

RESTRICTED

Statement of:

RC-A420

Form MG11(T)

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Over the next 6 months I was subject to at least 30 incidents with Father Laurence where I was sexually assaulted. These assaults took place in my cell or the prayer room.

On one occasion I recall him coming into my cell. He grabbed hold of me, turned me around and threw me on the bed. At the time I was wearing just a pair of shorts and a pair of boxer shorts underneath. Father Laurence pulled my shorts and boxer shorts down and I felt him insert a finger into my anus. I felt immediate pain and discomfort. After a few seconds this was replaced by something bigger which I believe to be his penis. He was over the top of me and pinning me to my bed. I then felt his penis going in and out of me for a couple of minutes before I felt him ejaculate inside me. I was frightened and I had froze from the moment he had entered my cell. I felt like I couldn't stop it and I had to go along with it. I couldn't get away from this man. After he had finished with me he just left my cell and left me on the bed. This sort of thing happened to me on at least 10 occasions. On other occasions he would just rub my penis through my shorts or physically rub it by going through the side of my shorts.

After about 3 months of this sort of abuse I tried to report it to Mr George BUCHANAN. He was the Senior Office on [DPA] Unit. I told him the full extent of the abuse. He told me 'Not to rock the boat' and 'We haven't had this conversation'. I walked out of the room knowing nobody would believe me and I couldn't report it to anyone else. I went to my cell and burst into tears. That night I used my bedsheets to try to hang myself. I wanted to die. A prison officer found me hanging and pulled me down before I passed. The abuse went on right up to my release.

I have shut that horrific chapter of my life out and tried to move on until recently.

Approximately 5 weeks ago I saw a news item on my phone on a Sky News app. The article related to Father Laurence SOPHER being 'on the run' in relation to historical child sex abuse allegations. I spent the next day or so building up the courage before calling the Police to report what had happened to me.

At the time of my abuse Father Laurence SOPHER was a [DPA] male, [DPA] inches, [DPA] build and aged approximately 50 years of age. He had [DPA] hair that was brushed back and he was clean shaven. He wore glasses that had dark rims and thick foculs. He spoke with what I would describe as a [DPA]

Signature:
2018

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Signature witnessed by:

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