drawn up a covenant to be signed between RC-F41 and Fr. Abbot under which RC-F41 will be barred from entering the school premises; will only be allowed into the Abbey Church when it is open to the public ~~enter~~ when in the company of the whole monastic community; will be subject to a range of other restrictions.

In view of the fact that this situation has now been externally reviewed by two independent experts, who have been made fully conversant with the facts (which the inspectorate have not), I believe that Fr. Abbot has now taken all reasonable steps to assess and minimise the potential risk posed by this person.

DPA

10th Nov 2009