

Outline of circumstances and decision/advice sought (unless verbal report given)

(Consider: time limit on proceedings (if applicable); strengths and weaknesses of case; possible lines of defence; witness assessment; public safety/bail issues; disclosure; any financial or asset recovery issues; orders on conviction; public interest.)

This report relates to an historic allegation of indecent assault on a 12 or 13 year old boy by his maths teacher which took place at the teacher's home address in the early 1980s.

Victim: [RC-A11] (date of birth: [DPA] 1968)

Suspect: John Maestri (date of birth [DPA] 1938)

Origin of investigation

Maestri was a maths teacher at St Benedict's Roman Catholic Boys' School, 54 Eaton Rise, Ealing, W5 from 1971 until 1984. During his tenure at the school, Maestri resided at [DPA] a flat owned by St Benedict's.

On Friday 1st February 2008 [RC-A11] contacted police in relation to an allegation against Fr David Pearce who had been arrested and interviewed by Northwood CAIT officers regarding child sexual abuse allegations. [RC-A11] had been made aware of Pearce's arrest through news reports. He informed the attending police officers that Fr Pearce had masturbated under his cassock. Whilst making these allegations he also stated that Maestri had tried to masturbate him, put his finger in his anus and made [RC-A11] say that he loved him (Maestri). At the time the reporting officers believed [RC-A11] was under the influence of drink or drugs and he admitted that he was an alcoholic and suffered from a personality disorder and PTSD for which he had received treatment.

Interview of [RC-A11]

The investigation was passed to the Northwood CAIT and [RC-A11] was ABE interviewed on 12th February 2008 by DS Gareth Morgan, Northwood CAIT. He stated that he attended St Benedict's from 1975 until 1981, being taught maths by Maestri between 1979 and 1981. [RC-A11] said that he hadn't been doing well in school as he was looking after himself and his ^{sensitive} mother. It was arranged, [RC-A11] believes initiated by Maestri, that he would receive private tuition from Maestri. [RC-A11] attended Maestri's flat on a Saturday morning where he was sexually assaulted. He believes he was about 12 or 13 years old at the time, in the second year of middle school. He had turned up with some sports kit because they were due to play badminton as well as the tuition. When they went to the gym [RC-A11] changed into his sports kit in the changing rooms in the presence of Maestri. He recalls that something happened at that time as he felt threatened and Maestri was breathing heavily but his memory was hazy. He didn't believe they played badminton but returned to Maestri's flat, [RC-A11] was still wearing his shorts. Maestri was sat on a chair at his desk where the computer was situated and kept turning the screen around so that [RC-A11] couldn't see it. He said "Come her, come and sit on my lap." He had his arm around [RC-A11] and then was trying to masturbate him by putting his hand underneath his shorts, rubbing his penis. He also tried to put his finger up [RC-A11]'s anus and was rubbing his erect penis against [RC-A11]'s bottom. Maestri was kissing [RC-A11] putting his tongue down his throat. He was saying "I love you [RC-A11] you don't know how much I love you." He said that he was frightened and was wriggling around to prevent the incident escalating. He said that he had to tell Maestri that he loved him. He believes stopped because there was noise at the door and he went into another room to get changed before leaving the flat.

A couple of weeks after the incident [RC-A11] told his father what had happened and his father reacted by saying "Don't be ridiculous, don't talk such nonsense" but he never returned for further lessons. He stated that he was asked to leave the school in 1981 due to his disruptive behaviour. He stated that since his experiences at St Benedict's he has found it difficult to retain friendships and he has a drink problem. He has told his psychiatrist about the abuse.

Miscellaneous content of interview

In the interview [RC-A11] stated that Fr David Pearce ran the Combined Cadet Force in sheds in the school grounds and he saw boys leave the sheds crying whilst pulling their trousers up. He did not know the names of the boys involved but stated they aged between 11 and 14 years old. He stated that Fr David would have boys sitting on his lap in front of the class including himself, and would put his hand on the boys' thighs. He also saw Fr David masturbating under his cassock in the classroom.

In relation to Fr Laurence Soper he claimed that Fr Laurence caned him on a regular basis and would demand that [RC-A11] should take his trousers down so he could cane his bare bottom but he refused. He said that he demanded this in case [RC-A11] was hiding books down his trousers.

[RC-A11] stated that he was asked to leave the school because he had been disruptive. ◆ Delete as applicable