

allegations of sexual misconduct allegations, and the appropriateness of the Charity's expenditure on legal fees. The second Inquiry focused on the Trustees' failure to implement the arrangement put in place to protect young people in Ealing Abbey and SBS from a known sex offender. DfE and ISI were not informed by the Charity Commission or SBS that investigation was taking place of that the report had been published.

18. The DfE wrote to the Headmaster, Mr R Simmons on 11 February 2010 to acknowledge the ISI inspection report (PJ/2/4/49-50), still in ignorance of the Charity Commission's findings.

19. In late February 2010 ISI forwarded correspondence they had received from Jonathan West. (PJ/2/5/51-54). I believe that this was the first time I had heard of Mr West and his campaign for survivors of abuse, but cannot be absolutely certain in the absence of complete files. I do not recall my safeguarding colleagues in DfE being aware of Mr West until this correspondence was received. The letter raised concerns about safeguarding practice at St Benedict's, and referred to a number of child protection incidents and investigations at the school dating from 2005 to 2009. The letter included a number of references to incidents concerning child protection at St. Benedict's School, including reference to an investigation by the Charity Commission. This was the first time DfE and ISI had been made aware of the Charity Commission investigation.

20. I became aware of Mr West's letter on 15 March 2010. After reviewing the letter and the Charity Commission investigations I became extremely concerned about the scale of the historic allegations. Mr West's blog and the Inquiries gave me the impression that historical abuse of pupils could have been extensive and several teachers might have been involved. I was surprised that we had nothing on file relating to the prosecutions listed by Mr West, as we had a press cuttings service that alerted us to safeguarding issues in independent schools. I recall this may have arisen because Mr Maestri was teaching in a different school when prosecuted, the reports on Mr Pearce may have related to the Abbey, not SBS, and RC-F41 was acquitted. When DfE handled teacher misconduct cases we would have been informed automatically, but that did not happen once the Criminal Records Bureau took on teacher misconduct cases. While the policy position was that the LADO should have good local knowledge, in the case of SBS the LADO did not have the overview we would have expected.

21. On 17 March 2010 I emailed the Charity Commission, and on 18 March had a teleconference with Tim Hopkins from the Commission, who took the lead in the Commission's inquiry into St Benedict's to share information about the school. I explained to Mr Hopkins that