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16 July 2010

Dear Abbot Martin,

I am writing to enquire about your response to the recommendations made in the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection report of St Benedict's School that followed visits to the school on 30 April and 17 May.

ISI was commissioned by the Department to undertake an emergency inspection focused on safeguarding policies and practices at St Benedict's School, including its relationship with other beneficiaries of the Ealing Abbey Trust. I attach a copy of the ISI's report which is due to be published on Monday. The report catalogues a long history of alleged child protection incidents, some of which have resulted in successful prosecutions of individuals or civil claims against the Abbey Trust. I appreciate that many of the incidents ISI have considered took place many years ago, and that there have been a large number of changes in both the staffing arrangements for the school and the safeguarding procedures observed by the Trust. The ISI report acknowledges the steps the school has taken recently to improve safeguarding practices, and sets out a number of recommendations for action that will further strengthen arrangements.

The Minister of State for Schools is aware of the ISI report and is seeking assurance that all the recommendations ISI has made will be implemented promptly. In particular, the arrangements whereby monks continue to live in the Abbey, under restrictions established by the Abbey in consultation with the Diocese of Westminster, is of serious concern and the Department's view is that these arrangements are inappropriate given that they have proved ineffective in relation to an individual who is now serving a prison sentence for offences involving children.

I would be grateful if you could provide assurance that all ISI's recommendations will be implemented promptly. It would be helpful if you could set out the action you are taking, and the associated timescales, so that we can reassure our Minister that the Trust is continuing to do everything possible to safeguard children at St Benedict's school.