

safeguarding policy (and the Director of Safeguarding) was located in a different part of the organisation. The independent schools team had frequent contact with safeguarding colleagues and were always consulted on new policies and publications. Our colleagues provided training so that we were kept up to date with evolving policy and practices. We regularly consulted them for advice on safeguarding matters where we felt these were outside our area of expertise. As well as training from safeguarding experts within the DfE we had contact with practitioners such as the police and social services, particularly when there were changes to policies or practices.

10. In around 2008 I became a governor of a maintained school and, whilst this was outside my professional role at DfE, I also received further safeguarding training in that capacity.

11. I have seen the witness statement of Kate Dixon dated 17 November 2017 which was produced for the Inquiry's Roman Catholic Strand and I agree with the summary that she sets out concerning the DfE's corporate role and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding.

12. I have been asked specifically to address my contact with Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School in relation to concerns about, and/or allegations of, child sexual abuse. I have been asked to include reference to any contact that I had with the Abbot, Headmaster or any other individuals and to give my view on their responses. I have also been asked a number of more specific questions, which I will address in turn. The answer to the initial, more general question is incorporated, as far as possible, with my responses to these specific questions.

Question 1: Please provide details of Ms Jones' contact with Ealing Abbey / St Benedict's School in relation to concerns about, and/or allegations of, child sexual abuse. Please include reference to any contact that Ms Jones has had with the Abbot, Headmaster or any other individuals and her view on their response.

Question 2: In particular, please outline the history of ISI inspections, and the DfE's position in respect of the same, in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

Questions 4 and 8: Please provide details of Ms Jones' engagement with any other authorities in relation to these matters at Ealing Abbey / St Benedict's School.

Question 6: Please outline the history of ISI inspections, and the DfE's position in respect of the same, in 2009, 2010 and 2012.

14. In preparing this statement I have reviewed the DfE's paper files between 2003 and 2018. It is clear from those papers that there may be some gaps within them but where there is a