

77. Interview 27/7/04: [Tape missing but transcript survives] As a result of [RC-A622] [RC-A622] interview in February 2004 the defendant flew back from Rome and was arrested for sexual assault and rape of [RC-A622] and interviewed on the 27th July 2004. The above interview took place at Uxbridge police station. The defendant said the name rang a bell but other than that he didn't remember this pupil and had no memory of caning him. The allegations were put to the defendant and in short he strongly denied them. He accepted there was a time when he was Division Master in 1975 and he was in charge of discipline and it was his duty to cane boys – he described how this took place once or twice a week and that he would never check for marks.

78. Interview 24/6/09: As a result of allegations made by [RC-A11] the defendant returned from Rome to Heathrow Police Station by appointment on the 24th June 2009 he was not under arrest but was interviewed under caution. The defendant stated that he joined Ealing Abbey in 1964 then got a degree in Theology, trained as a teacher between 1972-73 and began teaching at St Benedict's in 1973. He explained that he taught mainly maths from 1973 to 1983/4 when he became Prior of the Monastery. He said he had initially been a form teacher then was a year master this involved disciplining the boys. He was Master in Charge of the Middle School for a time this was boys between 11 and 13 years, although, technically the Middle School came under the control of the Senior School. The function of the Master in Charge was pastoral as well as disciplinary. This was a day not a boarding school. Discipline took a variety of forms from detention and, writing lines to getting the cane. All Divisional and Year Masters had their own rooms. He therefore had a room in the main school and in the Middle School which was at the top of the building near the library. He said that to get the cane a boy had to do something persistently and would have had other types of discipline first. He did not cane boys regularly it was around once a fortnight. They would be caned on the backside over their uniform. When asked about [RC-A11] the defendant stated that his name rang no bells at all. He strongly denied the allegations. He never caned anyone regularly and would not look or feel for padding under their trousers/pants. He said he did have some fencing equipment in his room.

79. Following this interview, the defendant returned to Rome.

80. Activities in Rome-background: Allegations continued to be made against the defendant and concerns were reported to the Abbot Primate (Head of World Wide Benedictine Order). As a result Abbot Shipperlee with the agreement of the police went to Rome to speak with Soper and inform him of the allegations. You will hear