

5. In August 2010 it was announced that I had been briefed by the Abbot of Ealing Abbey to carry out an independent inquiry. The inquiry follows and arises from disclosures of proved (and some alleged, but not proved) abuse in past years mainly by monks who were members of the monastic Community at the Abbey's Benedictine Monastery. The victims of abuse were pupils at St Benedict's School, to which the Abbey is linked as set out below.
6. At the time when I commenced my inquiry one monk, David Pearce, was (and still is) imprisoned in relation to sexual abuse involving St Benedict's. The production of this report was delayed by a further Crown Court trial of Mr Pearce for sexual abuse: publication had to await the result of the trial, partly because relevant matters arose during the trial and partly because the publication of a report before or during the trial might have risked prejudicing the outcome of the proceedings (which in the event resulted in acquittal).
7. At the time when I commenced the inquiry, another monk at the monastery, Father RC-F41 who had been acquitted of offences by a jury, was barred by the Secretary of State for Education (prior to the formation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority) under Rule 99 from any contact with children but still living there. During the course of my inquiry he moved to live permanently elsewhere. I deal with the underlying principle in paragraphs 57-58 below.
8. I agreed to conduct the inquiry on the understanding that this report would be published on the School and Abbey websites, and made available in printed form on request to the Abbot or school Headmaster. The process was funded by the Abbey and the report is 'owned' by the Abbot and the trustees resident at the Abbey. Any further requests for information, or comment, should therefore be directed to the Abbot.