

time this happens, give him a jolly good bop on the nose". He felt this was a very strange for the defendant to have said because fighting was strictly forbidden and if he had done such a thing he would have been caned. Father Laurence said nothing to the boy who assaulted [RC-A591]. [RC-A591] told no one what had happened to him.

63. In 2011 [RC-A591] was in touch with solicitors about a civil claim concerning a [DPA]. He mentioned that he would like some legal advice about what happened to him at St Benedict's School. He was put in touch with another solicitor who visited him at his home and later initiated proceedings. Once the solicitor asked the school for full disclosure about Laurence Soper, [RC-A591] received a response that they would pay the amount requested by his solicitors of £5900 which was received in March 2012. [RC-A591] wanted someone to be held accountable for what had happened to him and he also wanted answers. He knew Soper was wanted at this time but had disappeared.

64. [RC-A591] has assumed that what happened to him was a bad experience, but unique. In due course however he became aware that other allegations had been made against other priests and he had come across Jonathan West's blog. He wrote an entry on the blog, although he didn't write everything that Father Laurence had done to him. He then got in touch with the Abbot of Ealing Abbey and it was through this route that he had eventually found his way to reporting what happened to the police.

65. [RC-A591] was asked if he knew the other complainants. He doesn't know the names [RC-A601] or [RC-A622]. The names [RC-A600] and [RC-A11] ring a bell with him but he doesn't know them in any relevant way and they have not had any social contact.

66. **Count 18 [19] Specific incident.** [RC-A601] (date of birth [DPA] 1970). [RC-A601] [RC-A601] attended St Benedict's Middle School between 1981 and 1983 and Upper School 1983 to July 1986 [Assisted place]. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 he was video interviewed. The video tape has been lost however a police officer's notes summarising the interview survive. He said that on one occasion when he had been naughty but he cannot now remember what he had done, he was sent to the Head Masters office at the top of the house. He went into the room and Father Soper locked the door. [RC-A601] described how quickly Father Soper's demeanour changed and how nasty he became. He was scared. Father Soper said he couldn't find his cane so ordered that [RC-A601] lay across his lap. He slapped him a number of times leaving his hand on his backside. He could hear Father Soper's breathing change he

was breathing quickly and excitedly he was clearly sexually aroused. When the beating stopped Father Soper changed becoming kind and concerned saying 'I'm worried I've hurt you. I need to look at your backside. I need to see if I've left a mark' and ordered [RC-A601] to pull his trousers down so he could examine and touch his backside. Father Soper told him not to tell anyone. [RC-A601] described that he was scared and felt great shame. He said the defendant was manipulative. [RC-A601] did tell his parents what had happened but they didn't want to take the matter further. They are now dead. [RC-A601] explained how in those days things were different, the priests were much respected.

67. You will hear from [RC-A601] sister [Sibling] who recalls there being a huge row at home when [RC-A601] who was extremely upset complained to his parents about Father Laurence and what he had done to him. After this [RC-A601] became angry and withdrawn. Their parents failed to do anything about what [RC-A601] had told them and for many years this was a source of anger and distress for [RC-A601]. You will hear about the impact this has had on [RC-A601] over the years and what it has done to his faith.
68. [RC-A601] also spoke to his wife firstly in 1999 and over the years that followed, about what happened to him at the hands of a monk at school when he was about 12 years old. He spoke of his distress, shame and loss of trust, but until recently had only described events in vague and embarrassed terms.
69. On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016, he was further interviewed. He confirmed the notes of the 2010 earlier interview were correct and he explained in more detail, describing lying on Soper's lap and feeling Soper become aroused. He described how uncomfortable and peculiar the experience felt. He said it happened around lunch time when most people were in the playground. There were people in the building but Andrew Soper's office was at the top of the building down a corridor. He described how children seemed to be punished for small things as an excuse to get them into Soper's room.
70. [RC-A601] described how Soper told him he had to come to his room because he had done something wrong. He knocked on the door and went in. He thought Soper turned the latch on the door and assumed he was locking it. He told [RC-A601] to sit on the sofa next to him. He described how Soper was talking to him and telling him off, before suddenly his mood changed. Soper said 'I have to spank you' and made [RC-A601] sit across his lap. He described how Soper's breathing changed and he seemed to be excited. He said the act itself was strange, at least 3 waves of hard spanking during which Andrew Soper became excited, panting and clearly getting pleasure from what was happening. Between these spans Soper would leave his hand on [RC-A601] bottom. [RC-A601] said it was really weird and that you spank little children over your lap not an 11/12 year old boy. When the spanking stopped