

I have knowledge of both [RC-F41] and Fr. David Pearce through the preparation of risk assessments in the past. There are very clear differences between these two men, indeed to the extent of comparing chalk and cheese.

Fr. Pearce... has been shown to be a devious predatory offender... [RC-F41] in contrast, impresses as a somewhat compliant, even self-effacing, individual.

... any risk to the children of the School is greatly diminished by the limits placed on [RC-F41] by the abbot and the Diocese of Westminster as detailed in the Covenant of Care... [RC-F41]'s has demonstrated a willingness to abide by restrictions placed on him following the risk assessment completed in 2005 and there is every reason to believe that he will be assiduous in observing the current agreement....

It is considered... that the removal from the Monastery would represent an increased, rather than reduced risk. Depending on his location it may be that he would have less proximity to St. Benedict's School, but would almost inevitably have relatively unrestricted opportunities to have contact with other children without the support and monitoring currently available...

It is considered therefore that the need to protect children, both at St Benedict's and in general, would be best served by [RC-F41] remaining at Ealing with the continued support and monitoring in place in that Community. [PT17]

79. On 21 September 2010, the Diocesan Safeguarding Commission met and discussed the position of RC-F41. The Commission, after considering all the available information including the recommendations of the ISI, RC-F41's age and fragility, and the new conditions detailed on the recent Covenant of Care, recommended that RC-F41 should be allowed to remain residing in the monastery. A new covenant of care was signed on 21 September 2010 and countersigned by me on 26 September 2010. This is exhibited at [PT 18]. The conditions are detailed at page 2.
80. In April 2011 RC-F41 was moved to a convent in [DPA]. This move was arranged by Abbot Martin. I do not recall being told about it in advance. When I did find out about the move, I became aware that Abbot Martin had not informed the Diocese of Brentwood, where the convent was located. I travelled to meet Simon Moules of the Diocese of Brentwood as quickly as I was able to in order to explain the situation with RC-F41. The Bishop of Brentwood subsequently wrote to Abbot Martin to request that RC-F41 be removed from the Diocese of Brentwood on the basis that the Diocese of Brentwood Safeguarding Commission felt that the premises were unsuitable. I know that it was difficult for Abbot Martin to find suitable alternative accommodation.
81. Abbot Martin arranged for RC-F41 to be moved to [DPA] in [DPA] which was within the Diocese of Westminster. I cannot recall whether I was told of the move in advance. Shortly after he moved I visited RC-F41. The manager of the Home was aware of the allegations that had been made against RC-F41. RC-F41 was an elderly and frail man at this time.