

One page summary of English Benedictine Congregation case study, part of the Roman Catholic investigation

- The sexual abuse of children within the Roman Catholic Church has been a matter of national and international concern for many years: the Archbishop of Westminster's calls for this Inquiry to be established reflected that concern.
- The Inquiry is holding public hearings into allegations about the sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the Roman Catholic Church.
- This first case study will examine the English Benedictine Congregation which has been the subject of numerous allegations of child sexual abuse, including at schools run by the Congregation.
- The hearings will amongst other things examine the relationship between Orders such as the Benedictines and the Catholic Church in England and Wales and consider how that relationship impacts on child protection.
- It will also evaluate whether any failings identified within the English Benedictine Congregation, and within any other case studies identified as part of the investigation, are representative of wider failings within the Catholic Church.
- The hearings will also examine past reports and inquiries into the Catholic Church, such as the Nolan report into safeguarding and the church's response to that report.
- Ten individuals, mostly monks, connected to these two institutions have been convicted or cautioned in relation to offences involving sexual activity with a large number of children, or pornography.
- The true scale of sexual abuse of children in the schools over 40 years is likely to be considerably higher than number of perpetrators convicted.
- A report into Ampleforth and Downside will be published after these hearings.
- Due to ongoing legal proceedings, Ealing Abbey school will not form part of these hearings. A separate public hearing will be held to deal with Ealing Abbey.