

RESTRICTED

Statement of: SHIPPERLEE, MARTIN

Form MG11(T)

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The Abbot Primate is based in San Anselmo College in Rome. Abbot Primate is a title given to the head of the order internationally. In relation to my statement the Abbott Primate at the relevant time was Notker WOLF OSB. The Abbot President is elected by the other Ruling Abbots and is assisted by a number of officials. Part of his role involves visits to other Abbeys and congregations in order to preserve and strengthen religious life. He is seen as an overall figure head with in the congregation. The Abbot President at the relevant time was Father Frances. The current Abbot President is Dom Richard YEO and he currently resides in Lancashire.

The Abbot at Ealing Abbey has overall responsibility for everything that occurs within the Abbey. The Abbot is elected by the community, the other Monks and they are in post for 8 year terms. The Abbot will appoint a deputy, known as a Prior. This person is chosen solely by the Abbot.

Another important role within the Abbey is that of Bursar. The Bursar is responsible for all financial matters that are connected to the Abbey and answers directly to the Abbott.

I met Lawrence SOPER when I joined the Abbey, he was already there and was in the position of Bursar, and was very competent at this job. I also believe that he taught maths at the school. I would describe him as an intriguing figure who was a workaholic.

Whilst at the Abbey he also held a position as a Catholic Chaplain at Feltham Young Offenders Institute (YOI), a Catholic Chaplain at Harrow School and also had an unofficial role at Basingbourn Army training regiment in Cambridge. This was a brief position he held after retiring as Abbot. I am also aware that he assisted the Abbot Primate in the former East on a number of occasions. I believe that this would have been in to Convent of Nuns in Croatia and was in his role of Bursar.

Lawrence never struck me as having any friends and he never talked about any to me; he would on occasions mention his parents. I believe that they moved to Littlehampton when they both retired. When I first met Lawrence I knew that his parents were still alive and I believe that he was an only child; I don't think he had any close family members but believe that he has a cousin although I do not know any more than that.

Signature: Martin SHIPPERLEE
2018

Signature witnessed by: DC REBECCA COLLINS

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