

1. Identifying Information:

1.1 David Pearce is a sixty-three year old [DPA] male who has been a member of the Ealing Benedictine Abbey for thirty-five years and a priest for twenty-nine years, having been ordained on 28th June 1975. He has been referred for a risk assessment following allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards male children during the time he was a teacher and later headmaster of St. Benedict's school. There are four specific allegations, three of which are categorically denied by Fr. Pearce, who explained the fourth allegation in terms of the victim misinterpreting his behaviour and motivation. All allegations are historical dating from the late 1970's to the late 1980's/early 90's. The dates are imprecise since two of the allegations were made as recently as 2001 and 2004. The three denied allegations were all investigated by the statutory authorities and have resulted in no criminal charges being made against Fr. Pearce. In relation to the other allegation, which although the oldest in terms of chronology, is the one most recently made, it is understood that the victim did not wish to make a formal complaint to the statutory authorities. There have therefore been four allegations, all involving young boys, which span an estimated fifteen or so years during which time Fr. Pearce was in a position of trust and authority in relation to all of the complainants

Personal Qualifications and Relevant Professional Experience

1.2 I have an MSc degree in Clinical Criminology from the University of Birmingham and am accredited by the Home Office as a facilitator on the National Probation Service Community Sex Offender Groupwork programme (CSOGP) and to administer appropriate psychometric testing. I have previously worked in both Social Services and the Probation Service, being a founder member of the West Midlands Probation Service Sex Offender Unit in which I worked from September 1993 – May 2002. I have extensive experience of undertaking risk assessments both in terms of the preparation of reports for the criminal and civil courts and as a member of the joint Police/Probation Public Protection Unit.

1.3 I currently work in an independent capacity providing assessment and therapy services to, among others, the NSPCC, Local Authorities and Civil Courts in relation to Care proceedings in respect of both alleged and convicted sex offenders. I continue as a facilitator on the CSOGP. I have undertaken risk assessments for a number of Diocese and Religious Orders and have provided training on behalf of the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

2. Information Available:

This is limited to the letter of instruction, which outlines the allegation which have been made, and to information provided by Fr. Pearce during interview and through the psychometric measures he has completed

3. Schedule of Appointments:

Fr. Pearce was interviewed on the 10th and 31st January 2005 at Cathedral House Birmingham. He was made aware of the purpose of our meeting and of the limited confidentiality which applied. During these sessions he also completed a range of psychometric measures, including a general Personality Profile, which was interpreted by a Chartered Psychologist.

4. Personal History:

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

He attended St. Benedict's school between the ages of seven and eighteen as a day boy, leaving to train as a dentist at Guy's before joining the Army Dental Corps in which he served for three years, initially in the UK and subsequently in Singapore.

4.2 He indicated that he had felt drawn to the monastic life prior to joining the army, and from about the age of 21 years felt that this would be his vocation. He subsequently joined Ealing Abbey as a novice in 1969 and after studying at Heythrop