

Question 5: Please consider Durrell Barnes' note of a conversation with Ms Jones and Margaret Pattinson of 24 August 2010 where the view was expressed that "the key thing is referral, schools should have a very low hurdle for at least talking to them and agreeing if a referral should be made"

52. This extract (PJ/2/10/79-81) describes how the relationship between a school and a LADO should work. A school should feel comfortable with discussing with the LADO safeguarding issues that might meet the threshold for referral. It should feel confident in asking for advice when unsure about something. I am afraid I cannot recall the precise context of this document, but from the text and my recollection, the school was wary of approaching the LADO and had some kind of internal gatekeeping procedure which meant that they did not seek advice from the LADO at an early stage of an investigation.

53. When we asked the LADO for assistance she did not have a good contextual knowledge of the school. In my opinion Ealing Abbey/SBS should have discussed its safeguarding history with the LADO when fresh allegations came to light so that she had a full picture of safeguarding issues over recent years. In failing to provide this information proactively, Ealing Abbey/SBS did not give the LADO important information that might have placed more recent allegations within a historical context.

54. On the other hand it is surprising that the LADO was not aware of the various prosecutions of teachers/former teachers/monks as it is likely that local police forces were involved and should have shared information with the LADO

Question 10: Please explain how the LADO role in Ms Jones' view functioned as a matter of fact, in respect of St Benedict's School? For example, Ms Jones may wish to consider Kate Dixon's general explanation of the role in paragraphs 62 and 63 of her witness statement DFE000585.

56. Apart from the contact with Ealing Children's Services in 2009, we were not aware of LADO action. DfE were not invited to LADO strategy meetings and, if there was any LADO action post 2009, we were not aware of it. It was unfortunate that the LADO in 2009 did not alert DfE at an early stage to concerns at SBS, and that she did not have an overview of historic allegations at SBS/Ealing Abbey.