

IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Between:

REGINA

-V-

ANDREW CHARLES KINGSTON SOPER

(Aka Father Laurence Soper)

Date of birth DPA 43

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OPENING NOTE

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*This is not a script but a guide to the evidence which the Prosecution propose to open to the Jury. The Prosecution reserve the right to expand on any matter contained herein, and/or draw the Jury's attention to additional evidence which has been served without further notice.*

**1. Indictment**

2. **Background:** This case concerns the behaviour of, as he was then, Father Laurence Soper (given name Andrew Charles Kingston Soper). After a short career in banking Soper entered the monastery joining Ealing Abbey in 1964, he became a Benedictine Monk and was ordained as a priest in 1970. He was a teacher from 1972 throughout the period in the indictment at St Benedict's School, Eaton Rise, Ealing N5. For a time 1977- 1983 he was Head of the Middle School. Soper was also the school bursar (responsible for all financial matters connected to the Abbey) for many years up until 1991. In 1984 he was appointed Prior (deputy to the Abbot) and from 1991 until his resignation in 2000 he held the very senior position of Abbot of Ealing Abbey. The Abbot has overall responsibility for everything that occurs within the Abbey.
3. On retiring as Abbot in 2000 sometime later Soper moved to the Benedictine headquarters at Collegio Sant'Anselmo in Rome and became general treasurer of the International Benedictine Confederation in 2002 until his disappearance in 2011.
4. The Roman Catholic Parish of St Benedict, Ealing, is under the care of Ealing Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery of the English Benedictine Congregation. The congregation is really an umbrella that unites Benedictine Monks and Nuns in England.