

to go and see the defendant once a week in his office. If his behaviour was deemed to have 'got worse' he would be caned. The defendant would go through the report with him weekly and while he was talking he would rub his back and bottom over his trousers. [RC-A608] told police this wasn't like a well done pat this was stroking and rubbing in a sexual way. He described how on several occasions he was judged to have "got better" and as a result the defendant stroked and patted his bottom. On some occasions he was beaten. [RC-A608] remembers that Andrew Soper made him take his trousers and pants down and rubbed his bottom. He felt this was clearly done for Soper's own pleasure.

39. **Count 11 [12] Specific incident.** [RC-A610] (date of birth [DPA] 1963). He was interviewed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011. He attended St Benedict's School aged 7 where he stayed for all his schooling years leaving after 6<sup>th</sup> form in around 1981. [4 years in junior school, 2 in middle and, 3 years up to O'levels and 2 in 6<sup>th</sup> form.] He described how when he was around 13/14 he was in the school grounds and took a short cut which was a route that was out of bounds. He was met by Father Laurence who confronted [RC-A610] and told him that he was out of bounds and he should attend his office later that day which he did. Father Laurence was sitting behind a desk and told him he would have to beat him for what had happened. [RC-A610] was told to come around the desk and bend over the defendant's knees. The defendant made him lie across his lap by physically pushing him down across his lap so all [RC-A610] weight was on the defendant. Whilst doing so the defendant said he needed to check for padding, he put his hand inside the top of the waist band of [RC-A610]'s trousers, feeling the top middle part of his bottom. [RC-A610] explained "his hands were moving all over the place". He then hit [RC-A610] and asked "Did that hurt?" and when [RC-A610] replied that it did the defendant said "Okay I'll do it harder". He hit him 4 times before telling him to go and sit on a chair and proceeding to talk with him about school.

40. [RC-A610] was never caned by the defendant again. He explained that when one was beaten at school it was usual to have to stand up and lean forward but what had happened to him he thought was extremely strange. He said he was only 13 or 14 but he knew something inherently wrong had happened. He explained he subsequently told his mother, wife and friends and that he hadn't come forward earlier as he felt what happened to him was fairly insignificant and he should "let sleeping dogs lie". [RC-A610] reflects as you will hear however, that he knew the defendant's behaviour was perverted and that the supposed check for padding was in fact an excuse to touch his bottom. You will hear how it was he came to disclose what had happened to him.

41. [RC-A610] does not know the other complainants save that he recognises a few of the surnames.
42. **Count 12 [13] Specific incident.** [RC-A611] [RC-A611] (date of birth [DPA] [DPA] 1967) was a pupil at St Benedict's School from 1974 to 1985 [7 to 18 years old]. His brother who is [DPA] years older also went to the school. [RC-A611] told police that he was in the Middle School from September 1978 to summer 1980 between the ages of 11-13 years. The defendant was Headmaster of the Middle School. He remembers that it was between September 1978 and summer 1980 he had been in the playground of the Middle School when he received a minor injury to his buttock when he was kicked or kneed. He was about to have a [DPA] lesson with a teacher he describes as fierce, and he used the excuse of his injury to get out of the lesson by asking another teacher if he could have permission to go to the sick bay. The sick bay was on the third floor of the Middle School the only other room there was this defendant's office.
43. You will hear that the sick bay was a small room with a single bed in it. [RC-A611] took himself there and was lying on the bed when Father Laurence walked into the room and asked [RC-A611] what he was doing there. He explained that he had been injured in the playground. Soper asked where he was injured and [RC-A611] who was wearing his uniform pointed to his right buttock. Father Laurence said "show me". [RC-A611] [RC-A611] cannot remember if Father Laurence told him to pull down his trousers or not, but he pulled his trousers down and kept his pants on; he thought what was happening was odd. [RC-A611] lay on his left side facing the wall away from the defendant, his right buttock was raised and he pointed to where it hurt. Father Laurence began to rub his buttock over his underpants and asked whether it felt better. [RC-A611] said "no" and the defendant continued to rub his buttock causing his underpants to rise up. Andrew Soper rubbed [RC-A611] buttock harder and harder, asking time and again whether it now felt better. [RC-A611] continued to answer that it did not feel better.
44. As Andrew Soper rubbed, [RC-A611] recalls that that his tone of voice changed, becoming more aggressive. The rubbing continued for a minute or two then, [RC-A611] [RC-A611] remembers, suddenly as though a switch had been flicked [RC-A611] explained that Father Laurence stopped rubbing his buttock and his tone of voice changed to being more concerned. [RC-A611] was scared and confused but knew what had happened wasn't right. He pulled his trousers up. Father Laurence left the room.
45. [RC-A611] didn't tell anyone during this time what had happened. He describes feeling dirty and ashamed. He told police that his parents worked hard to be able to send him to St Benedict's and they would have been devastated if he had told them. His

mother was a devout catholic and he didn't want to upset her. She died in 2012. Of the other complainants he only knows [RC-A601] who is a few years younger than him and they are not in touch. You will hear about whom [RC-A611] told about what happened to him over the years. It was when he saw that the defendant had been charged on the news that he called police in August 2016

46. **Count 13 [14] Specific incident.** [RC-A609] [RC-A609] (date of birth [DPA] 1969) was video interviewed by police on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. In this interview he talks in the main about another teacher who uses excessive violence on one occasion against him. However in this interview he also mentions Father Laurence and inappropriate touching and as a result he provides a separate witnesses statement. [RC-A609] was at St Benedict's School from 1979/80 through to 1987/1988. His brother who was [DPA] years older also attended the school. He explained that the defendant was head teacher of the Middle School and was responsible for discipline. He describes a one off incident involving the defendant. [RC-A609] had only been at the school for a week when he was sent to report to Father Soper for failing to use the double margins as instructed in his homework. He described how he had to go to Father Soper's room which was at the top of the building and there was a queue of boys. When it was his turn he knocked and went into the room. Father Soper was sitting behind a large desk.
47. There was a brief discussion about the homework. Father Soper appeared at this point gentle and kind in manner. This caused [RC-A609] some anxiety as he was there to be punished. The defendant told [RC-A609] to come around the desk and Soper pulled open a large desk drawer, inside were canes, a cat-o-nine tails whip and a leather strap. These were clearly shown to [RC-A609]. Nothing was taken from the drawer but he was told to drop his trousers, which he did but his underpants remained on. The defendant then gestured for [RC-A609] to lean over his lap which he did, the lower half of his body was laid against his nearest leg and his penis touching the defendant's thigh. The defendant then started to tap [RC-A609] on his backside leaving his hand resting on his bottom between pats. He did this a couple of times. [RC-A609] describes it as more of a caress of his bottom than a slap. He felt no pain. The defendant said the next time he would use the cane. Then [RC-A609] was told to pull his trousers up and he left the office. He was in the office for between 5 and 10 minutes. He describes the incident as making no sense and being odd.
48. Over the year [RC-A609] was caned a number of times by the defendant but these episodes were a very different experience. He was never asked again to lie across his lap and a cane was used rather than his hand. You will hear who [RC-A609] told over the years. Of the other complainants he knows [RC-A591] as they were in the