

<p>1 Monday, 4 February 2019 2 (10.30 am) 3 Welcome and opening remarks by THE CHAIR 4 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. I am Alexis Jay, and 5 I am the chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child 6 Sexual Abuse. With me are the other panel members of 7 the inquiry: Ivor Frank, Professor Sir Malcolm Evans and 8 Drusilla Sharpling. 9 On behalf of the inquiry, I welcome you all to the 10 first day of this substantive hearing in respect of 11 Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School. This hearing 12 will run for five days, finishing on Friday, 8 February. 13 The hearing into Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's 14 School forms part of the inquiry's wider case study into 15 the English Benedictine Congregation. The English 16 Benedictine Congregation is one of two case studies 17 being considered by the inquiry as part of its 18 examination into the extent of any institutional 19 failures to protect children from child sexual abuse 20 within the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales. 21 The first public hearings in connection with the 22 English Benedictine Congregation case study took place 23 last year, 27 November and 15 December, and considered 24 evidence about Ampleforth and Downside Abbeys and their 25 respective schools. The inquiry's report into</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 Ampleforth and Downside was published on 9 August 2018. 2 The second case study being considered by the 3 inquiry is a case study into the Archdiocese of 4 Birmingham. Between 12 and 18 November 2018, the 5 inquiry held public hearings into the nature and extent 6 of child sexual abuse by individuals associated with the 7 archdiocese and the archdiocese's response to 8 disclosures of allegations of child sexual abuse. The 9 inquiry's report into the Archdiocese of Birmingham will 10 be published this summer. 11 The investigation into the Roman Catholic Church is 12 itself part of the inquiry's wider investigation into 13 institutional failures in connection with the abuse of 14 children in England and Wales. A further public hearing 15 will take place later this year, beginning on 16 28 October 2019. 17 As you all know, the task of the chair and panel of 18 the inquiry is to examine the extent to which public and 19 private institutions in England and Wales have failed to 20 protect children from sexual abuse in the past and to 21 make meaningful recommendations to keep children safe 22 today and in the future. 23 The inquiry's broader programme of work was 24 published in December 2016. In 2017, the inquiry held 25 public hearings on the Child Migration Programme case</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>
<p>1 study as part of its broader investigation into the 2 Protection of Children Outside the United Kingdom and on 3 Cambridge House Boys' Hostel, Knowl View School and 4 Rochdale. The inquiry published its reports into these 5 two case studies during the course of 2018. In 6 addition, in 2018, the inquiry also held public hearings 7 in connection with its investigations into the Internet, 8 the Anglican Church, Children in Custodial Institutions 9 and Nottinghamshire Councils. This is part of a full 10 timetable of substantive hearings and seminars in 11 a number of the inquiry's investigations, the timetable 12 for which we have published up to and 13 including February 2020. 14 On behalf of the inquiry, I am, as always, 15 appreciative of all the assistance of the core 16 participants and their legal teams. I know that a great 17 deal of work has gone into preparing witness statements 18 and providing disclosure. 19 To the complainants, victims and survivors who will 20 give evidence before the inquiry during this hearing, 21 and to those who have given written testimony, we are 22 grateful to you for coming forward to assist the 23 inquiry. 24 We are conscious of the great challenges that many 25 of you have encountered as a result of your experiences</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>	<p>1 as children, and I want to assure you of the high 2 priority that the inquiry places on this investigation 3 and on hearing of your experiences. 4 The lead counsel to this investigation, Ms Riel 5 Karmy-Jones QC, will in a moment introduce the core 6 participants and, where appropriate, their legal 7 representatives. 8 Before she does so, a couple of points on the timing 9 for the week: we will sit each day from 10.30 am. 10 Ordinarily, we will take a 15-minute break at around 11 11.30 am, and we will break for lunch at 1.00 pm, 12 returning at 2.00 pm. We intend to sit each day until 13 around 4.15 pm, perhaps 4.30 pm, save for Friday, when 14 we need to conclude the hearing by 4.00 pm. By way of 15 an agenda, we rely on the hearing timetable, which sets 16 out the order in which witnesses will be called, save 17 for where unforeseen circumstances require a change to 18 be made. 19 The hearing transcript is recorded simultaneously on 20 screens throughout the room and will be published at the 21 end of each day on the inquiry website. Any directions 22 arising from the day's hearing will also be published on 23 the website. 24 There are anonymity arrangements in place for the 25 complainant core participants who will be giving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 evidence throughout the hearing. Ciphering and 2 redactions have also been used in relation to the 3 evidence in accordance with the inquiry's redaction 4 protocol and restriction order, both of which are 5 available on the website, except for complainant 6 witnesses who have waived their right to anonymity. If 7 there is any inadvertent breach of a restriction order, 8 I will ask that the simultaneous recording be briefly 9 stopped so that the issue can be addressed as 10 appropriate. 11 Please now go ahead, Ms Karmy-Jones. 12 Opening statement by MS KARMY-JONES 13 MS KARMY-JONES: Thank you. Chair and members of the panel, 14 I am assisted in this hearing by junior counsel to the 15 inquiry, Mr Donmall, who sits next to me, and also 16 Ms Sane, who is not in the room at the moment, but 17 others may see during the course of these proceedings. 18 May I introduce the legal representatives for the 19 core participants present. I think you will also have 20 a seating plan available to assist you through the 21 course of the hearing. 22 Complainants A43 to 51, A53 to 54, A64 to 66, A69, 23 A70, A72 and A75, the West London Benedictine Order 24 Abuse Survivors, are represented by Mr O'Donnell and 25 Mr Scorer, who sit next to me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 F13 is represented by Mr Jacobs and Mr Enright of 2 Howe & Co, who sit just along from them. 3 G2 is represented by Mr Khan Queen's Counsel, who 4 sits behind Mr Donmall. 5 C18 and C19 are represented by Mr Chapman and 6 Mr Greenwood, who are behind me. 7 Mr Child and Eileen Shearer, both represented by 8 Ms Griffiths QC and Mr King, are to the back of 9 the room. 10 Mr West, again represented by Mr O'Donnell and 11 Mr Scorer. 12 The English Benedictine Congregation are represented 13 by Ms Gallafent QC. 14 The Monastic Community of Ealing are represented by 15 Ms Henke QC. 16 The Catholic Council for IICSA is also represented 17 by Ms Gallafent QC. 18 Ampleforth is represented by Mr Kelly, who is in the 19 back row at the middle. 20 The Secretary of State for Education by Ms McGahey 21 QC. 22 The Independent Schools Inspectorate by Mr Wolfe QC, 23 Mr Lawson, Ms McKimm and Caroline Hoare. 24 The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis by 25 Ms Leek QC and Ofsted by Ms Hannett.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>
<p>1 I am going to outline, by way of introduction, the 2 case study in brief. As you have said as part of your 3 opening comments, this hearing is part of the inquiry's 4 investigation into the Roman Catholic Church. It is the 5 second and last of the substantive public hearings in 6 relation to the investigation into the English 7 Benedictine Congregation. 8 As was outlined in the Report published by the 9 inquiry in August of last year, there are ten English 10 Benedictine Congregations in England and none in Wales. 11 Four of these congregations have independent fee-paying 12 schools associated with them, and those are Ampleforth, 13 Downside, Ealing and Worth. 14 For reasons outlined in your determination of 15 27 July 2017, the hearing into Ealing Abbey was 16 separated into that of Ampleforth and Downside, and 17 in May 2018, on the 21st, you, having received no 18 submissions in respect of Worth Abbey from any core 19 participant, determined that Worth Abbey would not be 20 separately considered and that the evidence to be heard 21 in respect of Ampleforth, Downside and Ealing was 22 sufficient to consider matters in respect of the English 23 Benedictine Congregation as a whole. 24 This case study will therefore focus on Ealing Abbey 25 and St Benedict's School. Over the next week, we will</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 seek to explore events at Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's 2 School and the extent to which those and other 3 institutions have taken seriously their responsibility 4 to safeguard children and to protect them from sexual 5 abuse. We will, towards the end of the hearing, also 6 hearing from Abbot President Christopher Jamison as to 7 the future and how the English Benedictine Congregation 8 propose to deal with the failings that you identified in 9 your August 2018 report in order to effectively combat 10 child sexual abuse and to protect children in the 11 future. 12 Now, as part of investigations, the solicitor to the 13 inquiry has written to the Apostolic Nuncio in London to 14 request that he provide a statement in connection with 15 this investigation. The Apostolic Nuncio is, in effect, 16 the Holy See's ambassador to the United Kingdom and is, 17 because of that role, covered by diplomatic immunity. 18 The inquiry's request was therefore for a voluntary 19 statement providing an explanation of: the 20 Apostolic Nuncio's role, its relationship with other 21 institutions of the Roman Catholic Church; the process 22 by which the Apostolic Nuncio handles reports of child 23 sexual abuse; the Apostolic Nuncio's involvement in the 24 laicization process; the Apostolic Nuncio's involvement 25 in handling allegations arising out of St Benedict's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 School and Ealing Abbey; how the Apostolic Nuncio dealt 2 with reports received from the Abbot President of 3 the EBC in relation to Ealing Abbey; their knowledge of 4 or involvement in handling allegations, particularly 5 against Laurence Soper, David Pearce and RC-F41; and the 6 apostolic visitation of 2011/2012.</p> <p>7 The inquiry received confirmation from the 8 Apostolic Nuncio that its request was being carefully 9 considered, but that, due to the diplomatic nature of 10 the Nunciature, the Apostolic Nuncio would need to 11 consult with the Holy See. Despite a number of further 12 requests for an update on the progress of those 13 discussions, the inquiry has not yet received 14 a statement nor any substantive response to its 15 correspondence.</p> <p>16 Turning now to Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's 17 School, by way of background, the monastery at Ealing 18 was founded in 1897, after monks from Downside had been 19 entrusted with the care of the local parish two years 20 before. It came an independent community in 1947, 21 achieving abbey status in 1955, thereby becoming the 22 first Benedictine abbey in Greater London since the 23 Reformation. The Roman Catholic Church Parish of 24 St Benedict, Ealing, is under the care of Ealing Abbey 25 and does not form part of the Archdiocese of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 Westminster.</p> <p>2 St Benedict's School, previously known as Ealing 3 Priory School, was founded in 1902 by the Downside 4 monks. It is an independent school and the only English 5 Benedictine Congregation day school in England. It 6 began as a boys' school, girls being admitted in 2007, 7 and the school accepts children from nursery age, of 8 about 3, to 18. The senior school has had a lay 9 headmaster since 1987 and the junior school since 2000. 10 The overarching responsibility for the school as a whole 11 has rested with the head of the senior school since 12 2006.</p> <p>13 The school, both junior and senior, is situated 14 alongside the monastery, which itself sits next to the 15 abbey church. Unlike Ampleforth and Downside, the 16 setting is more urban, in a more built-up, residential 17 area of Ealing in West London.</p> <p>18 I am going to ask, just so that we can put what I am 19 going to say during the course of the opening into 20 context, for some photographs to be shown, please, on 21 the screen. The reference for the first set is 22 INQ003939. This is a Google Map which shows an outline 23 of the layout, if you like, of the school and how it is 24 situated.</p> <p>25 You can see in the middle that there is a blue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>
<p>1 cross-shaped building. That is Ealing Abbey Church. 2 I don't know if it is possible to indicate on this. But 3 in the centre, Ealing Abbey Church you can see. There 4 we go. Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 To the left of Ealing Abbey Church, there is the 6 monastery, as we look at it to our left. To the right, 7 if you look on Marchwood Crescent, there are residential 8 houses. If you look down the centre, you will see 9 a road coming off Montpelier Avenue that curves down 10 towards the back of Ealing Abbey Church.</p> <p>11 Just off that road, where it kinks to the right, 12 there is a gate. That gate takes one into the junior 13 area, and you can see that marked up on the map. 14 I think we are moving on. You can see on this screen 15 St Benedict's School Nursery and Junior School there. 16 To the right of that is the senior school and the sixth 17 form.</p> <p>18 If we go to the left, where you see the pink cursor, 19 just to the left of the little pink mark, almost 20 directly in the centre of the page, that is the area 21 where the old middle school was, in Laurence Soper's 22 time, and I think that that area was -- that's right, 23 thank you very much. So you can see Benedict's garden 24 on the lower right-hand side, just above that, was where 25 the old middle school was, and I think that was shut in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 around the 1980s.</p> <p>2 Now, the road -- staying on this, the road that is 3 to the right of this map that cuts down towards the 4 transept of the abbey church, that is a private road 5 that is used to access the residences from the rear and 6 from which the gate to the junior school comes off.</p> <p>7 Can we then, please -- thank you very much -- move 8 to the fourth photograph in this set. That is 9 Ealing Abbey Church from the front, and the brick 10 building to what is our left-hand side is the monastery 11 accommodation, the monastic accommodation.</p> <p>12 Can we go to photograph number 5? Another view, 13 showing the full frontage of the abbey church.</p> <p>14 Can we go to photograph number 3, please. This is 15 the senior and junior schools. It's the science block, 16 in fact, the science lab, principally used by the senior 17 school. If we turn to photograph number 2, this is in 18 fact the site of the junior school.</p> <p>19 Number 6. This is the sixth form of the school. So 20 we can see a very different type of setting to those of 21 Ampleforth and Downside which were considered in the 22 last hearing.</p> <p>23 Can I ask that BNT001030 is now brought up, please. 24 The second page, please. Now, if you are able to rotate 25 it so that Marchwood Crescent is on the south of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 the page, that would be very helpful. Thank you very 2 much. So Marchwood Crescent, we saw earlier, was the 3 road upon which the abbey church overlooks and where the 4 entrance is. If we look at this, we can see the layout, 5 with the red line drawn around it, of the school area. 6 So the junior school is towards the left-hand side of 7 the middle of the page. The whole school's public 8 entrance is on Montpelier Avenue, which is on the left 9 side. You can see the sports hall, the block in the 10 middle; the science building which we looked at is at 11 the north, Eastdown, main building, 54 Eaton Rise, the 12 cloisters, orchard and the hall wing. You can see the 13 visitors' entrance is on Eaton Rise on the right-hand 14 side. 15 The gate that I referred to into the junior school, 16 if one goes down the lane going towards the abbey -- you 17 can see the kink that we saw on the past photograph -- 18 and there is the gate into the junior school area. 19 Thank you very much. 20 Of the more recent abbots, there have been 21 Charles Pontifex, who was abbot between 1955 to 1956, 22 who is now deceased; Rupert Hall between 1956 to 1967, 23 now deceased; Francis Rossiter, between 1967 and 1991; 24 Laurence Soper between 1991 and 2000; and 25 Martin Shipperlee, who became abbot in 2000, was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 re-elected in 2008 and again in 2016 and is the present 2 Abbot of Ealing. 3 Of those still living, Francis Rossiter is ill and 4 infirm. He will not be giving evidence at this hearing. 5 Laurence Soper was arrested in 2010 on charges of 6 child sexual abuse. He was convicted shortly after our 7 last hearing in December 2017 and is currently serving 8 a prison term of 18 years. I will come back to the 9 reasons for the delay in his prosecution in a moment. 10 According to Abbot Shipperlee, there were 24 monks 11 in 1980 and only 15 by 2018 at Ealing Abbey. Two of 12 the current monks are presently under restrictions 13 following allegations of child sexual abuse. Those are 14 F46 and F41. 15 F41 left the monastery site in 2011; F46 is still at 16 the abbey and still under restrictions. 17 The recent headmasters of St Benedict's School 18 Senior School have been Father George Brown in the late 19 1960s to '70s; Father Anthony Gee, the late '70s to mid 20 '80s; Father Gregory Chillman, 1985; Father Dachs, 1986 21 to 2002; Christopher Cleugh, 2002 to 2016; and 22 Andrew Johnson, who is the present head. 23 As for the junior school, they have been Dom Hayes; 24 Dom Dunstan Watkins; Father David Pearce, between 1985 25 and 1993; Father Martin Shipperlee, now abbot, between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>
<p>1 1993 and 2000; Dennis McSweeney, between 2000 and 2005; 2 Catherine Nathan, between 2005 and 2006; and 3 Robert Simmons, between 2006 and today. 4 Turning now to the allegations, there have been 5 a number of allegations of child sexual abuse at 6 St Benedict's School over the last 30 years. Many of 7 the complaints of abuse have arisen out of corporal 8 punishment, which was often used as an excuse and means 9 through which to sexually abuse children. Precisely how 10 many allegations have been made is unclear, as record 11 keeping and reporting of incidents in the abbey have 12 been inconsistent and incomplete. By way of a snapshot, 13 since 2003, there have been two monks and three teachers 14 convicted of approximately 50 offences involving the 15 sexual abuse of children perpetrated over a period from 16 the 1970s to 2015. In addition, the inquiry is aware of 17 at least 18 further allegations made since 1992 against 18 these four men and five others, some of whom are now 19 deceased. 20 The allegations made against individuals at Ealing 21 demonstrate a wide spectrum of behaviour, spanning from: 22 excessive physical chastisement, sometimes apparently 23 for sexual gratification; grooming; fondling of 24 genitalia; anal penetration; and rape. 25 During the course of this hearing, you are likely to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 hear of occasions where it appears that: victims did not 2 want to report allegations; reports were ignored; 3 families did not consider that the complaints made by 4 their children were serious, or did not want to report, 5 perhaps due to a misguided idea of what the child's best 6 interests were, perhaps due to a loyalty to their 7 religion; staff and monks were aware of the rumours, 8 aware of the abuse, but turned a blind eye due to 9 pressure put upon them by those in power at the 10 institution; occasions when police and statutory 11 agencies were not informed or involved; you may hear of 12 occasions where there were failures of communication, 13 both inside the institutions themselves and between the 14 other institutions with which they dealt; that there 15 were failures of record keeping; incomplete or 16 misleading information was provided to statutory 17 agencies; abusers were made to leave the school, but 18 provided with a reference to obtain work elsewhere; when 19 abusers were allowed to remain in their posts and/or 20 remain at the abbey; and also of instances where 21 restrictions were put in place yet further abuse was 22 nonetheless perpetrated. 23 Those who were in positions of authority at the 24 abbey and the school may accept some failings and may 25 place reliance on changes that have been made since the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 Carlile Review in 2011 and 2012. We anticipate that the 2 wider English Benedictine Congregation will also cite 3 changes made more recently, and perhaps even since your 4 report in August 2018. These will, of course, be for 5 you to consider and set against the question of whether 6 safeguarding problems are still ongoing and whether 7 children remain at risk.</p> <p>8 Looking at the allegations, then, in more detail, it 9 goes without saying that in this short hearing we will 10 not be able to cover every allegation or every accused. 11 But I am going to, for the remainder of my introductory 12 comments, look briefly at four who were convicted, 13 placing a greater emphasis on two of them: David Pearce 14 and Laurence Soper.</p> <p>15 But I am going to begin with the first in time, 16 John Maestri, and dealing with him in summary only.</p> <p>17 John Maestri is the first man to have been 18 convicted. He is known to have abused at least seven 19 pupils of St Benedict's School. Following allegations 20 being made against him in 1984, the then Abbot, 21 Francis Rossiter, decided that it would not be 22 appropriate for Maestri to continue in his newly 23 appointed role as head of the middle school. Maestri 24 accepted this decision and left the school. 25 Abbot Rossiter has, however, in a statement he made</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 subsequently to police, said that he believes he wrote 2 him a positive reference to apply to become a teacher. 3 No written records were kept of the incident and no 4 disclosure made to the statutory authorities. At some 5 point, certainly by 1988, Maestri had obtained 6 a position at St Benet's Hall which, as we heard in the 7 last hearing, is a Permanent Private Hall of 8 the University of Oxford established in 1897 by 9 Ampleforth Abbey that to this day retains strong ties to 10 the English Benedictine Community.</p> <p>11 Maestri was subsequently prosecuted and, 12 in December 2003, he pleaded guilty to indecently 13 assaulting four boys, including, one, RC-A419. 14 Maestri was sentenced to 30 months in prison and, as we 15 shall see, there is evidence to suggest that RC-A419 16 also made a complaint against David Pearce.</p> <p>17 In January 2005, Maestri was convicted of a further 18 indecent assault against RC-A625 and he received 19 a community sentence. In January 2009, Maestri pleaded 20 guilty to indecently assaulting two other boys, one of 21 whom was RC-A11, who, as we will hear, was also a victim 22 of Laurence Soper. Maestri received a two-year prison 23 sentence, suspended for two years.</p> <p>24 Just by way of a side note, as this may come up 25 during the course of the hearing, David Pearce was also</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>
<p>1 arrested and charged with indecent assault and gross 2 indecency against A11, but the Crown Prosecution Service 3 abandoned those charges at Pearce's trial in 2009. In 4 2011, Maestri was jointly charged with Pearce in respect 5 of offences against another boy, A599. Both men were 6 acquitted. A further allegation was made against 7 Maestri in 2014 by RC-A618, who also named RC-A641 as 8 another victim. Maestri denied the first allegation, 9 but admitted assaulting RC-A641, but, in the event, the 10 victim decided that he did not wish to take matters 11 further and there was no prosecution.</p> <p>12 David Pearce. David Pearce had a long history of 13 association with St Benedict's School and Ealing Abbey. 14 He attended St Benedict's School as a child and was 15 ordained a priest in 1965, becoming a member of 16 the Ealing Abbey Community in 1969. He taught at the 17 school between 1976 to 1993, during which time he held 18 significant positions, first as head of year in the 19 senior school, and then as headmaster of the junior 20 school. He is alleged, or has been found, to have 21 sexually abused at least 14 pupils at St Benedict's 22 School over a 30-year period, spanning 23 from September 1976 to January 2008.</p> <p>24 One of the first allegations made was in 1992 by 25 RC-A595, an 11-year-old boy. He disclosed to his sister</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 that, after giving a class on child abuse on 2 4 June 1992, Father Pearce had called him into his study 3 and questioned him about whether he had been physically 4 abused by his own father. It is said that Father Pearce 5 made RC-A595 lock the door and remove his shorts and 6 underwear before proceeding to rub his buttocks and 7 insert a finger into his anus for approximately three 8 minutes. RC-A595 said that Father Pearce then told him: 9 "It's best if we keep this our secret for now". A595's 10 sister told their mother, and the police were contacted. 11 We will be looking at this incident a little more 12 closely. Suffice to say at this stage that there were 13 some issues, including confusion about dates and 14 a counterallegation that was made, that the child had 15 been beaten by his own father.</p> <p>16 Pearce was interviewed and released on bail. 17 Abbot Soper allowed him to remain at the school and did 18 not suspend him from teaching, saying that this was 19 justified because the matter "appeared to be 20 a smokescreen for the alleged activity of the father", 21 and this was endorsed by a senior advisory governor and 22 by the school's solicitors.</p> <p>23 The police referred the matter to the Crown 24 Prosecution Service. The papers show that the police 25 considered that the child would "make an excellent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 witness and appears to be thoroughly truthful".</p> <p>2 However, on 14 July 1992, the Crown Prosecution Service</p> <p>3 advised that there was insufficient evidence to provide</p> <p>4 a realistic prospect of conviction. This decision was</p> <p>5 based on the uncorroborated nature of the child's</p> <p>6 account, the absence of supporting medical evidence, and</p> <p>7 the fact that there were matters which the lawyers said</p> <p>8 might be properly put by the defence to the child to</p> <p>9 undermine his reliability and credibility and,</p> <p>10 additionally, to ascribe him with a motive for telling</p> <p>11 less than the whole truth; that included alleged</p> <p>12 inconsistencies in the statements provided by family</p> <p>13 members. No further action was taken.</p> <p>14 In 1993, Pearce was replaced in the position of</p> <p>15 headmaster by Father Shipperlee and Pearce became bursar</p> <p>16 of Ealing Abbey. It is of note that also in 1993 the</p> <p>17 Bishops' Conference of England and Wales established</p> <p>18 a committee to produce national guidelines in respect of</p> <p>19 safeguarding, with the result that the Budd Report was</p> <p>20 established in 1994.</p> <p>21 In 1997, another complaint was made against</p> <p>22 Father Pearce by RC-A418, who had attended St Benedict's</p> <p>23 School from 1982 to 1997 between the ages of 4 and 19.</p> <p>24 He said that after swimming lessons, Father Pearce would</p> <p>25 check if the boys were dry by touching their back,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 buttocks and genital area. If a boy lost his locker</p> <p>2 key, Father Pearce would put his hands down their</p> <p>3 swimming trunks on the pretext of checking if the key</p> <p>4 were there. Father Pearce would also watch the boys as</p> <p>5 they showered and, on occasion, film them or join them</p> <p>6 in the shower. He also remembered a specific incident</p> <p>7 when he was around 10 years old and was sent to</p> <p>8 Father Pearce's office because he had a rash on his</p> <p>9 upper body. Father Pearce insisted on examining his</p> <p>10 genital area, even though A418 told him that the rash</p> <p>11 did not go below his waist. A418 told his mother of his</p> <p>12 discomfort during swimming lessons and she wrote to the</p> <p>13 school and pulled him out of those lessons.</p> <p>14 As well as his mother, A418 told his drama teacher,</p> <p>15 Katherine Ravenscroft. He told her that "hundreds of</p> <p>16 boys would have similar stories to relate". However, it</p> <p>17 seems that she took no action at that stage.</p> <p>18 Katherine Ravenscroft subsequently told police that when</p> <p>19 she joined St Benedict's School in 1990, there had been</p> <p>20 rumours about Pearce, but because of the nature of</p> <p>21 the school under Abbot Soper, it was difficult to</p> <p>22 complain. When Soper stood down as abbot and was</p> <p>23 replaced by Dom Martin Shipperlee, Ms Ravenscroft did</p> <p>24 complain, however, and a meeting was arranged with A418</p> <p>25 who had, by this time, left the school. Following that,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>
<p>1 he gave a full statement to police, which included</p> <p>2 further allegations of a similar nature in respect of</p> <p>3 other boys. Enquiries were made with RC-A632, who</p> <p>4 corroborated much of what A418 had said. It was also</p> <p>5 discovered by police that a very similar allegation had</p> <p>6 been made by another boy, RC-A631, in 1998. Soper had</p> <p>7 met with the parents and told them that the school would</p> <p>8 deal with the matter, but it appeared that there were no</p> <p>9 records of this and the police crime report notes that</p> <p>10 "Father Pearce was not challenged by Father Laurence</p> <p>11 about his behaviour".</p> <p>12 In 2002, however, the police concluded that there</p> <p>13 was no evidence of criminal offences, and that the</p> <p>14 allegations were of a "minor nature" relating to</p> <p>15 inappropriate rather than criminal behaviour. It was</p> <p>16 also noted that two of the boys were, in any event,</p> <p>17 reluctant to give evidence and that Pearce was no longer</p> <p>18 a member of the teaching staff and was not allowed</p> <p>19 contact with the schoolchildren and that that was said</p> <p>20 would continue to be the case. Although the police did</p> <p>21 inform Peter Turner, the child protection coordinator of</p> <p>22 Westminster Diocese, it is unclear whether checks were</p> <p>23 made as to what actual contact Pearce might have been</p> <p>24 able to have with children and what control was being</p> <p>25 exercised over him by the Abbey at that stage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>	<p>1 Dom Richard Yeo, then Abbot President, conducted</p> <p>2 three ordinary visitations of Ealing Abbey. The first</p> <p>3 of these was in December 2003. He was assisted during</p> <p>4 the 2002 visitation by Abbot Geoffrey Scott (Abbot of</p> <p>5 Douai Abbey) and the allegations against Father Pearce</p> <p>6 were raised with Dom Yeo, who indicated that there were</p> <p>7 many complaints that he went into the school and, more</p> <p>8 generally, that the community was not properly informed</p> <p>9 what the allegations against him were. Dom Yeo shared</p> <p>10 the community's concerns with Abbot Shipperlee and urged</p> <p>11 him to ensure that they were dealt with appropriately.</p> <p>12 In 2004, a further allegation was made by another</p> <p>13 boy, RC-A6, who visited St Benedict's School and spoke</p> <p>14 about what happened to him to Abbot Shipperlee. A6</p> <p>15 complained of three separate incidents which took place</p> <p>16 in 1990 to 1991, when he was 10 or 11-years old. These</p> <p>17 incidents included similar allegations of touching</p> <p>18 during swimming lessons, videoing boys when they were</p> <p>19 showering. He also said that Pearce had taken advantage</p> <p>20 of him on two occasions when he had been ill and in the</p> <p>21 infirmary. During the second of those occasions, Pearce</p> <p>22 had fondled his penis. He said he had told his mother</p> <p>23 about the videos, but she had told him not to worry and</p> <p>24 that it wasn't serious. Abbot Shipperlee told A6 that</p> <p>25 he was aware of rumours surrounding Pearce and of his</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 reputation.</p> <p>2 A6 contacted the police and made a statement. In</p> <p>3 this, he said that when he moved schools to join Worth</p> <p>4 a few years after the abuse, he had also told a monk</p> <p>5 there, who had made a complaint to SBS on his behalf.</p> <p>6 However, it does not appear that there are records of</p> <p>7 any such complaint at the school. Pearce was arrested,</p> <p>8 he was interviewed and released on bail. Pearce was</p> <p>9 a novice master at the time, so had no official role</p> <p>10 with the school. The evidence suggests that he was</p> <p>11 placed on administrative leave from April 2004, but</p> <p>12 precisely what that involved is not clear. On</p> <p>13 19 October 2004, a senior Crown Prosecution Service</p> <p>14 reviewing lawyer advised that it would be inappropriate</p> <p>15 to prosecute Pearce. Although it was noted that there</p> <p>16 had been speculation about Pearce in the past, the</p> <p>17 lawyer's view was that, in the absence of corroboration,</p> <p>18 which is independent evidence in support or confirmation</p> <p>19 of the allegation, it would not be possible to secure</p> <p>20 a conviction.</p> <p>21 It is not clear whether the full background had been</p> <p>22 considered and whether the evidence of A595, A419, A632</p> <p>23 and A631 were provided to the Crown Prosecution Service</p> <p>24 reviewing lawyer. The lawyer did, however, indicate</p> <p>25 that she would be willing to consider the matter again</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 if new information came to light, though it does not</p> <p>2 appear that any advice was given as to what further</p> <p>3 enquiries might be made, nor does it seem that any</p> <p>4 further action was taken. Pearce was allowed to return</p> <p>5 to Ealing Abbey, something later identified by</p> <p>6 Lord Carlile in his review as "one of the most serious</p> <p>7 failings", and a subsequent Independent Schools</p> <p>8 Inspectorate report (published in early August 2010) has</p> <p>9 said of this that "the commitment to trust within the</p> <p>10 community and to St Benedict's rule of love and</p> <p>11 forgiveness appears on occasion to have overshadowed</p> <p>12 responsibility for children's welfare".</p> <p>13 There is evidence that in the summer of 2004 another</p> <p>14 ex-Benedict's School pupil, A419, complained about</p> <p>15 Father Pearce to the Diocese of Westminster Child</p> <p>16 Protection Team. He said that when he was a pupil at</p> <p>17 SBS in the late 1970s, Father Pearce had befriended his</p> <p>18 mother, a widow, and visited her at their home. He took</p> <p>19 A419 upstairs to a bedroom and touched his penis on the</p> <p>20 pretext of "naming body parts". A419 had not said</p> <p>21 anything at the time.</p> <p>22 In October 2004, the same month as the CPS decision</p> <p>23 not to prosecute Pearce in respect of A6's allegations,</p> <p>24 RC-A6 filed a civil claim against Pearce and</p> <p>25 St Benedict's School. At the hearing, A6 sought to rely</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>
<p>1 on similar fact evidence in respect of allegations of</p> <p>2 three of the boys that I have mentioned: A595, A418 and</p> <p>3 A419 -- A419 who, you will recall, I mentioned also</p> <p>4 alleged abuse by Maestri.</p> <p>5 A6 was successful in his civil claim and, in the</p> <p>6 judgment handed down in February 2006, Mr Justice Field</p> <p>7 said that he had "found A6 to be an entirely convincing,</p> <p>8 reliable and credible witness ... [and that] his</p> <p>9 evidence was clear and unmistakably had the 'ring of</p> <p>10 truth' to it". It's plain from his judgment that there</p> <p>11 were issues with documents being disclosed by the school</p> <p>12 to the court in a haphazard fashion during the hearing</p> <p>13 and Abbot Shipperlee was ordered to provide an affidavit</p> <p>14 to explain this. Amongst the documents provided to the</p> <p>15 court late was the note of the allegations of A418. The</p> <p>16 judge commented that if he had had the note when ruling</p> <p>17 on the admissibility of the boys' evidence under the</p> <p>18 similar fact principles, he would have had no hesitation</p> <p>19 at all in finding that evidence admissible. He found in</p> <p>20 favour of A6 and found that he had suffered considerable</p> <p>21 psychiatric harm as a result of the abuse by Pearce. A6</p> <p>22 was awarded significant damages.</p> <p>23 It is not clear whether the fact of this civil claim</p> <p>24 or its outcome was provided to the police or if they</p> <p>25 were otherwise aware of it. It is therefore not clear</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 if it was considered by police or whether the evidence</p> <p>2 of the third boy, A419, or the High Court judge's ruling</p> <p>3 as to similar fact evidence was presented to the Crown</p> <p>4 Prosecution Service. Certainly it does not appear that</p> <p>5 the case was rereviewed at that time, something A6 has</p> <p>6 subsequently expressed disappointment about.</p> <p>7 Abbot Shipperlee instructed David Tregaskis to</p> <p>8 conduct an assessment of Pearce. The panel will</p> <p>9 remember that Tregaskis was a clinical criminologist who</p> <p>10 had also assessed monks at Ampleforth and Downside. In</p> <p>11 his report, Tregaskis commented that "notwithstanding</p> <p>12 Father Pearce's consistent denial of any inappropriate</p> <p>13 behaviour is the fact that there are four separate</p> <p>14 allegations of such behaviour all of which relate to</p> <p>15 boys of a similar age". On the information we have</p> <p>16 received, however, it would seem that, at that stage,</p> <p>17 there were already at least six allegations, not just</p> <p>18 the four referred to, which leads one to question</p> <p>19 whether police had informed the abbot of all the</p> <p>20 allegations and/or whether full disclosure had been made</p> <p>21 to Mr Tregaskis. Nonetheless, he found that there was</p> <p>22 cause for concern and that Pearce's access to children</p> <p>23 had been facilitated by his role as a teacher and family</p> <p>24 friend and that there should be clear boundaries set in</p> <p>25 terms of the exercise of his ministry. He also</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 expressed the view that Pearce could serve as a chaplain 2 to other religious communities, such as convents, 3 without the need to protect the public or the integrity 4 of the community. 5 Following this, Peter Turner, the then child 6 protection coordinator for the Archdiocese of 7 Westminster, wrote to Abbot Shipperlee recommending that 8 Father Pearce be allowed to remain in the monastery 9 subject to the following restrictions: (i) that he 10 should have no public ministry within the parish 11 setting; (ii) that he only be allowed to say mass in 12 private or within the monastery setting, with no members 13 of the public present; (iii) that he be allowed to 14 continue in a non-executive role within the monastery, 15 provided that this did not bring him into contact with 16 children and young persons; (iv) that he continue to 17 serve as chaplain to other religious communities, 18 provided this did not bring him into contact with 19 children and young persons, and provided that the person 20 in charge of such communities was made aware of those 21 conditions; (v) that if he visited families within the 22 parish, he did so only on condition that he did not wear 23 clerical dress and that the families were bona fide 24 families or friends. The last of these was made despite 25 the fact that the allegation of RC-A419 suggested that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 on at least one occasion Pearce had taken advantage of 2 a "friendship" to abuse children. 3 So Pearce remained at the monastery, and despite the 4 restrictions in place, he was nonetheless able to form 5 a relationship with another boy, RC-A621, a teenage 6 pupil who at the time was working in the monastery 7 kitchen on weekends. RC-A621 had sought spiritual 8 guidance from Father Pearce as he was unsure about his 9 own sexuality. Father Pearce set about grooming the 10 boy, befriending him, giving him his mobile telephone 11 number and arranging private meetings with him. During 12 these meetings, he touched RC-A621 on his buttocks, his 13 upper thigh, and tried to kiss him. He encouraged the 14 boy to send nude photographs of himself and A621, 15 although reluctant, did eventually send a photograph of 16 himself naked from the waist up. Pearce also heard 17 A621's confession, something that was again in breach of 18 his restrictive ministry, and, in so doing, pulled the 19 boy over onto his own body. He also secretly met with 20 RC-A621 outside of Ealing Abbey in 2007 in Ireland when 21 A621 was attending a church-run retreat. 22 As mentioned, Dom Richard Yeo conducted a second 23 visitation of Ealing Abbey in December 2007. He was 24 assisted by Abbot Stephen Ortiger, formerly Abbot of 25 Worth Abbey. The issues raised during the visitation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>
<p>1 primarily concerned the quality of the common life of 2 the community. However, the cases of Father Pearce and 3 RC-F41 were also considered. According to Dom Yeo, 4 members of the community were distressed by the fact 5 that a civil claim had been brought against Ealing Abbey 6 by RC-A6 in 2004 to 2006 and by the fact that 7 allegations had been made against RC-F41, who remained 8 under restrictions despite his acquittal. It appears 9 that the community had not been fully made aware of 10 the allegations against Father Pearce and RC-F41. 11 Dom Yeo and Abbot Ortiger recommended to the abbot and 12 his council that this be done and, further, that the 13 abbot report the allegations to the Holy See. 14 Also in 2007, another victim came forward, RC-A594. 15 He told police that, when he was 7 or 8, he joined the 16 school -- that was in the early 1970s. He was summoned 17 to Father Pearce's office, made to take off his clothes 18 and was beaten on his buttocks and knuckles with a cane. 19 He said that Father Pearce used to laugh and smile as he 20 caned him, after which he would make A594 sit on his 21 knee. He told his parents at the time, and they did 22 complain to the school, but they were told that it was 23 just a clash of personalities and no action was taken. 24 Returning to the boy RC-A621, who had been allowed 25 to work in the monastery kitchens and was being groomed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 and subjected to abuse at the time A594 came forward 2 with his historic complaint, although RC-A621 was 3 uncomfortable with Pearce's behaviour, he felt unable to 4 stop it until 2008 when, aged 17, he complained to 5 Dr Carlo Ferrario, the deputy headmaster and child 6 protection officer at St Benedict's School, and also to 7 Christopher Cleugh, the then headmaster. The matter was 8 reported to police. Pearce was arrested, interviewed 9 and released on bail. 10 During this 2008 investigation, police discovered 11 correspondence to another pupil, RC-A597, on Pearce's 12 computer and mobile phone. RC-A597 was interviewed by 13 police in April 2008. He had started at the school in 14 1986 when he was 9 years old, and he said that Pearce 15 had taken an immediate interest in him and had treated 16 him differently from the other boys, letting him know 17 that he was special and regularly calling him to his 18 office for private meetings. He said that Pearce kissed 19 him on the lips whenever they met and were in private. 20 He gave him money, letters, notes, sweets and chocolate, 21 which he used to place in his underwear, calling it 22 "posting", and touching A597's genitals with his hands 23 as he did so, both over and under his clothing. Pearce 24 also wrote him letters in which he said that he was 25 sexually aroused by the boy, letters which he asked him</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 to destroy. On several occasions, Pearce also asked 2 A597 to join him in the bath and filmed him while he was 3 bathing. Pearce referred to these encounters as 4 "special meetings".</p> <p>5 As A597 moved up in the school, Pearce gained the 6 trust of his parents and frequently visited them at 7 home, taking advantage of the situation to film RC-A597 8 in the bath and to touch his genitals. In 1987, A597's 9 father found one of Pearce's letters to A597 in which he 10 referred to filming and seeing "all" of the boy. The 11 father asked about this letter but A597 became very 12 distraught and was unable to tell him the truth about 13 what was happening to him.</p> <p>14 Pearce's infatuation with the child continued for 15 13 years, and even after he left the school for 16 university in 1995. He would write to him, sending 17 money and visiting approximately once a term. During 18 such visits, Pearce would kiss A597 on the lips, and 19 finally things only came to an end in 1999, when A597 20 graduated from university and finally put a stop to his 21 interest.</p> <p>22 The 2008 investigation also generated significant 23 publicity which led to other victims coming forward. 24 One of those was A11, who had been a pupil at 25 St Benedict's School from the mid 1970s to '80s. He</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 told police that Pearce had forced him and other pupils 2 to sit on his lap while they were in class and touch 3 them at the top of their inner thighs. He also said 4 that he saw Pearce masturbating under his cassock in 5 front of pupils during lessons. Pearce would take 6 advantage of his position as head of the Cadet Force to 7 meet with pupils in sheds by the school playground. He 8 said he saw Pearce go inside the sheds with boys and 9 boys would come out crying and pulling their trousers up 10 after 45 minutes to an hour. He also said that he knew 11 that Pearce was having sex with two pupils at SBS and he 12 made allegations against Laurence Soper and 13 John Maestri, which I will turn to in a moment.</p> <p>14 Pearce was further arrested for indecent assault 15 against A11, A594 and A597. He was released on police 16 bail. While on bail, A596, who had been a pupil at the 17 school in the mid 1970s to early '80s, came forward and 18 made similar allegations. He told police that Pearce 19 summoned him to his office two to three times a week, 20 touching his legs, his bottom, his genitals, exposed 21 himself and forced the boy to masturbate him through his 22 robes, telling him that this was okay and normal. He 23 said that this went on for approximately three years, 24 when A596 was between 10 and 14 years of age. A596 also 25 alleged that he had been abused by John Maestri during</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>
<p>1 this period.</p> <p>2 Pearce was arrested and charged with offences 3 against A596, A594, A597 and A621. In addition, the 4 Crown Prosecution Service reconsidered their earlier 5 2004 decision in respect of A6 and now authorised 6 charge, because of the other allegations that had been 7 made. A11's allegation was not, however, proceeded 8 with. Pearce initially pleaded not guilty to all counts 9 in respect of the other five boys, but in August 2009 he 10 changed his plea and submitted a basis of plea document 11 which contested some of the facts alleged. The 12 prosecution did not accept the basis, but did not seek 13 a Newton Hearing, which is a hearing before the judge 14 alone in respect of any facts that are disputed. In 15 a report prepared for the sentencing hearing, 16 David Tregaskis said, "It is a fact that there was some 17 failure on the part of the Order to ensure that the 18 restrictions [on Pearce] were being effectively 19 observed", and he also said that "the reality is that 20 Father Pearce will not be able to reside within 21 a religious community in the foreseeable future, 22 irrespective of the sentence passed". Pearce was 23 subsequently sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, 24 reduced on appeal in 2010 to five years. A few months 25 later he requested special dispensation from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>	<p>1 priesthood, which was approved by the CDF on 2 8 July 2011.</p> <p>3 Although RC-A595's allegation was not prosecuted, 4 he, together with A594, A597 and A596 subsequently 5 received damages through civil claims. RC-A595's claim 6 was settled out of court and, just by way of reminder, 7 A595 was the 1992 allegation, the first in time.</p> <p>8 In 2011, Pearce, together with Maestri, faced 9 similar allegations made by A599. Both were acquitted.</p> <p>10 I am going to turn now to Laurence Soper, who is 11 almost a direct contemporary of David Pearce. Soper is 12 two years younger, but, like Pearce, he went to 13 St Benedict's School and their time there would 14 inevitably have overlapped. After a short career in 15 banking, he returned to Ealing Abbey in 1964 and was 16 ordained in 1970, teaching at the school between 1972 17 and 1982. He held a number of significant positions, 18 including as head of the middle school, bursar and 19 prior, and, as you know, he was elected to abbot in 20 1991.</p> <p>21 Soper is known to have sexually abused at least ten 22 SBS pupils between 1975 and 1983. He also held roles 23 outside the institution, including being Catholic 24 chaplain at Feltham Young Offenders Institution and at 25 Harrow School. He resigned from the abbacy in 2000,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 after which he served as chaplain in an army base in 2 Cambridgeshire for approximately one year.</p> <p>3 The first allegation of sexual abuse against him 4 came in 2001 from RC-A420, who had served as a young 5 offender at Feltham in the 1990s when he was 19, so we 6 clarify this, that he was 19 years of age. In 7 a statement to police in 2016, he alleged that he had 8 been subjected to a series of sexual assaults, at least 9 30, by Soper over a six-month period. The abuse 10 escalated and he said that Soper raped him in his cell 11 on at least ten occasions. This was brought to the new 12 Abbot, Martin Shipperlee's attention, but not pursued. 13 RC-A420 said that he discontinued the case at the time 14 because pressure had been brought to bear upon him by 15 solicitors acting for Ealing Abbey. Thereafter, Soper 16 was appointed treasurer of the Benedictine Confederation 17 and, although still a monk of Ealing, resided at the 18 Benedictine headquarters at Sant' Anselmo in Rome.</p> <p>19 In early 2004, another boy, RC-A622, made an 20 allegation of abuse by Soper to Peter Turner, who 21 visited him in the psychiatric unit where he was 22 receiving treatment. A622 had joined St Benedict's 23 School at the age of 8 in the late 1960s, remaining 24 there until he was 15, in the mid 1970s. When he was 25 12 or 13 years old, Soper started to use trivial things,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 such as kicking a football in the wrong direction, as 2 a pretext to summon A622 to his office for punishments. 3 There, he would cane the boy, either striking him 4 straight across the bottom or hitting him over his 5 clothing on his genitals. Soper would then make A622 6 remove his trousers to make sure that there were no 7 marks on his genitals. On one of these occasions, when 8 naked from the waist down, Soper fondled and stroked 9 A622's penis and his testicles.</p> <p>10 Thereafter, the abuse escalated. Soper made A622 11 watch while he masturbated in front of him, and he also 12 forcibly masturbated him. On multiple occasions, Soper 13 would cane and then rape A622, sometimes ejaculating 14 inside him, sometimes on the child's body. On one 15 occasion during a cycling holiday, when A622 was 14 or 16 15 years old, Soper came into the room in the hostel 17 where he was sleeping along with other boys, went to 18 A622's bed and fondled his genitals through the opening 19 of his pyjamas. He then put A622's penis into his mouth 20 and tried to kiss him. Soper would tell A622 to keep 21 these incidents a secret and would threaten him with 22 severe punishments or expulsion if he told.</p> <p>23 A622 left St Benedict's School at 15. He never told 24 parents about the abuse. As he has explained, 25 "I couldn't tell them. Their faith was so strong, they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>
<p>1 couldn't have believed it from a priest". He was also 2 fearful that his father would beat him if he told about 3 Soper. It was only when his father died that he was 4 able to speak, telling first his girlfriend and then his 5 sister in 2000 and 2001.</p> <p>6 Peter Turner reported the allegations to the police 7 and in July 2004 Soper returned voluntarily from Rome 8 and was arrested. He was then bailed pending further 9 inquiries. The police eventually referred the matter to 10 the CPS who advised that there was insufficient evidence 11 to charge and no further action was taken.</p> <p>12 The prosecution opening note from Soper's trial in 13 2017 says that the matter was reconsidered again in 2007 14 and the same answer, insufficient evidence, was given to 15 RC-A622. It was said that the police failing to pursue 16 the allegations caused him considerable distress and 17 deterioration to his mental health.</p> <p>18 Soper continued to reside in Sant' Anselmo. 19 In February 2008, four years after the first allegations 20 came to light, A11 came forward with allegations against 21 Pearce, in the course of which he also told police that 22 Soper would regularly cane him for no good reason, 23 including on an occasion when he returned to the school 24 following his mother's death. He would also force him 25 to remove his trousers and underwear on the pretext of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 searching for a hidden book, whereupon he would rub and 2 fondle his buttocks. If A11 did not remove his lower 3 clothing, Soper would threaten him with six strikes of 4 the cane rather than three. As a result, Soper once 5 again voluntarily returned to the UK where, although not 6 arrested, he was interviewed. He denied the allegations 7 and was allowed to return to Rome.</p> <p>8 Further allegations were made. In late 2009, 9 Abbot Shipperlee and then Abbot President Yeo raised the 10 matter with the Abbot Primate and, in April 2010, 11 Dom Yeo met with Father Elias Lorenzo, the prior of 12 Sant' Anselmo, to discuss the situation of Soper. 13 Father Lorenzo expressed concerns about Soper which 14 related to his drinking and his poor participation in 15 community life and, as a result, on 1 May 2010, Soper 16 was placed under ecclesiastical restrictions. In 17 summary, these included: to continue to reside at 18 Sant' Anselmo under the supervision of Father Lorenzo; 19 not to make contact with minors in any way or capacity, 20 on or off camps; and to periodically undergo 21 psychotherapy. He was permitted to exercise priestly 22 faculties only in relation to Benedictine residents of 23 Sant' Anselmo.</p> <p>24 But, meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, victims of 25 Soper's abuse continued to come forward. In part, it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 seems that this was due to the publicity around the 2 conviction of Pearce the year before, which had also 3 given rise to Mr Jonathan West writing his first article 4 about St Benedict's School in his blog. Jonathan West 5 was familiar with St Benedict's School as his son had 6 attended the school. He had recently started a blog 7 called "Confessions of a sceptic" and, on reading about 8 Pearce's conviction and the charges that had spanned 9 36 years, he was shocked by "how close to home" it had 10 come and he decided to write an article about Pearce and 11 Ealing Abbey. In it he mentioned the possibility that 12 other children may have been harmed beyond those for 13 which Pearce had been convicted and the need for 14 a review of child protection at the school. The article 15 attracted over 200 comments and also some further 16 allegations. May I say at this stage that Mr West has 17 provided us with a statement and a number of documents, 18 many of which have been extremely helpful, during the 19 course of this investigation.</p> <p>20 A601 and A600 contacted police in June 2010. Both 21 had attended the school at different times in the 1970s 22 to '80s. Both made allegations of corporal punishment 23 for what seemed minor incidents, which would be used as 24 a pretext for Soper's sexual gratification. A601 spoke 25 of an incident where he was made to lie across Soper's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 lap when spanked. Soper, he said, was undoubtedly 2 aroused, as his breathing changed and he seemed to 3 become excited. Afterwards, Soper ordered the boy to 4 pull his trousers down so that he could examine his 5 bottom for marks and touch his backside. He told A601 6 not to telling anyone about this, but A601 nevertheless 7 did disclose the abuse to his parents. That, however, 8 did not report it.</p> <p>9 A600 described being regularly caned by Soper about 10 once a fortnight. The first time, Soper insisted he 11 remove his lower clothing so that he could check for 12 padding. He then stroked and rubbed the boy's bare 13 bottom. A600 was told to pull up his trousers and bend 14 over Soper's desk and he was caned with such force that 15 black and blue welts were left. After the caning, Soper 16 stroked his buttocks to comfort him. Soper did not 17 check for padding on subsequent occasions but the 18 routine was otherwise the same, and A600 was clear that 19 there was a sexual element to the beatings. When he was 20 about 12, he told his sister, who in turn told their 21 father, but nothing was done. A601 could not bring 22 himself to speak to his parents about it because they 23 were devout Catholics.</p> <p>24 Soper again returned to England and 25 in September 2010 he was arrested and interviewed again.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>
<p>1 He was bailed with a return date of March 2011. Then, 2 in January 2011, another complaint was made, this time 3 by A591, a boy who had attended the school between the 4 1970s and the 1980s. He alleged that on an occasion, 5 when aged 11, he went to Soper's office to report 6 another boy for kneeling him in the thigh and on this 7 occasion Soper had made him take his trousers off, had 8 stroked his leg and pushed his fingers into his 9 underwear, touching his genitals, whilst at the same 10 time cupping and squeezing his buttocks.</p> <p>11 With the allegations against him mounting, Soper 12 fled. When he failed to surrender to bail 13 in March 2011, attempts were made to locate him. It 14 appears that, following his release on bail, and whilst 15 still under ecclesiastical restrictions, he had made 16 a two-week visit to Kosovo. Then on 22 February 2011, 17 prior to leaving Sant' Anselmo, he withdrew 200,000 18 euros from his Vatican account. It appears that he then 19 falsified a letter to say that he had been commissioned 20 to undertake a three-year study of a strand of Islam in 21 the Balkans and, in March 2011, he failed to meet bail 22 in the United Kingdom and instead he flew to Kosovo. He 23 was reported missing to the Carabinieri in Rome by the 24 Prior of Sant' Anselmo.</p> <p>25 In July 2011, the Crown Prosecution Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>	<p>1 authorised charges against Soper, including for offences 2 of rape and indecent assault. A European arrest warrant 3 was issued on 18 November 2011.</p> <p>4 A622 and A591 brought civil proceedings against 5 Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School in 2012. In both 6 cases, out of court settlements were made. Victims 7 continued to come forward. Between October 2014 8 and June 2016, A609, A608 and A8 all gave accounts 9 consistent with the allegations already made of physical 10 chastisement being used as a pretext for sexual abuse. 11 I won't summarise those now, but we will be hearing 12 a little later today from A8 himself.</p> <p>13 After five and a half years on the run, Soper was 14 finally apprehended in Kosovo in May 2016 and extradited 15 to the United Kingdom where he was arrested on arrival 16 in August 2016. As a result of the publicity around his 17 arrest, yet another victim, A611, came forward, though, 18 on this occasion, A611 described how Soper had used 19 a visit to him in the infirmary to inspect a minor 20 injury as a pretext to rub his bottom in an aggressive 21 and sexual manner. Soper was tried at the central 22 criminal court in December 2017. He was convicted of 19 23 offences against 10 pupils: A622, A8, A11, A591, A600, 24 A601, A608, A609, A610 and A611. In sentencing him, 25 His Honour Judge Bate QC described Soper's behaviour as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 "a most appalling breach" of the trust placed in him as 2 a teacher, priest and monk by pupils, parents, fellow 3 teachers and the abbot and said that the abuse had an 4 "enduring impact" on his victims, several of whom 5 suffered from mental illness into adulthood. Soper was 6 sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. 7 Chair and panel, I am conscious of the time. We are 8 nearly at 11.45 am. I wonder if now would be an 9 appropriate time to take a break? 10 THE CHAIR: Yes, we will take a break now and return at 11 12 noon. 12 (11.45 am) 13 (A short break) 14 (12.01 pm) 15 MS KARMY-JONES: Chair, before I go back to my opening, it 16 has been brought to my attention that I neglected to 17 introduce Mr Collins, who represents G1, G3 and G6. He 18 sits at the back behind. 19 I am going to move on to a brief look at 20 Stephen Skelton, who was a teacher at St Benedict's in 21 the early 1980s. In 1983, he was alleged to have 22 assaulted a boy, RC-A604, during a private maths lesson 23 arranged by the boy's mother. A604 told his parents, 24 who complained to Francis Rossiter, and RC-F41, himself 25 later becoming the subject of allegations of abuse said</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 to have been committed in the mid '80s, of which he was 2 acquitted in 2007, also heard part of the complaint. 3 RC-F41 was subsequently placed on the Department of 4 Education's List 99 in 2011. 5 The abbot said he would remove A604 from 6 Stephen Skelton's class and would investigate the 7 allegations, but Skelton has said that he was never 8 spoken to by the abbot. He left following the 9 conclusion of his probationary period as a teacher and 10 there is evidence to suggest that he was given 11 a reference which enabled him to go on to work at three 12 further schools. No disclosure was made to the 13 statutory authorities. Ten years later, Stephen Skelton 14 assaulted another child in similar circumstances when 15 teaching at another private school. He was convicted in 16 2011 and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, 17 suspended, and placed on the sexual offences register. 18 Finally, and very briefly, Peter Allott. 19 Peter Allott was the deputy head of St Benedict's and 20 was convicted of offences including storing and sharing 21 child abuse images on his iPhone and on a hard drive 22 that was found in his office at St Benedict's School, 23 though not the school's computer itself. He was 24 sentenced to 32 months' imprisonment in May 2016. 25 Now, I have mentioned two monks who were not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>
<p>1 convicted, F41 and RC-F46, and, although not convicted, 2 the inquiry will also be considering their cases because 3 they were the subject of allegations of child abuse and 4 were placed under restrictive covenants in 2005 and 2010 5 representatively. 6 So, as I have said, RC-F41 was one of those to whom 7 a complaint was made against Skelton in 1983. In 2005, 8 a former pupil, RC-A421, alleged that RC-F41 had abused 9 him during a school trip to Italy in 1984. The boy had 10 been suffering from constipation and stomach pains and 11 had gone to RC-F41 for help. F41 had asked the boy to 12 remove his trousers, had put vaseline on his finger and 13 inserted this into the boy's anus. When asked by 14 Peter Turner about this incident, RC-F41 admitted his 15 actions. He said that he realised immediately that what 16 he had done was wrong and sinful, and that he had 17 worried about it ever since. In due course, he made 18 similar admissions to the police and to David Tregaskis. 19 The incident had occurred in Italy and so was outside 20 the jurisdiction of police in this country. However, he 21 was charged with respect to further allegations made by 22 the same boy, A421, for which he was prosecuted but 23 acquitted. One of the issues the inquiry will be 24 considering is the institutional response to that 25 acquittal in light of the admissions of abuse that he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 made in Italy. 2 RC-F46 had taught at SBS for many years. 3 Subsequently, he had become chaplain in a nearby 4 Catholic girls' school and, in 2004, a complaint was 5 raised by a female pupil at the school. Among the 6 allegations, she said that F46 had led her into 7 a kitchen area, locked the door and then questioned her 8 about sexual activity in her year group. The 9 headmistress concluded that F46 had engaged in some 10 ill-advised bantering but F46 was asked to undergo some 11 training. 12 In April 2010, RC-A423, a former St Benedict's 13 School pupil, told police that he had been abused by F46 14 in the early 1970s. It was decided that the allegation 15 fell below the criminal threshold but F46 was made 16 subject of restrictions which remain in place. Like 17 F41, F46's position may be relevant both to the 18 questions of how restrictions are imposed and enforced 19 and to the approach of external institutions to 20 safeguarding issues arising in circumstances where there 21 has been no conviction. 22 As I said, F41 is no longer on Ealing Abbey's site 23 and is still restricted from ministry. F46 remains on 24 site under restrictions. 25 Turning now to reviews and inspections, and first of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 all briefing touching on the Charity Commission's review 2 in 2009. Michelle Russell of the Charity Commission has 3 provided a statement as to the Commission's involvement 4 with Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School Trust. That 5 statement will be published in full at the conclusion of 6 the evidence and Ms Russell will be called to give 7 evidence on some discrete matters during the course of 8 this hearing. In summary, the Charity Commission 9 carried out two inquiries into the Trust, the first 10 following the civil judgment against Pearce in 2006, and 11 the second following his arrest in 2008. The 12 Commission's report was published on 15 December 2009. 13 The failure to implement restrictions placed on Pearce 14 occasioned serious criticism and the Charity Commission 15 found that the trustees had failed in their duty to 16 ensure that he had no further contact with children. 17 Then the Independent Schools Inspectorate. 18 Kate Richards of the Independent Schools Inspectorate 19 has made a detailed statement outlining the ISI's 20 involvement with St Benedict's School which from 2009 21 onwards was substantial. That will be published in full 22 alongside a statement from Penny Jones, who was the 23 deputy director of the Independent Education and School 24 Governance Division of the Department for Education. Of 25 particular interest is the fact that the ISI undertook</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 an inspection in November 2009, but the inspectors did 2 not have, nor did they obtain, a full picture of matters 3 relevant to safeguarding. They were, for example, 4 unaware of the fact that the Charity Commission was 5 undertaking, and shortly to publish, the statutory 6 inquiry in relation to Pearce's recent offending to 7 which I have just referred. 8 When members of the public, including 9 Mr Jonathan West, contacted the ISI in early 2010 in 10 respect of the reports, the ISI, in discussion with the 11 Department for Children, Schools and Families, as the 12 Department for Education was then known, withdrew the 13 ISI reports from the website and undertook a further 14 unannounced follow-up inspection by way of visits 15 in April and May 2010. The subsequent report published 16 in August 2010 recommended action in a number of areas. 17 These included developing the school's safeguarding 18 policy and ensuring that any members of the religious 19 community lived away from the school if they were 20 subject to allegations of misconduct related to 21 safeguarding or convicted of wrongdoing, which gave rise 22 to particular concerns with regards to RC-F41. Further 23 ISI inspections followed in 2012, 2014, 2015, with 24 a follow-up in 2016. In 2017, a compliance inspection 25 expressed no concerns with safeguarding arrangements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>
<p>1 In 2010, the Carlile Review. As the panel will 2 recall, there were in the late 20th century a series of 3 developments in the approach taken to the safeguarding 4 of children. These were followed by a number of 5 church-specific reviews, including the Nolan Report - 6 A Programme for Action, published in 2001, and the 7 Cumberlege Commission's Review, Safeguarding with 8 Confidence, published in July 2007. But it will be 9 remembered from our hearings in December 2017 that the 10 religious congregations were a late addition to the 11 diocesan-led thinking and recommendations that 12 underpinned both of these reviews. 13 In August 2010, it was announced that Lord Carlile 14 of Berriew QC had been commissioned to undertake an 15 independent review of Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's 16 School. The purpose of his review was said to be: to 17 use the lessons and failures of the past to ensure that 18 such problems are avoided in the future; and to provide 19 structures to give confidence to pupils, parents and 20 guardians, staff and anybody else with a legitimate 21 interest in the school in the future. 22 Lord Carlile's final report was published on 23 9 November 2011. In it, Lord Carlile attributed blame 24 squarely in three camps: primary blame, he said, lay 25 with the abusers; secondary fault was with the monastic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>	<p>1 community, "in its lengthy and culpable failure to deal 2 with what at times must have been evident behaviour 3 placing children at risk; and what at all times was 4 a failure to recognise the sinful temptations that might 5 attract some with monastic vocations"; finally, he found 6 fault with the trustees and the school historically, for 7 their failure to understand and prepare for the 8 possibility of abuse with training and solid procedures. 9 He said: 10 "I have come to the firm conclusion, especially 11 given the issues leading to this inquiry, that the form 12 of governance of St Benedict's School is wholly outdated 13 and demonstrably unacceptable. The abbot himself has 14 accepted that it is 'opaque to outsiders'. It does not 15 have the appearance of allowing for independent scrutiny 16 of the ongoing relationship between abbey and school ... 17 In a school where there has been abuse, mostly (but not 18 exclusively) as a result of the activities of members of 19 the monastic community, any semblance of a conflict of 20 interest or lack of independent scrutiny must be 21 removed." 22 Before the Carlile Report, the governance of 23 the school and the abbey was entwined and was managed by 24 the Trust of St Benedict's Abbey Ealing. The chairman 25 was the abbot, Martin Shipperlee, and all the trustees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 were all members of the community of Ealing Abbey, ie, 2 the monks. There was a committee of school advisers but 3 no board of governors or similar body for the school, 4 the consequence of which was that ultimate control and 5 governance was solely in the hands of the trustees, the 6 monks of Ealing Abbey. 7 Lord Carlile came to agreement with Abbot Shipperlee 8 that reform should include the following general 9 principles: to create a governing body with clear 10 independence and autonomous decision-making power; to 11 establish clear accountability between school 12 management, governors and trustees; to create a system 13 of governance that is transparent and understandable to 14 outsiders; to develop a governing body capable of 15 addressing any concerns over safeguarding, and of 16 monitoring the effective implementation of policies and 17 procedures in this area; to ensure that the Benedictine 18 nature of the school is preserved, this being 19 a particular principle of St Benedict's and part of 20 the choice made by parents. 21 He made a number of recommendations, the most 22 significant of which were that: there should continue to 23 be a Trust based on the monastery; there should be 24 a separate educational charity established for 25 St Benedict's School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to all at 2 the institution who had assisted him, expressed the 3 belief that all his recommendations including his what 4 he called "crucial advice about governance" could be put 5 into effect by September 2012. 6 At around the same time that Lord Carlile was 7 instructed, Dom Richard Yeo conducted an 8 Extraordinary Visitation at Ealing Abbey in August 9 and September 2010. An Extraordinary Visitation, by way 10 of reminder, is a visitation held outside the regular 11 four-yearly intervals of the ordinary visitations for 12 serious or grave reasons. Dom Yeo has explained that he 13 felt that an Extraordinary Visitation was justified in 14 light of the "major challenges" facing Ealing Abbey, in 15 particular Father Pearce's conviction in August 2009, 16 the increasing numbers of allegations against 17 Laurence Soper and the Charity Commission's critical 18 report in December 2009. The stated purpose of this 19 Extraordinary Visitation was to "review concerns about 20 safeguarding in the monastery and to assist the 21 community to address issues arising from them". Dom Yeo 22 was again assisted by Abbot Ortiger for this visitation. 23 In addition, he appointed Father James Courtney, who was 24 at the time the safeguarding co-ordinator for 25 Buckfast Abbey, as consultant to the visitation. In</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>
<p>1 summary, the outcome of the visitation was, firstly, 2 that Dom Yeo issued a number of binding "Acts of 3 Visitation" requiring, amongst other things, that all 4 those placed under ecclesiastical restrictions because 5 of safeguarding concerns should observe those 6 restrictions in full; that the community was urged to 7 embrace the "culture of vigilance" advocated for by 8 Lord Carlile and to undertake safeguarding training; and 9 it was recommended to the Abbot's Council that 10 Father Pearce be dismissed from Ealing Abbey and/or the 11 priesthood, that alternative accommodation be found for 12 RC-F41, and that changes should be made in the 13 individuals with responsibilities for safeguarding. 14 Almost a year after the Extraordinary Visitation and 15 before Carlile had reported, in July 2011, the 16 Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, which I have 17 previously referred to as the CDF, asked 18 Dom Richard Yeo, the Abbot President of the English 19 Benedictine Congregation and Bishop John Arnold, the 20 auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster, to 21 undertake an apostolic visitation at Ealing Abbey. The 22 purpose of the visitation was to ascertain whether 23 adequate safeguarding and child protection procedures 24 were in place at Ealing Abbey and were being followed. 25 As such, there was an overlap between those two reviews.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>	<p>1 The interim report was submitted to the CDF 2 in October 2011. In November 2011, Dom Yeo submitted 3 his resignation as a visitor after concerns were raised 4 that his involvement could be perceived as a conflict of 5 interest, given his position as Abbot President of 6 the Congregation, the English Benedictine Congregation, 7 and he left Bishop Arnold to complete the final report. 8 It was, therefore, up to Bishop Arnold to present 9 the final report of the apostolic visitation 10 in December 2011. This endorsed the recommendations 11 made by Lord Carlile just a short time before that the 12 governance of Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School 13 should be separate. It was critical of 14 Abbot Shipperlee's handling of Father Pearce's case and 15 noted that "it would seem that the abbot is not 16 responding adequately to the needs of individual 17 victims". A number of recommendations were made, 18 including that the CDF should accept Lord Carlile's 19 recommendations and that the EBC should undertake 20 a further canonical visitation to Ealing Abbey 21 by June 2013. 22 Following this, and in accordance with the 23 recommendations of Carlile and the Apostolic Visitation, 24 the Trust of St Benedict, Ealing, created a new 25 charitable trust, the St Benedict's School Trust, in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 2012, passing the school administration to a new board 2 of governors. 3 Chair, members of the panel, you will wish to 4 consider: what the effect of the separation has been; 5 whether it has given effect to the general principles as 6 set out by Lord Carlile; and whether the separation has 7 achieved its ultimate purpose, to ensure the greater 8 protection for children at the school. 9 There were further visitations in 2013 and 2016. 10 The 2013 was in June, and Dom Yeo and Abbot 11 Geoffrey Scott, the Abbot of Douai, conducted an 12 Ordinary Visitation at the request of the CDF. As we 13 have seen, this was one of the recommendations made by 14 Bishop Arnold to the CDF during the 2011 visitation. 15 The Ordinary Visitation started on 3 June 2013 and 16 was completed on 10 June 2013. Dom Yeo and Abbot Scott 17 recognised that the establishment of a separate lay 18 trust for the school in September 2012 would serve to 19 improve safeguarding and overall governance at the 20 school. Moreover, the visitors considered that 21 Ealing Abbey was adequately managing RC-F41 and F46, 22 given that both had been placed under restrictions and 23 that F41 had moved away from Ealing in 2011. Dom Yeo, 24 in his witness statement to this inquiry, has said that 25 he believed that Ealing Abbey had done "all that it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 could" in relation to David Pearce, who had been 2 laicized in July 2011, and to Laurence Soper, who had 3 been dismissed from the priesthood and the abbey 4 in May 2011 following his disappearance the March 5 before. It was also noted that members of the community 6 were undergoing safeguarding training. 7 Dom Yeo conducted a further Ordinary Visitation 8 between 26 February and 3 March 2016, this time with the 9 assistance of Abbot Cuthbert Madden, who, as we know, at 10 that time was the Abbot of Ampleforth. On this 11 occasion, Dom Yeo instructed Anthony Domaille to conduct 12 a review of safeguarding at Ealing. The necessity for 13 this arose out of changes to the English Benedictine 14 Constitution in 2013, which required the visitor to 15 commission a suitably qualified person to prepare 16 a report on safeguarding before the Ordinary Visitation 17 of a monastery took place. The principal safeguarding 18 concern identified by Mr Domaille was the reluctance 19 amongst certain members of the community to submit to 20 vetting and barring procedures before appointment to 21 pastoral roles in the parish. Dom Yeo advised the abbot 22 of the need to insist upon such checks. 23 As you have heard, Peter Allott was convicted and 24 sentenced in May of that year, and Soper 25 in December 2017 and sentenced in January 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>
<p>1 If I can turn now to the hearing and go on to some 2 procedural points. During the course of this hearing, 3 evidence will be called from the current abbot, the 4 previous and current headmaster, also from the 5 Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service 6 and from the current Abbot President, 7 Christopher Jamison. However, the full material which 8 will be considered by the inquiry is much broader, and, 9 in particular, it includes the evidence of Ms Richards 10 of the ISI, Ms Jones of the DfE, already mentioned, as 11 well as Carolyn Fair, Director of Children and Families 12 at Ealing Council, Jonathan West, Bishop Arnold, the 13 Reverend Jeremy Trood, the former Episcopal Vicar of 14 Safeguarding for the Diocese of Westminster, and also 15 Lord Carlile. The statements of these witnesses, who 16 will not be called, but whose evidence will be relied 17 upon, will be published in full. It will not, of 18 course, be possible to hear oral evidence from everyone 19 over the course of this week. We have focused in 20 selecting witnesses to attend in person this week upon 21 those who may be best placed to provide further answers 22 or detail over and above what is apparent in their 23 written statements or the documentation obtained by the 24 inquiry. 25 Today, following submissions, we will begin to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>	<p>1 consider the nature and extent of child sexual abuse and 2 some of the accounts given. Tomorrow, evidence from 3 the Met Police, the CPS and the Diocese of Westminster, 4 together with some read statements. 5 Wednesday, we will have Ealing Abbey's response, 6 together with evidence from Dom Richard Yeo in respect 7 of, amongst other things, the Apostolic Visitation of 8 2011. Thursday, we will look at St Benedict's School's 9 response and briefly at the Charity Commission. 10 On Friday, we will hear forward-looking evidence 11 from St Benedict School's current headmaster and the 12 English Benedictine Congregation. In the afternoon, 13 there will be an opportunity for core participants to 14 make short closing statements to the panel, and they may 15 submit written submissions by 22 February. 16 In terms of procedural matters, in a moment, each 17 counsel for the core participants or solicitor for the 18 core participants will have an opportunity to make 19 a short opening statement. That will be followed by the 20 evidence that we will hear across the next few days, 21 and, as I have already said, we won't be able to deal 22 with every fact, every question, every challenge in the 23 time we have available. 24 Evidence will, for the most part, come from live 25 witnesses, and where a live witness is called, their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 evidence, we will try to ensure, is focused on the most 2 salient aspects of their testimony. It will not always 3 be possible to ask each and every witness about all the 4 documentary evidence that they produce or that the 5 investigation has gathered.</p> <p>6 Some statements from complainants and some who 7 worked at Ealing at relevant times will be read or 8 summarised into the record of these proceedings.</p> <p>9 A bundle of documents has been prepared for each 10 witness. These are to assist the witness to refresh 11 their memory, and include some documents to which they 12 will be referred in their evidence, but not all.</p> <p>13 Witnesses have also been provided with the unique 14 reference numbers to other documents to which they may 15 be referred, but which are not copied in their bundles. 16 Inevitably, there may be some additional references, for 17 example, through the rule 10 process, but we will try to 18 keep these to a minimum.</p> <p>19 All core participants have been sent the proposed 20 witness timetable, and they will have an opportunity to 21 make requests pursuant to rule 10 of the Inquiry Rules 22 for questions to be asked of the witnesses. They were 23 asked to provide applications five days in advance of 24 each witness being called, and we are grateful to the 25 core participants for their assistance in complying with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 this deadline. As a result, a number of applications 2 have already been received and determined and the 3 balance are being considered as swiftly as possible. In 4 line with the presumption in the Inquiry Rules, it is 5 expected that questioning will be conducted by inquiry 6 counsel, so where witnesses give their evidence live, 7 either myself or Mr Donmall will conduct the majority of 8 the questioning.</p> <p>9 Documents will be referred to by their unique 10 Relativity reference number and put up on the screen so 11 that those members of the press and public who are 12 present can follow the proceedings. The pages of 13 the documents that are displayed on screen will, subject 14 to any sensitivity, be published on the inquiry's 15 website the same day, alongside the transcript of 16 the day's evidence. There will also be a number of 17 statements and documents published on the inquiry 18 website as the hearing progresses, which will enable the 19 inquiry to consider in a proportionate way as broad 20 a range of evidence as possible so that you will be able 21 to include the facts necessary in the part of your 22 report into the English Benedictine Congregation. 23 Additional key documents will be published on the 24 inquiry website.</p> <p>25 There is a restriction order in place that protects</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>
<p>1 the identities, names, addresses and images of any 2 complainant core participant and any complainant 3 victims, where the inquiry considers it appropriate, in 4 accordance with the inquiry's protocol on the redaction 5 of documents. We have one witness whose evidence will 6 be read who has specifically waived his right to 7 anonymity, but for the remainder, the restriction order 8 must apply and so, as I have done in my opening 9 submissions to you, they will simply be referred to by 10 their ciphers: RC-A1, A2 and so on.</p> <p>11 There is one live complainant witness who will have 12 additional measures in place to protect his identity, 13 and before he testifies, the hearing room will need to 14 be cleared of press and members of the public, who will 15 be able to listen to the audio of the witness in 16 a separate room, and I shall invite you, chair and the 17 panel, to rise when these arrangements are being made.</p> <p>18 Professional support, as you have already indicated, 19 is being made available for any witness who gives 20 evidence, as the inquiry fully recognises how difficult 21 a task this is.</p> <p>22 These proceedings will be broadcast. The 23 broadcasting is subject to a three-minute delay in case 24 any issues over the restriction order, the ciphering or 25 the redactions occur. We ask for the assistance of all</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>	<p>1 those concerned in this hearing in respecting the 2 processes in place and for them to draw our attention 3 promptly to any issues that arise so that the broadcast 4 can be terminated and the matter resolved. If such an 5 issue arises, I will invite you to terminate the live 6 link and to direct that there be no communication of 7 the evidence given in the last three minutes. When we 8 resume the hearing, I will invite you to make 9 a restriction order covering the evidence in question.</p> <p>10 As I said, we will begin with complainant evidence 11 this afternoon and, after, some reading tomorrow of some 12 further complainant evidence -- we may get to that this 13 afternoon as well, but it may be that it is not until 14 tomorrow morning.</p> <p>15 In conclusion, I would like to pose some questions 16 that I suggest may arise during this hearing that you, 17 chair and members of the panel, may wish to keep in mind 18 during the course of the evidence that you will hear, 19 that will be read and published. Some central 20 questions.</p> <p>21 How did the abuse perpetrated by David Pearce and 22 Laurence Soper go on for such a long period? 23 Were there events that were deliberately hidden and 24 covered up? 25 Was there a general attitude of minimisation of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 allegations or of complacency? 2 Was the first instinct to protect the perpetrator 3 rather than to safeguard the child? 4 Was there a culture of victim blaming or of placing 5 the responsibility for action on the victim? 6 What was known or suspected at the time within 7 Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School and why was 8 nothing done? 9 Why were the restrictions imposed upon Pearce in 10 2005 ineffective in preventing the subsequent abuse of 11 a further pupil of St Benedict's School? 12 Why were decisions to charge Pearce and Soper not 13 taken until 2008 and 2011 respectively, despite 14 allegations having been raised with the police in 1992 15 and 2004? 16 Is rehabilitation within the religious community 17 where there is proximity to children ever a suitable 18 option and, if so, under what conditions? 19 Where individuals did leave St Benedict's School 20 after allegations of child sexual abuse, such as Maestri 21 and Skelton in the '80s, was anything done to prevent 22 further offending elsewhere and, if not, why not? 23 Were external agencies appropriately notified of 24 concerns about Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School? 25 Were decisions taken with a view to protection of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 the reputation of the English Benedictine Congregation 2 over and above the safety of children? 3 Where external agencies were notified, were their 4 responses and actions appropriate? 5 Was information received by external agencies 6 sufficiently marshalled and appropriately shared with 7 others, and indeed within their own agency? 8 Why were the institutional changes recommended by 9 Lord Carlile, in particular the separation of 10 Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's School, considered 11 necessary and have they been effective? 12 That concludes all that I wish to say in opening, so 13 I would invite you, chair, now to hearing the opening 14 statements from the core participants. 15 Chair, I understand that you have directed that we 16 will sit at 10.00 am for the remainder of this hearing, 17 rather than at 10.30 am. 18 THE CHAIR: Yes, we will do that, Ms Karmy-Jones. Thank 19 you. So we now move to Mr Scorer and Mr O'Donnell? 20 Opening statement by MR SCORER 21 MR SCORER: Chair and panel, Mr O'Donnell and I represent 22 27 core participants who suffered abuse in 23 Roman Catholic institutions and the campaigner 24 Jonathan West. Several of our clients suffered abuse at 25 St Benedict's and you will hear from some of them this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>
<p>1 week directly or through their statements being read. 2 Chair, behind their evidence lies considerable 3 bravery and tenacity. Our clients who have disclosed 4 abuse at St Benedict's have had to surmount many 5 hurdles. Most come from families where the first 6 principle instilled from an early age was unquestioning 7 loyalty and obedience to the Catholic Church and the 8 belief that to challenge the church in any way was 9 literally to invite eternal damnation. Moreover, for 10 children who went to St Benedict's, the institution was 11 far more than a school: it was the centre of a complex 12 where the family, church and community ties. To speak 13 out against abuse in this environment meant, for many, 14 taking on not simply a school, but an entire upbringing 15 and culture and way of life in which the victim has 16 grown up. This requires a special kind of courage. 17 An example is our client RC-A6. As you have heard, 18 he was a victim of David Pearce. He tried to complain 19 about the abuse to Abbot Shipperlee in 2004. In 2006, 20 with other avenues of redress exhausted, he brought 21 a successful civil claim against the school. It was 22 fought all the way to trial and, as you have heard, it 23 resulted in a damning judicial indictment of both the 24 school and Pearce. 25 Our client's statement describes the gross failure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>	<p>1 of the school and abbey to listen to the reality he was 2 exposing, but it also describes the hostility, sadly, he 3 encountered from his family for simply trying to tell 4 his story. 5 Sadly, his experience is that of many survivors at 6 this school and that reality, of course, has to inform 7 the safeguarding response. 8 So whilst many abusers at St Benedict's have now 9 been convicted in the criminal courts, it is misleading 10 to talk about closure. The harm caused by this abuse is 11 profound and permanent. To prevent it in the future 12 means putting in place mechanisms which can overcome the 13 almost overwhelming pressures of institution, religion 14 and culture which cause abuse to be covered up and for 15 survivors to be disparaged and ignored. 16 This requires an appreciation both of the depth of 17 the problem and the radical changes needed to deal with 18 it. With that in mind, chair, at this stage I simply 19 want to highlight the matters which we believe merit 20 particular attention in this hearing. These are the 21 length of time over which the abuse was known about at 22 this school; the means by way it was covered up; the 23 inadequacy, in our view, of the school and the 24 Benedictine response, including the Carlile Report and 25 the visitation; and, finally, but also crucially</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 important, the failures of regulatory agencies. 2 Turning to the first of those, the most salient fact 3 which arises from the documents disclosed for this 4 hearing is the extraordinary length of time over which 5 abuse was known about in this school and was allowed to 6 occur by senior figures in the school and the abbey. 7 Ms Kate Ravenscroft, who taught at the school from 1990, 8 says it was common knowledge amongst the staff that 9 there were rumours about David Pearce. The most 10 revealing on this point are the handwritten notes taken 11 by the then Abbot President of the Benedictines, 12 Richard Yeo, of his interviews with monks during his 13 so-called Extraordinary Visitation in June 2010. 14 One monk is recorded as saying, and I quote, "mid 15 '70s, knew David engaged in dubious activities". 16 Another monk: 17 "Knew since I was junior school head that there was 18 something wrong. Graffiti: Father David is bent." 19 Another is talking about rumours of abuse when he 20 arrived 25 years previously and expressing his 21 disappointment and disbelief that a former abbot 22 complained to Yeo that he "never knew anything about 23 it". 24 So it is clear that there was extensive knowledge of 25 David Pearce's behaviour going back to the 1980s and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 probably before. In our view, institutional tolerance 2 of this behaviour is a clear signal to other abusers: 3 come here and we will turn a blind eye to your 4 activities. 5 So it seems to us likely that the failure to act on 6 knowledge or suspicion of one abuser turned 7 St Benedict's into a honeypot for others. 8 We also learn from the documents how those who might 9 have been minded to challenge the abuse were dissuaded 10 from doing so. Kate Ravenscroft's evidence illustrates 11 the use of religion to keep people in line. She 12 describes discussing an alleged abuser with Mr Cleugh. 13 He told her, "You can rest assured he will seek 14 absolution for his sins". She says: 15 "I honestly believe that Mr Cleugh, as a fervently 16 religious man, would only have been able to see the good 17 in the priest and struggled with any knowledge that 18 questioned this." 19 So yet again, as elsewhere in this Catholic Church 20 investigation, we see the cognitive dissonance which 21 lies at the heart of the clerical abuse scandals: 22 a priest must be a good man, he couldn't possibly be 23 responsible for such crimes. Once the evidence is 24 irrefutable, the offence is put down to a momentary and 25 forgivable lapse, blamed in part on the victim.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>
<p>1 However, the evidence also shows that the coverup at 2 St Benedict's had a darker side still. The fact is that 3 the staff were deterred from complaining by threats and 4 intimidation. As one teacher says, and I quote, "At the 5 time, the school felt a bit like the Mafia. If anybody 6 complained or said anything about Pearce, Laurence Soper 7 would protect him and to complain meant putting your job 8 on the line". We find that word "Mafia" in the 9 descriptions of other teachers who worked at this 10 school. As one says: 11 "I made complaints about both Pearce and Maestri, 12 but they didn't go anywhere and it definitely harmed my 13 career. At times it felt like the Mafia. When Cleugh 14 became head, I attempted to make him aware of past 15 issues with Pearce and others. He did not welcome this 16 and, indeed, when Pearce went to trial, he asked the 17 staff to pray for him." 18 Another member of staff was so concerned about 19 Pearce's behaviour that she contacted the headmaster. 20 He told her: 21 "If you know what's good for you, keep your head 22 down and do your job." 23 It seems that St Benedict's was an institution which 24 actively suppressed dissent, which demanded group think 25 and which placed loyalty to the monks well above the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>	<p>1 protection of children. 2 I now turn to the formal response of the school and 3 the abbey and the wider Benedictine Congregation to this 4 scandal. One part of it was something we have become 5 wearily familiar with throughout the worldwide Catholic 6 abuse scandal: the attempt to claim that anyone who 7 criticises the church is part of an anti-Catholic plot. 8 We saw this in the Birmingham hearing when the cardinal 9 tried to suggest that a BBC programme was motivated by 10 anti-Catholic bias. We see it here with Mr Cleugh using 11 his speech at the school prize day in September 2010 to 12 insinuate that Jonathan West and others who were 13 challenging the school's record on child protection were 14 "part of an anti-Catholic movement linked to the papal 15 visit". It seems that this claim is sometimes genuinely 16 believed by those making it. Internal church 17 correspondence contains frequent speculation as to what 18 Mr West really wanted. In fact, his aims were openly 19 stated: to assure the safety of pupils at the school his 20 own son had attended. And when, after four years, he 21 secured the school safeguarding policy he wanted, he 22 ceased active campaigning about the school. 23 We hope that when you write your report you will 24 scotch forever the absurd and self-serving notion that 25 criticism of abuse and coverup in the Catholic Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 must be motivated by anti-Catholic prejudice. However, 2 if we turn to the main pillars of the church response to 3 this scandal, commissioning the visitation and the 4 Carlile Report, we can see from the disclosure that they 5 were in reality inadequate, wholly inadequate. The 6 Apostolic Visitation is a case study in the inherent 7 unworkability of self-policing. Here was Richard Yeo 8 investigating, on behalf of the Vatican, the 9 advisability of having kept Pearce at the abbey on 10 restricted ministry. Yet this was exactly what Yeo had 11 done as Abbot of Downside, allowing Father White to 12 remain there even though he had admitted to abusing boys 13 at the school. Earlier, I referred you to Richard Yeo's 14 handwritten notes of his interviews with monks in an 15 earlier visitation and how they disclosed longstanding 16 institutional knowledge of abuse. It speaks volumes 17 about the purpose of the various visitations that this 18 crucially important evidence was not disclosed to the 19 statutory authorities.</p> <p>20 This was from a member of the Cumberlege Commission: 21 "if Richard Yeo himself didn't take the Cumberlege 22 recommendations seriously, we can hardly expect better 23 from anyone in the church".</p> <p>24 As for the Carlile Report, we say that the reality 25 is that it could never be properly impartial and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 independent. In saying this, we don't mean in any way 2 to impugn the integrity of Lord Carlile. But we do say 3 that the documents disclosed in this hearing bear out 4 the longstanding concerns of our clients about the 5 nature of the exercise in which Lord Carlile was engaged 6 and the conflicts inherent in his role. An email to 7 Lord Carlile from the abbey suggested his appointment 8 would be "advantageous" to the abbey. The 9 Carlile Report was commissioned by the solicitor who was 10 representing the school and the abbey, but who was at 11 the same time representing David Pearce and 12 Laurence Soper in criminal matters. We read that in the 13 aftermath of the publicity surrounding the Apostolic 14 Visitation, Lord Carlile was giving Richard Yeo advice 15 on public relations.</p> <p>16 These exchanges suggest that good PR for the abbey 17 was an inherent part of what Lord Carlile was engaged to 18 do and that his inquiry cannot therefore be regarded as 19 a dispassionate search for the truth. Lord Carlile 20 himself stated in a meeting with school staff that it 21 was "not his mission to rake over old coals" but to 22 produce a document that offered reassurance as to the 23 future of the school. In addition, we fear Lord Carlile 24 may have been misled. Kate Ravenscroft tells of her 25 surprise that, when the Carlile Report was commissioned,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>
<p>1 she was not selected by the school as one of the staff 2 who should be interviewed by Lord Carlile. That was 3 surprising because she was the staff member who had 4 first reported David Pearce to the police.</p> <p>5 However, our primary complaint about the 6 Carlile Report is one of substance, that its focus was 7 mainly on governance, not on getting in place 8 a satisfactory child protection policy. Governance, of 9 course, is very important. But, as Jonathan West argued 10 over many years, the most important change required was 11 to put in place a child protection policy at the school 12 which left no wriggle room to staff in terms of 13 reporting reasonable suspicions of child abuse to the 14 statutory authorities. The policy introduced 15 in November 2011 and endorsed by Lord Carlile singularly 16 failed to do that. It also failed to understand the 17 institutional and personal pressures on victims not to 18 report abuse. It suggested, for example, that an 19 allegation of abuse might not be forwarded to the 20 statutory authorities if the victim's family were 21 opposed to this. I hope you can see from the evidence 22 I cited earlier why that is such a serious flaw.</p> <p>23 It took a further two years and more stalling by the 24 school before a policy was introduced that left no room 25 for ambiguity about the external reporting obligation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>	<p>1 As Jonathan West said, the right policy could have been 2 put in place in four weeks rather than four years. It 3 should have been done in four weeks. The fact that it 4 eventually happened is a tribute to the efforts of 5 campaigners. The fact that it took four years and was 6 never suggested either by the Carlile Report or by the 7 visitation confirms, in our view, the inadequacy of both 8 and the inherent unsuitability of self-policing.</p> <p>9 Chair, I want to finish by briefly addressing the 10 role of the regulatory agencies -- the 11 Charities Commission, the Independent Schools 12 Inspectorate and the Department for Education.</p> <p>13 Firstly, the Charities Commission. This will be 14 a matter to be explored in evidence later this week, but 15 one document in the disclosure causes us some concern. 16 This is the letter from the Charities Commission to the 17 abbey following the arrest of Father Pearce. The letter 18 talks about "the reputational risk to the charity as 19 a result of Father Pearce's arrest". Now, of course, 20 charities should be concerned about reputational risk 21 but the implication of this letter is that, had the 22 abuse not been discovered and the arrest not happened, 23 then the reputational risk would not have arisen. The 24 letter, in our view, fails to distinguish between 25 immediate and underlying causes of reputational damage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 The underlying cause being the safeguarding failures of 2 the charity and the harm suffered by its beneficiaries 3 whilst the immediate cause is the publicity that arises 4 when these failures come to light. The letter appears 5 to concentrate solely on the immediate cause: 6 Father Pearce's arrest. 7 Since the Charities Commission, in our view, should 8 reasonably have suspected that the extent of abuse was 9 greater than publicly known, in our view this letter 10 comes perilously close to being advice to ensure that 11 abuse not yet disclosed be covered up. I'm sure the 12 Charities Commission will say that this isn't what they 13 meant, but in our view, it could easily be read in that 14 way. 15 As regards the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the 16 recently disclosed documents from ISI make it clear 17 that, at the time of the November 2009 inspection, it 18 was in possession of only limited safeguarding 19 information about the school and that, as a result, the 20 inspection was carried out largely blind. Nonetheless, 21 the lead inspector concluded that particular attention 22 needed to be paid to safeguarding in its 2009 23 inspection. Despite this, the ISI failed to notice 24 serious shortcomings in the school's safeguarding 25 policy. They were only reported on the following year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 having been pointed out to the ISI by Mr West. Since 2 the ISI is the inspecting body for the great majority of 3 independent schools, we say that these failures have 4 a potential significance far beyond this particular case 5 study. 6 Turning finally, chair, to the Department for 7 Education, Penny Jones' statement contains a remarkable 8 and shocking series of disclosures. It confirms that 9 the Department for Education knew nothing about failings 10 at the school until alerted by Mr West, despite the 11 criminal convictions of Pearce and Maestri. It makes 12 clear the complete helplessness of the Department for 13 Education in the face of an independent school which 14 does not prioritise safeguarding. As Penny Jones says, 15 the difficulty for the Department for Education and 16 ministers was that there were no clear regulations 17 covering governance, management and leadership of 18 the school. The Department for Education was so 19 helpless that the schools minister, Nick Gibb MP, wrote 20 to the head of the Charities Commission asking for 21 assistance in getting RC-F41, who by that time was on 22 List 99, moved from the monastery. 23 Again, since the Department for Education is the 24 regulator for the entire educational sector, including 25 all independent schools, Catholic or otherwise, it is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>
<p>1 clear that these issues have a significance far beyond 2 the confines of this case study, and we urge you, chair, 3 to ensure that these are explored at a later hearing. 4 Chair, even before we hear this week's evidence, it 5 is obvious that St Benedict's and the Catholic Church 6 around it was wholly incapable of ensuring safeguarding 7 responsibly by itself. As we have long argued, that 8 means that mandatory reporting is essential and indeed 9 this case study demonstrates precisely the need for 10 mandatory reporting, given the length of time, 11 particularly, over which abuse persisted in this school 12 without action being taken. 13 But of course mandatory reporting can only work if 14 the agencies to whom the reporting is done are using 15 that information effectively. So that needs to happen. 16 Chair, those are our initial observations. Thank 17 you. 18 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Scorer. We will now hear from 19 Mr Khan and we will also hear from Mr Enright before 20 taking the lunch break. 21 Opening statement by MR KHAN 22 MR KHAN: Good afternoon, chair and panel. These 23 submissions are made on behalf of G2. Chair, it appears 24 to us that there is a recurring theme in the written 25 testimony and oral evidence given during the course of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>	<p>1 the various modules that form part of the overall 2 inquiry, and it is this: the child sexual abuse was of 3 its time, it took place in a different era when life and 4 society was very different from what it is now. We 5 heard this being said in the child migration module of 6 the events that took place almost a century ago, and 7 I anticipate that this sentiment will be advanced during 8 the course of this week. 9 I am aware that at least one witness will suggest 10 that in the so-called unenlightened era of the 1980s and 11 '90s, society was not alert to the possibility of child 12 sexual abuse taking place, that its prevalence was 13 unsuspected and society was not alive to the enormity 14 and gravity of the problem. 15 Chair, as I have said before to you, on a previous 16 occasion, there was never a time when child sexual abuse 17 was considered a facet of everyday life. Regardless of 18 the decade or century, child sexual abuse was never 19 acceptable. Equally, everyone knew that it went on then 20 and now. 21 The only thing that has changed, and the degree to 22 which it has will be the subject of evidence during the 23 course of this week, is that there is now a genuine and 24 greater willingness to prosecute those who engage in 25 such activity. We make this point at the outset, chair,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 to ensure that all those who intend to contribute to the 2 inquiry do so in the knowledge that this inquiry will 3 not tolerate the excuse, "Well, that is what we are 4 dealing with and talking about. It is only recently 5 that we have now somehow discovered that child sexual 6 abuse takes place". Child sexual abuse has been taking 7 place for many, many years. It is just that very 8 little, if anything, was previously done about it. 9 Child sexual abuse was, and is, prevalent throughout 10 society. No one organisation or institution has 11 a monopoly over it. However, we suggest that this 12 hearing should investigate whether the particular 13 structure of the Catholic Church meant that it was more 14 prone to such abuse taking place and even more 15 susceptible to attempts to cover up such conduct. 16 We submit there are two main reasons for this. 17 Firstly, chair, it is trite to say that the 18 Catholic Church is a religious order which, particularly 19 when accusations are levelled at it, appears to decry 20 the existence of an established hierarchy with clear 21 levels of accountability. We are, of course, aware of 22 religious hierarchies, such as priests and bishops and 23 archbishops, as well as the Holy See, but from what we 24 have heard in the material disclosed thus far, the 25 structure of the church has been blamed on the failure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 to establish clear lines of responsibility which the 2 inquiry may consider may have contributed to the manner 3 in which allegations of child sexual abuse were treated 4 at St Benedict's School. 5 We emphasise the structure of the church because, 6 chair, you may already have read many of the witnesses 7 speaking about the culture that existed when some of 8 the events in question took place and that, for change 9 to occur, there needs to be a cultural change. We 10 anticipate that those who will be giving oral evidence 11 to this inquiry will adopt such an approach, but we 12 counsel the inquiry to vigorously question the validity 13 of such thinking. The inquiry may be aware that 14 a cultural shift is often one where there is a need to 15 change the hearts and minds of people. Chair, panel, 16 you may agree that such a process is one that takes 17 time, possibly generations. 18 Those who were abused whilst the Catholic Church 19 took time for a cultural shift to take hold did not have 20 the luxury of time. Given the extent of child sexual 21 abuse that has been shown to be taking place, we don't 22 have the luxury of time. 23 Perhaps more significant, chair, what kind of 24 cultural shift do we need to say that child sexual abuse 25 is wrong and must be prevented? It simply isn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>
<p>1 a question that needs asking. 2 We invite the inquiry to explore with the witnesses 3 the structural change -- the structural change, 4 I emphasise -- that needs to occur in the church in 5 order to properly and appropriately deal with the issue 6 of child sexual abuse. We welcome the inquiry's 7 agreement to our request that they obtain a statement 8 from the Apostolic Nuncio. You have heard what counsel 9 to the inquiry said this morning. We stress again the 10 importance of obtaining a statement from the Vatican in 11 time for the October hearing, as there are those in 12 senior positions from the abbey upwards, and ultimately 13 to the Vatican, who could, and should, have taken 14 leadership in this matter. 15 The fact is that it is the leadership that sets the 16 tone, the tenor, of how an organisation or institution 17 or group of individuals conduct themselves. In the 18 secular world, that is often government. It influences 19 and guides its citizens one way or the other. We submit 20 that the church is no different. Indeed, given the 21 powerful nature of religious imprimaturs, the leadership 22 of the church is an even greater force in establishing 23 what has been described as a moral compass of its 24 followers. 25 If it sets the tone, it must also accept the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>	<p>1 responsibilities that go with it and answer to the 2 failures. 3 Secondly, the inquiry may wish to consider what 4 factors were at play that permitted the perpetrators of 5 abuse to continue acting with impunity. Did deference 6 to a major religion or the perception that the events 7 took place in a reputable school play any part in the 8 minds of those who could, and should, have been more 9 circumspect and questioning when dealing with 10 accusations of abuse? Did the police, CPS and other 11 statutory bodies allow themselves to be blinded by such 12 deference? To take just one example, the issue of 13 credibility is often a critically decisive factor when 14 determining whether to charge in cases which rely on 15 just the evidence of the abuser and the abuse. Was 16 greater credence given to the abusers because of who 17 they were and where they worked? Was it the case that 18 it was considered inconceivable that a priest who had 19 given a vow of celibacy would sexually abuse children? 20 We submit the inquiry will need to consider whether this 21 protectionism and/or failure to take adequate steps fed 22 into the process which encouraged perpetrators to 23 continue abusing children with impunity. 24 Because, chair, we suggest the inquiry may consider, 25 as we do, having read the material disclosed thus far,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 that in relation to each of the organisations that have 2 been asked to participate in the inquiry, their attitude 3 now is such that no-one is prepared to accept 4 responsibility for the failures that we say clearly 5 occurred at the school.</p> <p>6 Indeed, we would ask you to consider whether there 7 has been an arrogance in the church's response to 8 allegations of child sexual abuse and its handling of 9 it. We invite you to isolate and consider the litany of 10 failed opportunities for all those involved in the 11 school to report on and deal with the abuse that was 12 taking place there, and we ask you to consider it in the 13 form of looking at it in these categories.</p> <p>14 Firstly, the teachers. The inquiry will hear 15 evidence from former pupils that it was well known 16 amongst the pupils that abuse was taking place. There 17 were those that suffered directly and those that heard 18 about what was happening from others. We submit that it 19 simply defies belief that in the relatively close 20 confines of a school, almost every teacher must have at 21 least suspected certain individuals of committing acts 22 of abuse and yet few, if any, were successfully 23 reporting it.</p> <p>24 The inquiry may wish to explore whether this was 25 because of fear of intimidation, fear of losing their</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 jobs or reputational damage to the school and/or the 2 church.</p> <p>3 The head teachers. The inquiry may agree that one 4 of the most, if not the most, powerful post in the 5 school is the head teacher. Schools seem to excel or 6 fail depending on the quality of the head who is the 7 guiding force and leader of the establishment. He or 8 she represents and encapsulates the vision and ethos of 9 the school. St Benedict's had a number of head teachers 10 who, the inquiry may consider, had, and had to have had, 11 a close working, if not personal, relationship with 12 Ealing Abbey and the clergy. We submit the head teacher 13 would have been ideally placed to have knowledge of what 14 was going on in their school. The head teacher of 15 St Benedict's would have been no different.</p> <p>16 The inquiry may wish to explore how and why it is 17 that, despite the common knowledge of sexual abuse at 18 St Benedict's, such conduct was not seemingly detected 19 and acted upon by any head at St Benedict's. Was there 20 an obvious and vested interest in protecting the 21 reputation of the school?</p> <p>22 The safeguarding officer. We invite the inquiry to 23 carefully explore the role and conduct of 24 the safeguarding officer of St Benedict's. The inquiry 25 might wish to explore why such an important role was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>
<p>1 advisory only and to consider whether an individual 2 employed in such a capacity might feel conflicted when 3 responding to reports of allegations of sexual abuse. 4 The inquiry may also wish to consider why, given what is 5 now known of the extent of sexual abuse at the school, 6 the safeguarding officer was apparently not aware of it 7 and/or not contacted directly by the victims of such 8 abuse.</p> <p>9 The monastic community. The inquiry may have much 10 to explore with the monastic community, including senior 11 clergy, who had involvement in the school. The inquiry 12 may consider that, for obvious reasons, the paramountcy 13 principle we should apply to children, in fact, as far 14 as the monastic community was concerned, applied to 15 them. You may wish to explore whether the most 16 important issue for the monastic community was the 17 reputation of the church, to be kept untarnished and 18 unblemished at all costs. The inquiry will want to 19 consider in some detail why it was that, even when 20 sexual abuse was exposed and admitted, the monastic 21 community did not act in the best interests of 22 the children at the school.</p> <p>23 The statutory authorities. The inquiry is aware 24 that there were a number of statutory agencies that had 25 involvement in the school. The Charity Commission,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>	<p>1 Ofsted and other inspectors were, on the face of it, set 2 up to inspect and monitor the activities of 3 St Benedict's. One might have thought, looking from the 4 outside, that they were perfectly placed to identify and 5 expose sexual abuse in the school. The inquiry may wish 6 to consider the way in which these organisations 7 functioned and function. Remember, they were almost 8 always acting after the event. The abuse had already 9 occurred. They did not, and do not, appear to have the 10 necessary powers to investigate such abuse.</p> <p>11 Madam, I'm conscious of the time and recognise that 12 we are coming up to lunchtime. I am going to skip 13 a couple of sections in relation to the police and CPS 14 and just deal with the conclusions. I hope you don't 15 mind. Can I also just deal with government and the 16 state before I move on to conclusions.</p> <p>17 Statutory measures to ensure adequate safeguarding 18 should have been imposed on these bodies as soon as the 19 extent of the failings in relation to safeguarding and 20 reporting to the statutory authorities on the part of 21 the Catholic Church began to be exposed. Instead, the 22 state permitted those who had provided, so unqualified, 23 if not deliberately evasive, in that regard, to 24 undertake the task of implementing an entire 25 safeguarding structure and try to change hearts and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 minds. The exercise has taken decades and is still not 2 complete. This derogation of responsibility by the 3 state is unforgivable. It is unacceptable that this 4 discussion is still taking place 16 years after the 5 issues were so widely and publicly identified. 6 The inquiry will want to explore, we are sure, how 7 it is that, despite there being so many different 8 organisations and institutions involved, so little was 9 done to assist in the prevention, detection and 10 prosecution of child sexual abuse at St Benedict's. We 11 invite the inquiry to vigorously explore with all of 12 these institutions, when their representatives provide 13 oral evidence, why they consider they have little or no 14 responsibility in the events in question. 15 Finally this, chair: we are aware the law does not 16 criminally sanction a failure to report suspicion, 17 belief or knowledge of child sexual abuse and that there 18 are those that seek a change in the law so that such 19 reporting is mandatory in similar terms to money 20 laundering regulations. It is perhaps an indication of 21 how little regard our society appears to have for 22 children's rights that, despite knowing that child 23 sexual abuse has been taking place for many, many years, 24 in our midst, the first time a mandatory requirement to 25 report criminality occurs is when society is concerned</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 about dirty money. We invite the inquiry to explore the 2 realistic possibility of a change in the law that 3 imposes criminal sanctions on individuals who fail to 4 disclose child sexual abuse. We submit that this must 5 include priests who learn of such abuse in a confession 6 because we say it must be obvious to all that child 7 sexual abuse means that there has been harm to a child 8 or there is a risk of harm to a child and this, we 9 submit, cannot attract any sort of confidentiality 10 whether because of religion or otherwise. 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Khan. Mr Enright? 12 Opening statement by MR ENRIGHT 13 MR ENRIGHT: First, thank you very much for delaying lunch, 14 and please excuse me for not rising. 15 Mr Jacobs and I represent F13 and 18 other core 16 participant victims and survivors across the Roman 17 Catholic Church investigations. You will recall that 18 F13 was born in the East End of Glasgow in the 1950s. 19 He went to the Sacred Heart Primary School. He was 20 abused there by the head and deputy head, who were 21 members of the Marist Order. 22 At the age of 10, he was taken to two Scottish 23 abbeys: Pluscarden and Fort Augustus, run by the English 24 Benedictine Congregation. 25 We know from the evidence in the first Benedictine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>
<p>1 hearing of 2017 that known child abusers were moved from 2 English abbeys to Fort Augustus. F13 was abused by two 3 monks at Pluscarden. He was then taken to 4 Fort Augustus, locked in a room and raped by two others. 5 In November 2017, the then president of the English 6 Benedictine Congregation, Dom Richard Yeo, visited F13 7 at his home along with Bishop Brian Keenan. F13 8 received apologies from Dom Yeo and Bishop Keenan on 9 behalf of the English Benedictines and the church. F13 10 has recently and finally received some measure of 11 recompense. 12 To his great credit, F13 has been proactive in 13 seeking to persuade the Catholic Church to reform itself 14 so that the abuses he suffered are not suffered by 15 children in the future. F13 has corresponded with three 16 Popes, he has had meetings with the Scottish First 17 Minister, he has addressed the Bishops' Conference of 18 Scotland on child abuse issues. Through his 19 organisation, the Scottish Child Abuse Movement, F13 has 20 supported many survivors. F13 promotes his 21 organisation's three As: acknowledgement, apology and 22 assistance. F13 has taken the insights born of many 23 years of reflection of the effects of child abuse and 24 has used them to promote constructive change to help 25 victims and to protect children in the future.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>	<p>1 The contrast between F13's positive and constructive 2 actions to the opacity, obfuscation and now obstruction 3 of the Catholic Church could not be more stark. As you 4 know, for the past two years, we have made repeated 5 submissions based on evidence heard in this inquiry that 6 the Catholic Church is culturally and structurally 7 incapable of addressing clerical abuse and implementing 8 uniform standards of safeguarding. 9 In the context of the Benedictines, this is even 10 more serious. You will recall when Dom Yeo gave 11 evidence on 28 November 2017 to this investigation, he 12 told us that a Benedictine monk, even a known abuser, 13 cannot be moved from his monastery without his consent, 14 and we heard this morning that Benedictine monk F14 -- 15 sorry, F46, against whom there are real concerns and who 16 is under a restriction order, remains at Ealing Abbey. 17 We say that the existence of insurmountable 18 structural and cultural obstacles to the creation and 19 implementation of a "One Church" policy was in fact 20 settled by Cardinal Nichols when he gave his evidence to 21 this inquiry in December. The church simply cannot do 22 it. However, in the last few days, the Holy See, the 23 Catholic Church government in Rome, via its 24 Papal Nuncio, its ambassador to the UK, has also 25 demonstrated the church will not do it. CTI has told us</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 this morning the inquiry has asked and requested that 2 the Vatican's UK Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Adams, 3 provides evidence that is vital to this investigation, 4 vital to your understanding of the extent of child abuse 5 at St Benedict's School and vital to your ability to 6 understand how the church investigated and responded to 7 the widespread and proven sexual assaults against 8 children in St Benedict's and Ealing. Counsel to the 9 investigation set out the detailed questions and 10 requests for evidence that the inquiry requested from 11 the Papal Nuncio, but, as counsel to the investigation 12 has told us this morning, rather than answer your 13 requests, he initially hid behind his diplomatic 14 immunity and the Vienna Convention and since then has 15 refused to acknowledge the ever-more urgent letters from 16 this inquiry to him requiring that evidence. The 17 Papal Nuncio's astonishing refusal to answer questions 18 on pressing child abuse matters and thereby the 19 Catholic Church's flagrant disregard for this inquiry 20 cannot be allowed to go unchallenged. 21 As you know, we made an application to you, chair, 22 urging you to issue a rule 9 statement request to the 23 Nuncio, backed by a section 21 notice advising him that 24 if he did not comply with your requests, that you would 25 subject him to criminal proceedings. The penalty for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 failing to comply with a notice from you, chair, is up 2 to 51 weeks' imprisonment. The Papal Nuncio needs to 3 know that he has only three choices here: to offer up 4 the evidence; to face criminal prosecution; or to be 5 expelled from the United Kingdom. Now, it has been 6 suggested that you would be slow to exercise your powers 7 for fear that the Nuncio might hide behind his 8 diplomatic immunity and thereby evade the force of 9 British law, but that's a matter for the police, the 10 Crown Prosecution Service and our courts, not for you. 11 There are many reasons why we are sure that you will 12 not hesitate to act: this evidence is vital to this 13 investigation and to the safety of children in Ealing 14 and across the country; you have the statutory duty and 15 power to compel its production; you will not allow the 16 Catholic Church or any other powerful institution to 17 undermine this public inquiry on child abuse; you will 18 wish to send a strong message that no-one, no matter how 19 powerful or elevated they consider themselves to be, is 20 above the law in this country and never when a child's 21 safety is at stake. 22 We know that you will cast aside the concerns of 23 those advising you and that you will press forward to do 24 what is right, what is proper and what is lawful in the 25 certain knowledge that you will have the unswerving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>
<p>1 support of our Prime Minister, because you will recall 2 that when the Prime Minister announced your inquiry's 3 panel in March 2015, she said, and I quote: 4 "You will challenge individuals and institutions 5 without fear or favour and get to the truth." 6 We have no doubt that the Prime Minister will honour 7 her commitment to you and to the country and will not 8 stand idly by while a diplomat from a far-off, secretive 9 theocratic state withholds vital evidence of child abuse 10 in this country from you. 11 If the church continues to withhold this evidence 12 from you, we have no doubt the Prime Minister will expel 13 Archbishop Adams from the UK for misusing his diplomatic 14 privileges by withholding evidence relating to the 15 sexual abuse of children in London and perhaps more 16 widely. 17 As soon as I sit down, there will be a letter before 18 the Prime Minister on this issue. Of course, those 19 representing Ealing Abbey, the Catholic Council, 20 Ampleforth, who are all here today could solve this 21 problem immediately. One of their illustrious number 22 could simply leave the room and telephone the Nuncio and 23 ask him to gather the evidence which he has in 24 Wimbledon. Ask him to put it in a taxi and bring it 25 here to you today.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>	<p>1 For example, Baroness O'Loan, who distinguished 2 herself as the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland and 3 is a member of the Catholic Council, the Nuncio would 4 certainly not decline a call from the Baroness. Who 5 would? 6 If those representing the church want us to believe 7 they are serious about clerical abuse and safeguarding 8 in Ealing and elsewhere, then they must place that call 9 now. If they don't, then we know where they stand: they 10 stand with the Nuncio and the Vatican in their disregard 11 for this inquiry and the safety of children in the UK. 12 Alternatively, if those representing Ealing and the 13 church report that they are powerless to obtain that 14 documentation, then that is proof positive that the 15 church is incapable of policing clerical abuse and child 16 protection themselves and that task must be taken from 17 them and performed by a reliable external body. 18 What has happened here is a fundamental test of this 19 inquiry and your and the Prime Minister's resolve and 20 authority to challenge individuals and institutions 21 without fear or favour and to get to the truth. The 22 safety of children in Ealing, in London and across the 23 UK far, far outweigh this disgraceful attempt by the 24 Catholic Church to withhold evidence on child abuse. 25 Chair, if the church refuses to act, we have no</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 doubt that you will act and you will act in the best 2 interests of children. Thank you very much. 3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Enright. We will now take our 4 lunch break and return at 2.10 pm. 5 (1.14 pm) 6 (The short adjournment) 7 (2.10 pm) 8 THE CHAIR: Mr Greenwood? 9 Opening statement by MR GREENWOOD 10 MR GREENWOOD: I appear on behalf of RC-A31, RC-A32, RC-A33, 11 C17, C18 and C19, all of whom were variously harmed by 12 members of the Roman Catholic organisation. C18 and C19 13 were specifically harmed by members of the English 14 Benedictine Order. 15 You have already reported on Downside and 16 Ampleforth, and in your executive summary, you concluded 17 by quoting David Molesworth, a safeguarding specialist, 18 who said: 19 "I do not believe currently that the organisation as 20 a whole understands or accepts their responsibilities 21 for child protection issues. We appear to be dealing 22 with denial or downright obstruction." 23 We anticipate that the evidence in relation to 24 Ealing will only reinforce the strength of that view. 25 If there is a significant difference with Ealing, it is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 this: at Ealing, the sexual abuse was perpetrated by 2 those at the very top of the organisation. David Pearce 3 was prior, head of the junior school and bursar. 4 Laurence Soper was bursar of St Benedict's, prior, 5 headmaster, abbot and bursar of the general Benedictine 6 Benedict Conference. Both eventually were sentenced to 7 lengthy terms of imprisonment for abuse of children in 8 their care. We have read how Soper, knowing himself to 9 be a child abuser, handled the first complaints against 10 Pearce. 11 We have read how, when the authorities placed Soper 12 on bail, he fled from Rome to the Balkans with 13 a substantial amount of money in his bank account. 14 You are asked by the Benedictine witnesses involved 15 with Ealing to accept that, in this closed community, 16 they had no grounds for suspecting their brethren until 17 it was obvious, even to those outside their closed 18 community. Well, we, on behalf of our core 19 participants, reject this as incredible. 20 The Benedictines did no more in responding to 21 child abuse in their midst than events forced them to 22 do. This is not a case of rotten apples, but a rotten 23 institution. 24 In our view, as long as the EBC is engaged with the 25 care and education of children, the EBC poses an</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>
<p>1 unacceptable risk to children. This raises a wider 2 question of the extent to which faith-based education is 3 conducive to the safety of children. 4 The EBC themselves acknowledged this by sponsoring 5 a conference which explored how elements of Catholic 6 culture, including its theology, might enable abusive 7 behaviour. 8 We have previously emphasised the impediments to 9 self-governance presented by Catholic teaching, Canon 10 law and the rule of the Benedictine Order, the English 11 Benedictine Congregation's hierarchical structure, its 12 culture and its unincorporated status. 13 We have previously recommended, in summary, the 14 creation of a law to embody mandatory reporting as 15 advocated by the knowledgeable pressure group, 16 Mandate Now, the creation of a statutory body with 17 powers to police and enforce basic standards of child 18 protection. We envisage a body similar to the Health 19 and Safety Executive. 20 Significantly, we have previously recommended 21 a review of the powers of the Charity Commission. We 22 are concerned, through reading the materials disclosed 23 during this investigation, that there have, in our view, 24 been significant individual and systematic failings at 25 the Charity Commission and the Department for Education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>	<p>1 It appears from the relevant legislation that the 2 Charities Commission has the power to revoke the 3 charitable status of an institution, including schools. 4 Charitable status confers upon the institution 5 significant prestige and tax advantages. It is a matter 6 of public concern that institutions that have proved 7 safe havens for paedophiles should receive, in effect, 8 a public subsidy to teach children. 9 The removal, or threat of removal, of charitable 10 status would be a powerful incentive to comply with 11 safeguarding. In assessing public benefit, the 12 commission's own guidance is that benefit must be 13 balanced against any detriment or harm. We are 14 interested to learn whether charitable status has ever 15 been revoked by the Charity Commission and the threshold 16 test for decision makers. If not in cases like this, 17 then when? We are still to learn the detail of what 18 sanctions have been imposed on the Trusts running the 19 schools at Ampleforth, Downside and Ealing. It is not 20 clear to us that the tests applied to determine 21 charitable status, the public benefit tests, are 22 satisfied by religious institutions whose record and 23 approach to safeguarding has been, and remains, 24 lamentable. The assessment of those schools presently 25 appears to have been avoided. Jonathan West probed the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 Charities Commission, the ISI, and the Department for 2 Education significantly in 2009 and has had 3 unsatisfactory responses. We hope to explore these 4 issues during the hearing.</p> <p>5 The Independent Schools Inspectorate failed to 6 uncover significant offending by the EBC members at 7 St Benedict's between its inspections in 2003 and 2009. 8 Offences committed by members were withheld from their 9 inspectors during their 2009 inspection. Despite this 10 being reported to them by Jonathan West, no sanctions 11 were imposed. We have to ask why there were no 12 sanctions, why did the ISI or the Department for 13 Education consider the staff at St Benedict's should 14 remain in post?</p> <p>15 It's been suggested that the only sanction is to 16 deregulate a school and to force its complete closure. 17 I hope that this inquiry will explore the various 18 sanctions which the Charities Commission and the 19 Department for Education can impose, how decisions are 20 made. It appears to us that either new powers or more 21 rigorous enforcement of existing ones is needed. Thank 22 you, chair.</p> <p>23 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Greenwood. Mr Collins? 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 Opening statement by MR COLLINS 2 MR COLLINS: Thank you. For my opening remarks, perhaps 3 I can do no better than read out to you a note that 4 I received from one of the core participants over the 5 course of the weekend. He wrote this: 6 "I initially approached the Catholic Diocese of 7 Westminster in the spring of 2013, having read an 8 article in the Catholic Herald relating to one of 9 the student priests who had been present during my 10 experience of abuse. This article caused me significant 11 concern that what I thought was in the past would still 12 be happening to student priests who would now be 13 ordained and active in the church. When I contacted the 14 Westminster safeguarding team for the diocese, I did so 15 with great trepidation. Following my initial contact 16 with the safeguarding office, I agreed to be interviewed 17 by the police, and I was interviewed, in fact, by two 18 police forces. I then met the safeguarding team again. 19 But this has affected me in many ways because there's 20 been no real follow-up, and I had underestimated the 21 personal impact the process would have on me. 22 Ironically, my experience of giving evidence to two 23 police forces and the legal support I received has been 24 very positive and reassuring. My experience of 25 reporting to the Catholic Diocese Safeguarding Team has</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>
<p>1 left me anxious and further isolated because of the lack 2 of follow-up. My anxiety levels were further increased 3 when I received phone calls from the safeguarding team 4 in Westminster approximately 12 months after my initial 5 meeting asking me for the names of other priests that 6 I had supposedly reported to the police. It appeared 7 the safeguarding team had mistaken me for another person 8 or there is an administration error in the record 9 keeping. These phone calls left me distressed and 10 further despairing about the risk I had already taken 11 the previous year and the lack of support I'd received 12 during the process of giving evidence. Although this is 13 a strong statement, I am now convinced that in the 14 process of reporting and giving evidence, as much damage 15 can be done psychologically as in the original sexual 16 abuse. It is therefore critical for all those involved, 17 particularly in this case, that the safeguarding team 18 review their awareness of the impact upon victims when 19 giving evidence and reporting. It was only after my own 20 therapist recommended that I consider giving evidence to 21 IICSA that I began to receive what I would call 22 appropriate support, both psychological and legal, 23 though, sadly, none from the church. I cannot stress 24 strongly enough that my initial contact with the 25 Catholic Church safeguarding team was disappointing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>	<p>1 However, the lack of follow-up and then the 2 inappropriate phone call reduced my confidence in the 3 process of reporting and left me severely anxious and 4 depressed, so much so that it was difficult to hold on 5 to the appropriateness of reporting in the first place 6 as opposed to continuing to keep my secret. In summary, 7 when I reflect on the initial meeting which took place 8 in the Catholic Diocese of Westminster, I now realise 9 the inappropriateness of the setting. I recommend that 10 when individuals are being interviewed by members of 11 the safeguarding team, a neutral environment is found 12 without religious icons and the potential of coming into 13 contact with the clergy, particularly those in clerical 14 outfits. I would also recommend that those safeguarding 15 team members who do carry out interviews are properly 16 trained and have at least a minimum of basic listening 17 skills. The person who interviewed me was more 18 interested in who he could get rather than my 19 psychological well-being. I have been left feeling 20 ignored and further abandoned by the Catholic Church in 21 its ability to think about my own well-being."</p> <p>22 That account, I would say, shines a light on what is 23 perhaps the key issue, which is the ability, or 24 inability, of institutions charged in whatever way with 25 the welfare, the education and the promotion of children</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 that are vulnerable to adequately police themselves and 2 undertake safeguarding obligations, and arising from 3 that are, I would say, four key questions. 4 What is the obligation to report to the statutory 5 authorities? 6 Secondly, what would that obligation actually look 7 like in practice? How would it be discharged? 8 When it comes to safeguarding, where does the buck 9 actually stop? Because the impression that I often gain 10 from listening to these accounts is that it is like 11 a spider's web: there is a thread that goes here, 12 a thread that goes there and a thread that goes there. 13 I think it is a key question to ask: where does the buck 14 actually stop and what does that actually mean in 15 reality? 16 Then, fourthly, and very importantly, what is 17 actually the position and the role of complainants and 18 survivors in this process? I hope over the coming days 19 you will get sufficient evidence and information to 20 enable you to answer those questions constructively. 21 Unless I can assist further? 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr Collins. Ms Henke? 23 Opening statement by MS HENKE 24 MS HENKE: Good afternoon. On behalf of Ealing Abbey and 25 St Benedict's School, I thank you for the ability to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 make this brief opening statement. 2 Ealing Abbey is, as you know, an autonomous 3 community. The monks take a vow of stability and belong 4 to that local community all their lives. Traditionally, 5 the work of the monks at Ealing has been pastoral care 6 for the large parish attached to the abbey church and 7 the provision of education, mostly at St Benedict's. 8 Whilst they work in the parish, the parish is the 9 responsibility of the Diocese of Westminster. 10 St Benedict's initially was a boarding school until the 11 outbreak of World War II. It is now, as you have heard, 12 the only Benedictine day school in Britain and it has an 13 excellent academic record. Since 1987, it has had a lay 14 head. The school has become co-educational in 2008 and, 15 as of last year, it had 1,072 pupils aged between 3 and 16 18 on their school roll. 17 The pupil mix is diverse. Now not all are Catholic. 18 The school occupies, again, as you will have heard, 19 a large site adjacent to the abbey church in the centre 20 of bustling Ealing. 21 There is now no physical access between the 22 monastery and the school. 23 Until the school achieved independence, the 24 governance of St Benedict's was the responsibility of 25 the monastic community. The school became independent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>
<p>1 in response to the Carlile Report, and I shall return to 2 that briefly later. 3 That report had been commissioned by the abbey 4 in July 2010 to deal with governance and safeguarding 5 issues arising out of what we have to accept is 6 a catalogue of disclosures relating to the abuse of 7 children, mainly, but not exclusively, by monks who were 8 members of the monastic community. 9 The victims of the abuse were the pupils of 10 St Benedict's School. 11 We accept that the abuse that was suffered was 12 compounded by the abuse of trust, the trust placed in 13 teachers and the trust placed in the religious. 14 The effect on the survivors has been profound and 15 lifelong. In opening, we acknowledge the suffering of 16 the survivors and its ripple effect, its impact on their 17 loved ones and far beyond. We acknowledge the courage 18 and benefit of the survivors who have found the ability 19 to speak out. 20 Madam chair, we make no bones today about where 21 responsibility lies. We accept that the attribution of 22 blame is indeed straightforward. It falls on the 23 abusers themselves. It falls on the monastic community 24 and it falls on the trustees of the school as it then 25 was.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>	<p>1 There are many lessons to be learnt from our past 2 mistakes. We accept that one -- and it is but one -- 3 serious mistake was the decision to allow David Pearce 4 to return to the abbey in 2006. 5 As you have heard, he had been risk assessed and was 6 subject to a covenant of care that had been drafted by 7 the safeguarding officer of the diocese. The local 8 Social Services at the time, the police and the visitors 9 were aware of the circumstances under which he resided 10 at the monastery, and no-one counselled against them. 11 Despite the safeguards in place, David Pearce abused 12 again. We have looked deep and we have asked ourselves, 13 for our part: how did we come to fail that victim so 14 heinously? With clear hindsight, and being frank with 15 the inquiry in opening, it is because we could tick off 16 what he couldn't do, and because we relied on others. 17 We say that what we and others didn't do is anticipate 18 what he could still do. 19 We should have been proactive and we should have 20 protected. We failed to be vigilant and we take full 21 responsibility. 22 In opening, on behalf of those I represent, I offer 23 a sincere, unreserved and profound apology to each and 24 every survivor. In due course, the abbot will give oral 25 evidence to the inquiry. In that evidence, he will</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 publicly apologise to the survivors for the mistakes he 2 and the abbey have made. We wish to make reparation and 3 we will do all we can to meet that aim. But we accept 4 that, for some, nothing will ever assuage the harm that 5 they have suffered.</p> <p>6 We are conscious that "sorry" oft repeated can ring 7 hollow. We hope to evidence, by showing both insight 8 and action to rectify past mistakes, that our apology 9 has true solidity and worth. We are committed to 10 assisting this inquiry. We have voluntarily disclosed 11 many files of relevance documents, together with 12 a lengthy narrative to assist in their understanding. 13 We have endeavoured to respond quickly to all subsequent 14 requests for disclosure.</p> <p>15 We accept that the safety and welfare of all 16 children is paramount.</p> <p>17 Most of the abuse disclosed before this inquiry 18 concerns a shameful period which predates certainly in 19 part both the election of Abbot Martin and the Nolan and 20 Cumberlege Reports. The safeguarding procedures, 21 policies and culture in the school and the abbey are now 22 very different. Change, we say, began to take place in 23 and around 2000 with the election of the new abbot, 24 Abbot Martin. In response to Nolan, Ealing Abbey in 25 2002 aligned itself on a voluntary basis with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Diocese of Westminster for safeguarding purposes. In 2 2007, that relationship was put on a formal footing.</p> <p>3 The diocese provided safeguarding advice to the 4 school and the abbey until the school became 5 independent. This alignment was a change for the 6 better, but we acknowledge it was not enough. Still, 7 David Pearce was able to abuse. In response to 8 Mr Pearce's conviction, the abbot commissioned a report 9 into safeguarding from Messrs Wright and Nixon, 10 safeguarding specialists recommended by the safeguarding 11 officer for the diocese. They were given free range to 12 determine the scope of their enquiries and the range of 13 their evidence base. They reported in November 2009, 14 and that is before this inquiry.</p> <p>15 Each of the recommendations was accepted. Matters 16 concerning safeguarding were, again, thus improved. 17 But, in retrospect, we accept the scope and remit that 18 Wright and Nixon had set themselves was too narrow and 19 it was not enough.</p> <p>20 It was the abbey's response to the draft report 21 emanating from the unannounced May 2010 ISI inspection 22 and the letter from the Department for Education that 23 brought about what we say is radical change. In 24 response, the abbot requested a meeting with the 25 regulators, which took place in July 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>
<p>1 Concern had been raised about a monk, F41, and that 2 concern persisted despite a medical report that he was 3 in frail health and a further report from a psychologist 4 that placed the balance of harm this way, that it was 5 safer to keep him within the abbey.</p> <p>6 The abbot considered F41's case long and hard and, 7 looking back on it, he should have made a decision 8 further, but ultimately he accepted the regulator's view 9 and he sent him away from the abbey.</p> <p>10 F46 does still reside in the abbey under 11 a safeguarding plan approved by the local authority's 12 Social Services Department in the full knowledge of all 13 the relevant statutory agencies. He is monitored and we 14 know where he is.</p> <p>15 The inspection report commented that the commitment 16 to trust within the community and to St Benedict's Rule 17 of love and forgiveness appears on occasion to have 18 overshadowed responsibility for children's welfare. 19 Whether that was right or not, we accepted that that 20 potential conflict needed to be addressed. Hence, at 21 the meeting in July 2010, Abbot Martin indicated he'd 22 accepted legal advice and that he intended to commission 23 an independent inquiry into safeguarding and governance. 24 That was the Carlile Report. That report is before you. 25 As to its independence, Lord Carlile was chosen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>	<p>1 because he was an eminent QC with the relevant 2 experience. His conclusions and the facts that he found 3 before he reached those conclusions show, we say, his 4 independence. We say the Carlile Report brought 5 transparency to what had happened at the school and in 6 the abbey. Central to the report was the recommendation 7 that there should be a total, that is, legal and 8 practical, separation between the school and the abbey. 9 Those recommendations were accepted and, since 10 1 September 2012, the school has been independent of 11 the abbey. The governance of the school's charitable 12 company is now one tier. The articles are drafted so 13 that there will always be a lay majority. Given the 14 vile past abuse, rightly and understandably, the school 15 has continued to be the subject of scrutiny. Following 16 its independence, St Benedict has had a number of ISI 17 inspections. Each report is before this inquiry.</p> <p>18 In January 2016, the school was found to be 19 compliant and, pertinently, given the purpose of this 20 inquiry, the governing body's oversight of safeguarding 21 concerns was described as "secure".</p> <p>22 Madam chair, members of the panel, we say that 23 radical change has happened and it is for the best. The 24 school's governing body now has a lay chair. There are 25 15 governors -- three are monks; two, highly respected</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 head teachers of other independent schools; and the 2 remaining ten are lay people drawn from diverse 3 backgrounds. Not all the governors are Catholic. The 4 governing body meets termly, as does the safeguarding 5 subcommittee, which is chaired by a recognised expert in 6 the field of safeguarding. Whilst it is a religious 7 school and it has a clear Benedictine ethos, any member 8 of the religious is treated exactly the same as any 9 other adult who has, or will have, contact with children 10 in the school's care.</p> <p>11 One monk now works there full time in the school and 12 four others help with mass and similar activities. Each 13 has been DBS checked by the school. Decisions in 14 relation to the appointment and preferment of staff are 15 now taken by the school, not the abbey. There is proper 16 recording of all allegations made and any investigations 17 undertaken.</p> <p>18 The child protection policy is both updated and 19 observed. All allegations of abuse are referred on 20 receipt to the LADO of Ealing Social Services Department 21 with whom the school continues to have a close working 22 relationship.</p> <p>23 The monastery, for safeguarding purposes, continues 24 to align itself with the diocese. The abbey's child 25 protection policy has been drafted with the assistance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 of the NSPCC. Since 2012, the whole monastic community 2 has received safeguarding training from the NSPCC once 3 every three years. Records of the monastery have been 4 subject to a thorough and independent review by Dr McCoy 5 and that review has been placed before this inquiry. 6 Better administration is now in place in the abbey. 7 There are systems to ensure that all child protection 8 matters are properly recorded, catalogued and kept safe.</p> <p>9 The abbey has had six visitations since 2003, of 10 which one was the Extraordinary Visitation 11 in August 2010, of which you have heard, and the other, 12 the Apostolic Visitation in 2011.</p> <p>13 The most recent was in February 2016. That 14 visitation was informed by a safeguarding report from an 15 independent child protection consultant. You have that 16 report. He recommended improvement in a number of 17 areas. Those recommendations were not simply accepted 18 but acted upon.</p> <p>19 Subsequently, Ealing Abbey has welcomed and engaged 20 with Praesidium. Indeed, as I understand it, it was the 21 first to volunteer for safeguarding audit and that audit 22 is intended to drive improvement. The audit took place 23 in July with a report in October of last year.</p> <p>24 Praesidium made recommendations for improvement which 25 have been acted upon. The abbot has commissioned, in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>
<p>1 addition, a safeguarding audit which is systematically 2 working through each aspect of parish life in which 3 monks play a part.</p> <p>4 Madam chair, members of the panel, we know we have 5 made mistakes and those mistakes have caused devastating 6 and longstanding significant harm. For all the harm 7 caused to the survivors, we are truly, truly sorry. We 8 will never cease saying sorry. We will continue to try 9 to do better and to learn from our mistakes.</p> <p>10 We enter into this session of the inquiry with open 11 ears and open minds. We want to do all we can to 12 ensure, insofar as we can, that the pupils in the school 13 and those with whom the religious have contact are safe 14 now and in the future. We shall listen to the evidence 15 placed before you acutely and we shall respond in due 16 course in a brief closing.</p> <p>17 At this juncture, we thank you for listening. Our 18 commitment to this inquiry is strong.</p> <p>19 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Henke. Ms Gallafent?</p> <p>20 Opening statement by MS GALLAFENT</p> <p>21 MS GALLAFENT: Chair, members of the panel, good afternoon.</p> <p>22 As you know, in this case study I represent the 23 Catholic Council for the inquiry, the English 24 Benedictine Congregation and, in particular, 25 Downside Abbey and School. Since the part 1 hearing in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>	<p>1 late 2017, there have been a number of significant 2 developments for each of those bodies. For the purpose 3 of this week's hearing, I am going to concentrate on 4 those concerning the congregation and Downside, with 5 updates in relation to developments at a national level 6 to follow at a generic hearing listed for October of 7 this year.</p> <p>8 Starting, first, with Downside, so far as the abbey 9 and school are concerned, immediately following the 10 publication of the inquiry report in August 2018, both 11 fully acknowledged the serious failings and mistakes 12 that had been made, both in protecting those within 13 their care and responding to safeguarding concerns, and 14 thanked the inquiry and the brave victims and survivors 15 who gave evidence to it.</p> <p>16 Further witness statements have now been submitted 17 to the inquiry to update it on developments at Downside 18 since the position set out in the panel's report. In 19 particular, I would highlight the fact that decisive 20 steps have been taken towards the separation of 21 Downside School from the abbey, overseen by a highly 22 experienced independent consultant, Nicholas Eldred, who 23 was previously general counsel at the BBC, amongst other 24 positions.</p> <p>25 These steps include the unanimous approval by the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 Downside Chapter, which comprises the entire monastic 2 community at Downside, of the move to separation and of 3 the draft articles of association for a new school 4 entity which has now been registered. 5 There has also been the appointment of six 6 experienced lay professionals as trustees for the new 7 school trust and recruitment continues in that respect. 8 The immediate next steps are to register the new 9 school company as a charity and commence the necessary 10 consultation exercise under the Transfer of Undertakings 11 (Protection of Employment) Regulations for staff to be 12 transferred to a new school company. 13 We will of course continue to update the inquiry in 14 that respect, particularly as to timeframes. 15 At the abbey, Father Nicholas Wetz of Belmont Abbey 16 was appointed in September 2018 as the new prior 17 administrator taking over from Dom Leo Maidlow Davis. 18 Since then, all resident monks have received the annual 19 refresher training in safeguarding. The only monk 20 currently subject to a safeguarding plan who was still 21 living at the abbey, F77, has been removed in 22 recognition of the concerns raised in the inquiry's 23 report and the report by the Social Care Institute for 24 Excellence. 25 Father Nicholas has also asked F65 to move to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 south-west of England in order that he can be better 2 monitored. If he does not agree, F65 will be required 3 to seek a dispensation from his vows and the clerical 4 state and, if he refuses to do that, Father Nicholas 5 will initiate the process of dismissal. Pausing there, 6 Mr Enright suggested this morning that Dom Richard has 7 said that a monk cannot be moved without his consent. 8 He didn't go on to make clear, as Dom Richard did the 9 year before last, that if that consent was not 10 forthcoming, then it was quite likely that the monk 11 wouldn't have a role in the monastic life. That is 12 precisely the position that is now being considered in 13 relation to F65. So it would be quite wrong to think 14 that there were no powers on the behalf of the abbot in 15 that context. 16 Father Nicholas has also referred F84 to the 17 relevant Safeguarding Commission. Neither of 18 the safeguarding officers involved in his case consider 19 him to pose any risk to children or to vulnerable 20 adults, but nevertheless, Father Nicholas and the 21 safeguarding officers considered it necessary and 22 appropriate in order to ensure that there has been full 23 information sharing. 24 Turning to the English Benedictine Congregation, the 25 inquiry will be hearing on Friday from the current</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>
<p>1 Abbot President, Christopher Jamison, in relation to 2 recent developments at a congregational level. As 3 I stated in opening at part 1 of this case study, both 4 he and his predecessor, Dom Richard, are wholeheartedly 5 committed to assisting the inquiry throughout this case 6 study with absolute transparency and honesty. 7 Since taking up his role in August 2017, 8 Abbot Christopher has spent the majority of his time 9 working together with the religious superiors of 10 the congregation to create more robust safeguarding 11 processes. He has focused on three main areas. 12 First, responsiveness. This has involved him 13 meeting survivors of child sexual abuse and exploring 14 approaches to providing all survivors with appropriate 15 redress and support. 16 Secondly, accountability. All the individual 17 monasteries in the congregation have agreed to an 18 independent organisation, Praesidium, conducting regular 19 audits of their safeguarding. Praesidium is an 20 independent, not-for-profit secular consultancy that was 21 founded in the United States some 25 years ago. It 22 offers support to organisations serving youth and 23 vulnerable people to prevent abuse. To date, audits 24 have been undertaken by Praesidium at Ealing, Worth and 25 Ampleforth Abbeys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>	<p>1 Thirdly, transparency. This has involved four 2 initiatives. Firstly, enhanced central record keeping 3 of all safeguarding plans by the Abbot President. 4 Secondly, the development of a new EBC Trust 5 safeguarding policy. Thirdly, a new EBC-wide set of 6 procedures for the admission of new members as monks. 7 And, fourthly, the work of the congregation's continuing 8 Formation Commission, which is currently focused on 9 human formation. Now, that's the church's name for 10 developing the skills needed to be a well-rounded person 11 of integrity with the capacity to lead a truly Christian 12 life and, in the Benedictine context, to lead a monastic 13 life. 14 In October 2018, the Commission organised a four-day 15 conference entitled "Taking responsibility for my 16 monastery". This focused on enabling individual monks 17 and nuns to have a stronger sense of responsibility for 18 the culture in their monasteries. The second day, in 19 particular, was spent developing a safer culture in 20 which to protect the young, and that was led by 21 Baroness Hollins, a former President of the Royal 22 College of Psychiatrists and a founder member of 23 the Pontifical Council for the Protection of Minors. 24 That day also included a workshop run by two survivors 25 of child sex abuse, giving participants an opportunity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 to engage personally with them.</p> <p>2 Abbot Christopher, together with the superiors of</p> <p>3 the monasteries, will continue to work conscientiously</p> <p>4 to ensure that EBC communities are safe environments for</p> <p>5 children and young people. They have been assisted in</p> <p>6 this by the inquiry's report on part 1 of the case study</p> <p>7 and they look forward in due course to the inquiry's</p> <p>8 report on part 2 and in particular the inquiry's</p> <p>9 recommendations which will guide them for the future.</p> <p>10 In the meantime, they recognise that more can and</p> <p>11 should be done to help and support victims and survivors</p> <p>12 of child sexual abuse and, on behalf of</p> <p>13 the Abbot President, I reiterate that he welcomes and</p> <p>14 encourages any victim or survivor to make contact either</p> <p>15 with the abbey or school at which they were taught or</p> <p>16 with him personally and, in that context, the</p> <p>17 Abbot President entirely shares the views expressed by</p> <p>18 Mr Collins on behalf of one of the core participants</p> <p>19 about the position and role of survivors and victims,</p> <p>20 both when reporting allegations to the church and</p> <p>21 relevant authorities as well as in this inquiry process,</p> <p>22 and the importance of ensuring that their needs are</p> <p>23 fully taken into account at all times.</p> <p>24 If there are any victims or survivors who have not</p> <p>25 yet contacted the authorities, he would urge them to do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 so.</p> <p>2 The Abbot President, the members of the congregation</p> <p>3 and the Catholic Council all remain fully committed to</p> <p>4 learning from the past, no matter how difficult that may</p> <p>5 be to confront, and taking all appropriate steps for the</p> <p>6 future to protect children from sexual abuse and</p> <p>7 exploitation, and of course remain committed to</p> <p>8 assisting the inquiry in any way that it can.</p> <p>9 To pick up on the other point made by Mr Enright, in</p> <p>10 particular, this morning, Mr Enright suggested in this</p> <p>11 context that the Apostolic Nuncio has failed even to</p> <p>12 acknowledge letters from the inquiry. That isn't, as</p> <p>13 a matter of fact, correct, although it may be that</p> <p>14 Mr Enright wasn't aware of that. The Nuncio did send</p> <p>15 a response via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,</p> <p>16 being the appropriate channel because of the diplomatic</p> <p>17 status of his position, on 29 January, and we understand</p> <p>18 that the solicitor to this investigation is in contact</p> <p>19 with the Apostolic Nuncio in following that up and</p> <p>20 communications continue.</p> <p>21 We make it clear that we, on behalf of the Catholic</p> <p>22 Council, will continue to do all that we can to assist</p> <p>23 the inquiry and to ensure that all relevant information</p> <p>24 is put before it. But for the moment, insofar as the</p> <p>25 Apostolic Nuncio is concerned, that is a matter that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>
<p>1 continues to be dealt with by the solicitor to the</p> <p>2 inquiry himself. We are grateful. Thank you.</p> <p>3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Gallafent. Ms Leek?</p> <p>4 Opening statement by MS LEEK</p> <p>5 MS LEEK: Chair, I appear on behalf of the Commissioner of</p> <p>6 the Police of the Metropolis who reiterates her</p> <p>7 continued commitment to supporting the inquiry in its</p> <p>8 work and aims. The Commissioner recognises with deep</p> <p>9 sadness that so many children who were educated at</p> <p>10 St Benedict's School and under the auspices of</p> <p>11 Ealing Abbey were subjected to sexual abuse and</p> <p>12 exploitation.</p> <p>13 This abuse happened when they should have been cared</p> <p>14 for, listened to and protected. It is clear that the</p> <p>15 institutions and systems in place did not protect those</p> <p>16 children from abuse. Where abuse did happen, in many</p> <p>17 cases, there were barriers to disclosure by complainants</p> <p>18 and victims and, where disclosure was made, institutions</p> <p>19 did not always respond appropriately.</p> <p>20 The Commissioner recognises the courage of</p> <p>21 the victims and survivors who have come forward and</p> <p>22 spoken about their experiences, including those who will</p> <p>23 give evidence this week. The consequences for the</p> <p>24 survivors have been serious and lifelong. The</p> <p>25 Commissioner welcomes the public scrutiny of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>	<p>1 the allegations and the institutional responses to them.</p> <p>2 The purpose of this inquiry, in addition to giving</p> <p>3 public voice to those who were abused, must be to learn</p> <p>4 lessons for the future.</p> <p>5 The Metropolitan Police Service has investigated</p> <p>6 allegations of sexual abuse involving children at</p> <p>7 St Benedict's. As you have been made aware, these</p> <p>8 investigations have led to a number of convictions in</p> <p>9 connection with offences committed there, including</p> <p>10 those of Father David Pearce, sentenced to five years'</p> <p>11 imprisonment, and Father Laurence Soper, sentenced to</p> <p>12 18 years' imprisonment.</p> <p>13 The Commissioner hopes that the inquiry's hearings</p> <p>14 will provide a fuller understanding of the nature and</p> <p>15 extent of the abuse, the circumstances in which this</p> <p>16 arose and the reasons why it took so long for the extent</p> <p>17 of the abuse perpetrated to become known. This will</p> <p>18 enable the inquiry and institutions, both locally and</p> <p>19 nationwide, including the Metropolitan Police Service,</p> <p>20 to identify changes required if they have not already</p> <p>21 been made, to ensure that children in faith schools and</p> <p>22 communities are better protected in the future and to</p> <p>23 address barriers to disclosure.</p> <p>24 Chair, significant changes have already been made to</p> <p>25 internal systems and processes during the period which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 the inquiry is examining. The Metropolitan Police 2 Service constantly strives to improve these. The 3 Commissioner welcomes the opportunity to learn lessons 4 for the future. 5 Commander Neil Jerome will address in his evidence 6 the development of the Met's policies and procedures 7 with regard to the investigation of allegations of child 8 sexual abuse. This inquiry will provide further 9 opportunity to learn lessons and, where appropriate, 10 make further changes going forward. 11 The Metropolitan Police Service is committed to 12 taking all possible steps to ensure that children are 13 properly protected. Thank you. 14 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Leek. Ms Griffiths? 15 MS GRIFFITHS: No, thank you very much, madam. 16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And finally, Mr Kelly? 17 MR KELLY: No, thank you. 18 THE CHAIR: Ms Karmy-Jones? 19 MS KARMY-JONES: Chair, submissions now having been 20 completed, I propose to call one witness, a complainant 21 witness, RC-A8. May I suggest that we take the 22 afternoon break now, because, of course, the room will 23 need to be cleared in order that he can give his 24 evidence properly? 25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will return at 3.05 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 (2.50 pm) 2 (A short break) 3 (3.09 pm) 4 WITNESS RC-A8 (sworn) 5 Examination by MS KARMY-JONES 6 MS KARMY-JONES: Sir, I am going to ask you some questions 7 on behalf of the inquiry, and can I give you some 8 guidance just to begin with? 9 If you need to sit down at any stage, by all means 10 do so, and you may find it easier because of 11 the microphones. 12 A. Fine, okay. Thank you. 13 Q. Do try and keep your voice up good and loud? 14 A. Can you hear me? 15 Q. Yes, we can. Thank you. Please try and remember to 16 stick to the redactions. You are redacted as RC-A8, and 17 please try and stick to the redactions of others. It 18 may be very tempting, or just as a matter of habit, to 19 refer to some by name -- you will know them far better 20 than any of us. 21 A. Understood. 22 Q. But we will have to stop the feed, and I would be 23 grateful if we can try to avoid that. We understand 24 mistakes are made. 25 A. I understand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>
<p>1 Q. I may refer you to some passages in your statement. Do 2 you have that before you? 3 A. I do. 4 Q. I may skip some sections out, not because they are not 5 being considered, but simply because we are trying to 6 focus on some of the more salient issues around your 7 time at St Benedict's. All right? Please only refer by 8 name to those perpetrators or alleged perpetrators who 9 have been convicted? 10 A. I understand. 11 Q. I think your evidence will largely focus on Mr Maestri, 12 Mr Pearce and Mr Soper. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. You were, I think, born in 1961; is that right? 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. You attended St Benedict's School between the ages of 17 approximately 13 to 16? 18 A. Well, it was 13 to 16. 19 Q. So from the mid to late '70s? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. You gave evidence in the trial of Laurence Soper in 22 2017? 23 A. I did. 24 Q. He was convicted, as we have heard, of abusing a number 25 of boys at the school, one of whom was you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>	<p>1 A. That's correct. 2 Q. By way of background, you were 8 when your family moved 3 to London? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Your family, you have described in your statement as 6 being a professional and artistic, middle-class family; 7 is that right? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Again, just by way of background, when you joined 10 St Benedict's School, you had been to a series of other 11 schools, for various reasons? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And around the middle of 1973, or thereabouts, you had 14 been subjected to abuse by a family friend? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Sexual abuse. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. I don't want to go into that, because in your statement 19 you say that there may be some proceedings around it, 20 criminal proceedings? 21 A. There are, so it's sub judice. I can't talk about it. 22 Q. I want to just deal with how that affected the time that 23 you spent at St Benedict's. Can I, first of all, ask 24 you how you found St Benedict's when you first arrived, 25 as a boy of 13? What was it like?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

1 **A. Grim. The atmosphere was grim. Cold, grim, forbidding.**
 2 **It wasn't at all what I had been used to.**
 3 Q. How were pupils treated there?
 4 **A. It's a difficult question to answer. Some pupils were**
 5 **treated correctly, but if your face didn't fit for any**
 6 **reason, that wasn't the case at all: you were quickly**
 7 **made aware that you were an outsider.**
 8 Q. Can you think of the kind of things that would be
 9 considered a face not fitting? What kind of things
 10 would lead to that?
 11 **A. Refusing to allow clerical or lay staff to sexually**
 12 **abuse you would be one of the reasons.**
 13 Q. You talk in your statement about the sexual abuse that
 14 was inflicted on other boys and members of what you call
 15 a paedophile ring operating at St Benedict's. First of
 16 all, your experiences, yourself being the victim of
 17 abuse when you arrived at the school, did that assist
 18 you in identifying the nature of some of the men we are
 19 speaking of?
 20 **A. Very much so. You have to look at it in the context of**
 21 **the times. We didn't have the vocabulary. We didn't**
 22 **know the words to describe such men. But in my case,**
 23 **I -- I knew exactly what they were. I knew what they**
 24 **wanted, I knew what they were. And, unfortunately, some**
 25 **of my peers didn't, and fell victim to them.**

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1 Q. Did any of the boys that you knew speak of what would
 2 happen to them?
 3 **A. No. No, it was not openly discussed.**
 4 Q. What was the price that you had to pay for this
 5 behaviour, your behaviour in being disruptive outside
 6 the rooms?
 7 **A. As I've explained in a number of statements, refusing**
 8 **these men led to being singled out for official school**
 9 **punishments on various pretexts, usually made up, and**
 10 **also extracurricular punishment: being beaten up by the**
 11 **coteries of boys who hung around Pearce, Maestri, Soper.**
 12 **Each master/cleric, lay or clergy, had their own coterie**
 13 **of boys. As I've said elsewhere, these were boys who**
 14 **might be past their sell-by date sexually, but were**
 15 **still under the spell of these predators.**
 16 Q. Boys bigger than you?
 17 **A. Yes. You know, we are not talking about a bit of push**
 18 **and shove in the playground, we are talking about**
 19 **football-hooligan-level violence, we are talking about**
 20 **serious beatings in the street on the way home. That**
 21 **sort of thing. So you had official punishments --**
 22 **canings on all sorts of made-up pretexts; detentions;**
 23 **being marked down; being thrown off school sports teams;**
 24 **this sort of victimisation. And then you had the other,**
 25 **the other victimisation, the physical violence.**

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1 Q. Were you initially able to avoid their attention,
 2 insofar as sexual abuse was concerned?
 3 **A. Mmm, for about the first year, the first academic year,**
 4 **I was fairly below the radar, yes.**
 5 Q. How did you put yourself over the radar?
 6 **A. I, with another friend of mine -- we started -- well,**
 7 **there was a fellow we'd been at prep school with --**
 8 **I won't name him, obviously, but he was blond and**
 9 **blue-eyed and pretty. He was precisely the sort of boy,**
 10 **of course -- with hindsight, the sort of boy who appeals**
 11 **to Soper and Pearce and these people, Maestri,**
 12 **et cetera. Pearce and Soper began to call him**
 13 **separately, but they began to call him for extra**
 14 **tuition, counselling, and we started -- we knew it**
 15 **wasn't right, so we would go -- when he was called, we**
 16 **would go and congregate and try and round up some other**
 17 **boys and congregate outside the study and make noise in**
 18 **the hopes of discouraging what was going on -- whatever**
 19 **was going on inside, and it didn't work. Our friend**
 20 **became more and more morose as time went on. He changed**
 21 **completely. But of course there was a price to pay for**
 22 **that.**
 23 Q. Before I get on to the price to pay, did your friend
 24 ever tell you what happened to him?
 25 **A. No.**

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1 **In a nutshell, I'd say that boys like me who**
 2 **resisted could look forward to having their educations**
 3 **derailed and wrecked.**
 4 Q. You mention in your statement that your marks suddenly
 5 plummeted and you received negative reports, having come
 6 from other schools where you'd had high grades and
 7 reports?
 8 **A. I came from a Roman Catholic prep school in central**
 9 **London. I had an IQ of 142, I think. I was a high**
 10 **academic achiever, a high sports achiever, and a year**
 11 **and a half later, I was -- I had very low marks. My**
 12 **parents questioned it. Very low marks, I was described**
 13 **as "not a team player", I was -- well, it was difficult**
 14 **to be a team player when you were excluded from teams.**
 15 **My school reports bore very little -- my school**
 16 **reports bore very little resemblance, I think, to the**
 17 **reality of the quality of my work.**
 18 Q. You have spoken about the culture of corporal
 19 punishment, excessive corporal punishment, in your
 20 statement. You say that Andrew Soper took pleasure at
 21 caning pupils?
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. And that he liked to humiliate the boys he beat by
 24 intrusively feeling their bottoms beforehand?
 25 **A. Yes, I stand by that statement.**

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1 Q. Was that something you were aware of at the time?
 2 **A. Very much so.**
 3 Q. So did the boys talk about it?
 4 **A. Yes. Boys talked -- in Soper's case, boys talked about**
 5 **Soper's fondness for using the cane. Boys talked about**
 6 **the fact that Soper really had no right to be using the**
 7 **cane, he was the bursar of the school, he wasn't in**
 8 **a position to be administering corporal punishment. He**
 9 **had no right to do so, but nobody challenged him.**
 10 **There was also talk of being offered less harsh**
 11 **beatings, depending on whether you agreed to take your**
 12 **trousers down or not. It was commonly known and**
 13 **commonly discussed. We all knew about it. It happened**
 14 **to all of us.**
 15 Q. Was it just Soper who behaved in that way, or did --
 16 **A. No, we heard it about -- we heard it said of**
 17 **David Pearce, Father David, and there were rumours --**
 18 **I didn't have much to do -- you mentioned Maestri.**
 19 **I didn't personally have much to do with John Maestri at**
 20 **all, but I heard -- I heard things about him, as a kid.**
 21 **He was someone to be avoided.**
 22 Q. You, yourself, I think, were never beaten by
 23 David Pearce?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. But you were assaulted sexually by Laurence Soper?

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1 **Ealing and you asked me to walk through those gates**
 2 **today, I'd have a hard time doing it. I'd do it if**
 3 **I had to, but it's a hard one. You know, that's what**
 4 **that place represents for me now.**
 5 Q. Was the school aware of your history when you joined it,
 6 as far as you know, and the fact that you had been
 7 subjected to abuse in the past?
 8 **A. No, I don't think -- I don't think so, no. No. There**
 9 **wouldn't have been any reason for them to be.**
 10 Q. How often -- not in detail, but was it a frequent
 11 occurrence that you were abused in the way you describe
 12 by Laurence Soper?
 13 **A. No, it only happened three times. Three times in total.**
 14 Q. You said it had an effect on you. In your statement,
 15 you say:
 16 "I was no longer the relatively shy, gentle boy
 17 I had been. I was learning to defend myself."
 18 **A. Yes. Well, it's not just Soper. I mean, if I may, I'd**
 19 **like to just explain the difference between -- you know,**
 20 **for me, I would say that Soper sexually assaulted me.**
 21 **He didn't sexually abuse me. For me, abuse is something**
 22 **that goes on over a period of time. Soper sexually**
 23 **assaulted me. For me, certainly, there's a nuance.**
 24 **There's a difference.**
 25 **What changed me was the decision I had to take --**

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. Can you help us with what happened?
 3 **A. Well, Soper would -- Soper would feel -- would feel you**
 4 **up on the pretext of checking for hidden padding, and it**
 5 **was more than just touching to check that you hadn't**
 6 **a book or a scarf tucked down your pants, it was**
 7 **groping. It was full-on, highly intrusive groping, and,**
 8 **looking back on it -- after I began to confront the**
 9 **past, looking back on it, I realised that the aim of it**
 10 **was sexual gratification for Soper and also sexual**
 11 **humiliation for me.**
 12 Q. Was it inside or outside the clothing?
 13 **A. Outside the clothing.**
 14 Q. Sexual humiliation?
 15 **A. I believe that's -- I believe that was the main aim of**
 16 **what he did to me, yes.**
 17 Q. Did it have any effect on you by way of humiliation?
 18 **A. It made me -- it made me feel -- yes, it had quite**
 19 **a profound effect on me. It was both difficult to come**
 20 **to school and it was also difficult to go home and face**
 21 **what waited there. So it was really -- you know, coming**
 22 **to school was terrible. Going towards that school,**
 23 **walking up the street and going through those gates was,**
 24 **for me -- all I can tell you is, I'm not sure I could do**
 25 **it today. I'm fairly tough, but if you took me to**

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1 **I had to learn to defend myself against beatings,**
 2 **against the constant bullying and violence. I had to**
 3 **become more violent than my tormentors.**
 4 Q. Were you also defending some of your friends?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. So you became more violent. Did that exterior reflect
 7 how you felt inside or not?
 8 **A. Inside, I -- inside -- it's a difficult question to**
 9 **answer. I don't really have any memories of how I felt**
 10 **inside. I think I died inside, to be honest, somewhere**
 11 **around my mid teens. I became very cold.**
 12 Q. In your statement, you refer to one of the ploys used by
 13 the group that you describe as "the paedophile ring"
 14 involved false accusations of theft.
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. You refer to a boy who committed suicide as
 17 a consequence of an accusation.
 18 **A. Mmm.**
 19 Q. You also refer to an instance where you were accused of
 20 theft. Who accused you?
 21 **A. I was accused by a boy who was one of David Pearce's**
 22 **coterie of boys. He accused me of stealing his**
 23 **raincoat. No proof, of course, and of course I hadn't**
 24 **stolen his raincoat. Pearce and Soper turned this into**
 25 **a witch-hunt and, over the course of an entire term,**

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1 they conducted a campaign of harassment. They incited
 2 other boys. They got everybody believing that I was the
 3 raincoat thief. And this culminated in a sort of a show
 4 trial organised by Soper and Pearce together, in our
 5 classroom, with me as the accused and Soper and Pearce
 6 as the accusers and a jury of my peers, and an end was
 7 put to it by one of the good monks in the school, one of
 8 the handful of good monks in the school, Father
 9 Edmund Flood, who was the divisions master, who
 10 intervened and stopped it and ordered the whole thing to
 11 be dropped.

12 But, yes, so when, years later, I heard about the
 13 case of this other boy who'd put a Gat gun in his mouth
 14 and caved the roof of his mouth in -- it took him weeks
 15 to die -- he's been accused of stealing a tennis racket.
 16 I heard this story during the Pearce trials, and I knew
 17 it had to be true. It was the modus operandi
 18 I remembered.

19 It was as if these men were following an instruction
 20 manual, following systems they'd learned by rote:
 21 grooming, accusation, persecution.

22 Q. You mentioned Edmund Flood. He, in fact, exonerated you
 23 of the crime in due course.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. There came a point when you made a decision, you say, to

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1 Q. Who was there?

2 A. Andrew Soper was there, in Flood's office, Flood's
 3 study, waiting for me.

4 Q. Were you able to tell whether he was expecting you?

5 A. Oh, he was expecting me, yes.

6 Q. Was he holding anything?

7 A. He had a cane in his hand.

8 Q. What did he say to you?

9 A. "Bend over".

10 Q. And what did you say?

11 A. "No" -- "No, Father". Sorry, I said, "No, Father".

12 Q. How did he react?

13 A. He shouted at me to bend over again, and I refused.

14 Q. What did he do?

15 A. He attacked me with the cane. He laid into me.

16 Q. How did you react?

17 A. I flattened him.

18 Q. Did you stay after that or did you leave?

19 A. Once he was down, I left.

20 Q. Where did you go?

21 A. Back outside, where I took my blazer off and threw it
 22 into the hedge.

23 Q. Were you ever summoned to account for what you'd done?

24 A. I was never summoned to account for or explain that
 25 incident with Soper. However, when the academic year

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1 make sure that no-one, Soper or any other member of
 2 staff, would touch you again.

3 A. Mmm.

4 Q. What led you to come to that decision?

5 A. I just decided I wasn't going to be beaten anymore.
 6 Apparently, I was the most beaten, the most caned boy in
 7 the school at one point, and I just decided -- I'd
 8 reached the age of 16 and I decided that nobody was
 9 going to protect me. You know, my parents had
 10 abdicated. Nobody was there. I wasn't going to let any
 11 of these monks beat me anymore.

12 Q. One of the things your say in your statement is that
 13 Soper had again sexually assaulted you. An incident
 14 arose where you had been -- all pupils had been allowed
 15 to remove their blazers. You had done so. And another
 16 master had told you to put it back on.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And then sent you to report to your divisional master,
 19 division master?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who would have been Flood?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. He wasn't at work that day, but you went to his office,
 24 nonetheless?

25 A. I did.

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1 ended -- this was the summer term. When the academic
 2 year ended, my father received a letter from Brown, the
 3 headmaster, Father Brown, suggesting that I wouldn't be
 4 happy in the sixth form and perhaps my parents might
 5 like to find alternative arrangements for me. In
 6 effect, it was an expulsion.

7 Q. Was there any reference in that letter to what had
 8 happened with Soper?

9 A. Nothing.

10 Q. And you left the school that year?

11 A. Yes, at the end of that summer term. I never went back
 12 to St Benedict's.

13 Q. You did go on to continue some studies, I think?

14 A. I tried to do some A levels, sixth form college, but
 15 I just -- I was too wild. I couldn't -- I couldn't fit
 16 in. I just -- I ended up with very low passes in French
 17 and -- a very low pass in French and two fails in
 18 English.

19 Q. What do you attribute that wildness to?

20 A. Profound social alienation.

21 Q. You say in your statement that you were too scarred from
 22 your experiences at school to function efficiently in an
 23 academic environment.

24 A. That's correct. With hindsight, that's correct, yes.

25 Q. You moved on, got jobs and work, and you say you

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1 consigned your darker childhood memories to the shadows
 2 but then read about the reports of David Pearce's trial
 3 and conviction in 2009. What did you do when you read
 4 about those reports?
 5 **A. Well, it was -- well, that was 2009, but I'd actually**
 6 **first heard about Pearce being in trouble a couple of**
 7 **years before, in 2006, and there were other news reports**
 8 **about St Benedict's.**
 9 Q. When you say you heard about Pearce being in trouble in
 10 2006, how did you come to hear about that?
 11 **A. I was told -- a friend of mine had a boy at the school,**
 12 **and I think -- yes, he told me, "Oh, you know, there are**
 13 **rumblings", and I was living in [redacted]. I mean,**
 14 **I've been living in [redacted] for the last 22 years, so**
 15 **I'm not in London. But, yes, that's -- I heard that**
 16 **things were beginning to come out.**
 17 Q. Had you heard about the civil trial that related to
 18 another victim, A6? Or --
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. Not specifically?
 21 **A. No, no.**
 22 Q. Did you do anything in 2006 about it? Did you say
 23 anything about it?
 24 **A. Yes, I wrote to the then abbot -- well, the current --**
 25 **he is still the abbot. I wrote to Martin Shipperlee.**

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1 **point.**
 2 Q. Then, in 2009, there was the trial and conviction of
 3 David Pearce?
 4 **A. Yes, there was.**
 5 Q. Did you contact then headmaster Christopher Cleugh and
 6 Abbot Martin Shipperlee again?
 7 **A. I can't recall contacting them.**
 8 Q. I'm going to just ask you, if it helps you, to look at
 9 paragraphs 89 and 90 of your statement. It is page 12
 10 at the bottom, paragraphs 89 and 90.
 11 **A. I'm on page 12 of my IICSA statement.**
 12 Q. Yes. Do you have paragraph 89?
 13 **A. Paragraph 89, yes, I do. Ah, yes, okay.**
 14 Q. Does that help?
 15 **A. Yes, yes, yes, I recall now. Yes, I remember that**
 16 **exchange now. Yes, excuse me, I've blanked it.**
 17 Q. No, not at all. You say that you wrote to the
 18 headmaster and the abbot, both of whom expressed regret?
 19 **A. Yes, I believe they did, yes.**
 20 Q. And assured you that St Benedict's was much changed?
 21 **A. Yes, absolutely.**
 22 Q. There was further news reporting in the wake of Pearce's
 23 trial, and then, of course, the Carlile Report in 2011.
 24 Did you attend the school in 2011 for Carlile's
 25 announcement?

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1 **I sent him an email. In fact, to be precise -- sorry,**
 2 **excuse me, I sent Cleugh, Christopher Cleugh, the**
 3 **headmaster, I sent him an email. I didn't hear back for**
 4 **some time. And then I received a reply from**
 5 **Martin Shipperlee.**
 6 Q. I just want to try to be -- yes, you have included an
 7 exchange of emails. I won't go to it at the moment,
 8 unless there is something specific you wish to refer to
 9 in it.
 10 **A. No.**
 11 Q. But you have included an exchange of emails with
 12 Abbot Martin in 2006 as an exhibit. Abbot Martin
 13 replied to you, saying, amongst other things:
 14 "One thing I know absolutely for sure is that since
 15 I became abbot in 2001, all and any allegations made
 16 against any of the monks have been investigated by
 17 outside authorities. If, therefore, there's anything
 18 you know or suspect about any individual that you would
 19 like or feel able to tell me, now or at any time in the
 20 future, please get in contact. You have my email
 21 address and direct phone number."
 22 **A. That's exactly what he wrote to me, yes.**
 23 Q. I think you replied to that?
 24 **A. I had no reason to do other than take his email at face**
 25 **level -- at face value, sorry, at face value, at that**

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1 **A. Yes, I attended Lord Carlile's announcement and then**
 2 **went to the area of the school with the BBC film crew**
 3 **who were making a short reportage, a documentary**
 4 **reportage, for one of the BBC programmes on the Carlile**
 5 **Report. The producer was an old classmate of mine. So,**
 6 **yes, we didn't go into the school but we went to the**
 7 **abbey. They filmed me and, also, we were filmed on the**
 8 **pavement outside the school.**
 9 Q. You tell of an unfortunate and unpleasant incident
 10 directly beforehand where a member of staff and security
 11 tried to stop you, I think?
 12 **A. Yes. While I was being interviewed, a car appeared and**
 13 **mounted the pavement, narrowly missing the cameraman.**
 14 **The doors flew open and a man I subsequently learned was**
 15 **a teacher at St Benedict's leapt out, accompanied by**
 16 **a shaven-headed security thug, and started ranting and**
 17 **raving about trespassing on school property.**
 18 Q. As a result of that, you wrote to the headmaster?
 19 **A. I wrote to Cleugh, yes.**
 20 Q. In your statement, you include the text of his email and
 21 your response to him.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. In your response, you say:
 24 "Regarding your nasty, grubby suggestion that we are
 25 all part of an anti-Catholic plot ..."

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1 And you cite your own background and the fact that
 2 your parents were Catholics, I think.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. What had the suggestion been? When had you --
 5 **A. That related directly to a speech Cleugh gave to parents**
 6 **in which he attributed negative attention on child**
 7 **sexual-abuse-related problems at the school and**
 8 **Jonathan West's blog and media coverage of such issues**
 9 **to a possible anti-Catholic movement related to the**
 10 **upcoming papal visit to Britain. In other words, for**
 11 **the people at the school, anyone trying to shine a light**
 12 **on what happened at this school was clearly an**
 13 **anti-Catholic plotter.**
 14 Q. Did Mr Cleugh ever reply to your email?
 15 **A. He replied and said that he would get back to me --**
 16 **I mean, to put it in context, I was seriously thinking**
 17 **of going to the police to make a complaint related to**
 18 **the threatening behaviour of the staff member and the**
 19 **security guard. The cameraman had filmed all of this.**
 20 **Shortly afterwards, of course, they all wanted to go to**
 21 **the police, but then suddenly they didn't want to go to**
 22 **the police, and the rushes and the film all disappeared**
 23 **and the 17-minute report was cut to three minutes.**
 24 As for Christopher Cleugh, he promised to get back
 25 to me to explain the behaviour of his staff member, who

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1 **at the school, and given the trouble I'd had at the**
 2 **school, it was very strange that my file should be so**
 3 **empty.**
 4 Q. Did you get any reply to that?
 5 **A. I got meaningless platitudes from Mrs de Cintra about**
 6 **how, of course, a lot of records weren't computerised**
 7 **and things got lost over the years, and that was all**
 8 **I got at the time.**
 9 Q. I think you have helpfully included the email that you
 10 got from her in the body of your statement?
 11 **A. I did.**
 12 Q. She said:
 13 "Record keeping in the past was not as stringent as
 14 it is now. Unfortunately, I do not know why these
 15 documents were kept and not others, but I'm afraid that
 16 is all we have found. I'm sorry not to be more
 17 helpful."
 18 **A. That's exactly what she wrote to me, and I'd like to add**
 19 **that when I went to -- when I was invited by the police**
 20 **to come and make a statement about Andrew Soper, the**
 21 **police had gone to the school and the police had gotten**
 22 **my file and, while my file was very far from complete,**
 23 **it was rather more substantial than the file**
 24 **Mrs de Cintra and Mr Cleugh had given me. The police**
 25 **had quite a few more documents.**

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1 **was on -- well, in the street, he was not on school**
 2 **property when he behaved like this, but he never got**
 3 **back to me. He never wrote to me. He never sent me any**
 4 **coherent explanation. He never even apologised. And**
 5 **this was on the day of the Carlile Report, when I'd just**
 6 **watched him stand up and say with the rest of them that**
 7 **everything had changed at this school.**
 8 **So on the very same day, you have a survivor of**
 9 **the kind of abuse on which the report focused being**
 10 **threatened by a member of Cleugh's staff in the street**
 11 **near the school.**
 12 Q. You wrote to Cleugh in 2011, asking for a copy of your
 13 school file.
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Particularly relating to the near, almost expulsion?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Did you get it?
 18 **A. No. I received an envelope -- I received a letter from**
 19 **his bursar, Catherine de Cintra, containing three pieces**
 20 **of paper -- three and a half pieces of paper, two of**
 21 **which related to my common entrance exam and the other**
 22 **one of which was a note from my prep school headmaster**
 23 **about me, a summary, and that was it.**
 24 Q. Did you question the amount of material you'd received?
 25 **A. Yes. I wrote back, pointing out that, given my history**

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1 Q. Thank you very much. You have made a number of
 2 observations about other matters in your statement.
 3 Some of those, such as comments on mandatory reporting,
 4 are beyond the scope of this particular hearing. You
 5 will understand that. And we have another seminar about
 6 mandatory reporting coming up in April.
 7 Is there anything that you would like to add by way
 8 of conclusion to assist this inquiry?
 9 **A. Well, given that time is limited and that you are, with**
 10 **all due respect to you, and you have timetables to**
 11 **respect, I think I'd limit my remarks -- I'd limit my**
 12 **remarks to saying simply, out of a sense of duty to the**
 13 **boys who can't be here today, for various reasons, I'd**
 14 **say that since World War II, we reckon that hundreds of**
 15 **boys were molested at St Benedict's -- just**
 16 **St Benedict's -- and all I have to say is that, if this**
 17 **country had had mandatory reporting like the mandatory**
 18 **reporting legislation currently in draft, hundreds of**
 19 **those boys wouldn't have been abused, always**
 20 **presupposing that government and the civil service**
 21 **applied mandatory reporting correctly as it should be**
 22 **used. That's all I've got to say on the subject.**
 23 Q. Thank you very much.
 24 **A. That's it. I could go on and on about how beastly**
 25 **St Benedict's was and my opinions of the current regime**

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<p>1 at St Benedict's, but I imagine the whole room can guess 2 how I feel about it now. So that's it. 3 MS KARMY-JONES: Thank you very much. I don't know whether 4 there are any questions, chair? 5 THE CHAIR: No, we have no questions, but I'd like to thank 6 the witness very much. We are grateful to you for 7 coming to give your testimony today. 8 A. Thank you, madam. 9 MS KARMY-JONES: Thank you very much. Chair, we will have 10 to rise. I see the time. I don't know whether, chair, 11 you were considering rising at 4.00 pm today or a little 12 later. Would you like to make this a break or would you 13 like this to be a rising point? 14 THE CHAIR: We would be happy to continue until 4.15 pm. 15 MS KARMY-JONES: Perhaps we can rise for a moment. We have 16 some statements we can read thereafter. 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We will return at 4.00 pm. 18 (3.50 pm) 19 (A short break) 20 (4.00 pm) 21 THE CHAIR: Ms Karmy-Jones? 22 MS KARMY-JONES: Chair, I am going to read some statements 23 from other victims of child sexual abuse from 24 Ealing Abbey and St Benedict's. We are reading them to 25 illustrate the time span, to some extent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 First of these is Jeremy Harvey, who has not asked 2 that his name be ciphered for the course of these 3 proceedings. It is at INQ002567 for those who wish to 4 refer to it. I obviously don't ask for it to be brought 5 up. It is behind divider 1 of your file. I just check 6 that you have that. It should be behind tab 1 of your 7 read evidence bundle. No, it is not. I will just pause 8 for a moment, because it may be that it is easier to 9 follow if it is in front of you and you are able to mark 10 it up as we go. 11 It should now be behind tab 1. 12 Statement of MR JEREMY HARVEY (read) 13 MS KARMY-JONES: It is the statement made for the purposes 14 of this inquiry, and it is dated 1 September 2018: 15 "I, Jeremy Harvey, will say: 16 "I was born in 1953. 17 "I make this statement in relation to my experiences 18 at St Benedict's. 19 "I was adopted at the age of 3. My adoptive mother 20 was a devout Catholic. My adoptive father was Anglican, 21 but I was very much brought up as a committed Catholic. 22 "I grew up in north-west London. I went to local 23 Catholic school from the age of 4 to around 7 or 8. 24 "I believe that I started at St Benedict's, Ealing, 25 in September 1961.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>
<p>1 "This was obviously a fairly long commute from north 2 London. Eventually, our family moved to be closer to 3 the school. 4 "I attended all three schools at St Benedict's -- 5 junior school up to 11, followed by two years in the 6 middle school, and then senior school up to age 18. 7 "All three schools were in separate blocks but on 8 the same large site. 9 "After finishing at St Benedict's, I went to 10 a crammer in London to get some more A levels. I had 11 not done particularly well academically in the sixth 12 form." 13 He goes on to give some detail of his training. He 14 says he went into business and goes on to say: 15 "I have been asked to describe my impressions of 16 St Benedict's when I first arrived. I would say it was 17 a perfectly pleasant school. There was a little bit of 18 bullying and I was small for my age, so I was probably 19 a little more of a target than others, but I would not 20 say it was a major issue. 21 The school staff were a mixture of monks and lay 22 teachers, but I would say there were more lay teachers 23 than monks. 24 "Overall, the academic standards were reasonably 25 high.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>	<p>1 "Nothing of note happened to me in the junior 2 school. 3 "When I was 11, I moved up to the middle school for 4 two years." 5 He then speaks of RC-F96, who held a position of 6 responsibility in the school and taught him one subject. 7 He goes on to say the abuse which he experienced from 8 RC-F96 "occurred, to the best of my recollection, when 9 I was around 11 years old -- ie, fairly new to the 10 middle school." 11 To place that, I think that would have been around 12 1964 or 1965: 13 "In our lessons, when we were resting, we all had to 14 sit on the edge of the stage. When we were sitting on 15 the edge of the stage, RC-F96 would pick us up in turn 16 and put us on his knee. 17 "As I was sitting on his knee, he then put his hands 18 down my shorts and inside my underpants. 19 "He would then fondle my genitals. This would last 20 for a few minutes on each occasion. 21 "These events occurred in full view of other 22 children. Once he had finished with you, he then moved 23 on to another child. 24 "This would occur weekly in lessons. 25 "RC-F96's behaviour was never really discussed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 amongst the children. I think that we were really too 2 young to understand the significance of it. However, 3 nobody liked it and the children tried to avoid him. 4 "When you were in one of his lessons, the aim was to 5 sit as far as away from RC-F96 as possible so as to 6 reduce the likelihood that he would choose you to sit on 7 his knee. 8 "Overall, I would say these incidents occurred to me 9 on maybe a dozen occasions. 10 "Nothing was said about it in the school at the time 11 I was there. 12 "When I left school and was at university, I joined 13 the Officers' Training Corps ..." 14 He goes on to say he continued his connection with 15 St Benedict's and for ten years after leaving university 16 he supplied the combined Cadet Force at the school with 17 lorries, which was his business at the time. He also 18 became the school staff instructor for the combined 19 Cadet Force: 20 "Through these activities I met Father David Pearce. 21 He had not been working at the school when I was a pupil 22 there. He arrived when I was a Cadet Force instructor. 23 "He was widely disliked. The boys hated him and 24 routinely referred to him as 'Gay Dave'. It was widely 25 believed that he was sexually interested in boys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 However, nobody had any specific knowledge of him 2 abusing any specific boy, so no issue was raised about 3 this. Had I become aware of any such specific 4 information, obviously I would have taken action about 5 it, although, as this did not arise, it is difficult to 6 say what I might have done at that time. 7 "I remained involved in the school, and some years 8 ago I was the President of the Old Priorians' 9 Association for one year. This was before the abuse 10 scandal broke. 11 "In the course of performing that role, I had 12 various dinners and other social events which involved 13 both David Pearce and Laurence Soper. 14 "Also, being Catholic, I joined the Catenian 15 Association. This is an association of Catholic 16 businessmen. 17 "As part of my involvement with the Catenians, 18 I also continued to be in touch with staff from the 19 school. 20 "I first became aware of the unfolding scandal at 21 St Benedict's in 2010. My godson, now in his early 40s, 22 had also been a pupil at St Benedict's and asked me if 23 I knew about the blogs by Jonathan West. 24 "When I became aware of the unfolding scandal at 25 St Benedict's, I told my godson about the abuse I had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>
<p>1 experienced from RC-F96. 2 "My godson mentioned that he was aware of rumours of 3 abuse in the school and that friends of his were abused 4 by Laurence Soper when he was in the senior school. 5 "In my day at the school, RC-F96 was absolutely 6 brazen and open in his molestation of boys. Having said 7 that, I cannot say that definitively other staff were 8 aware of it. I cannot point to a specific occasion when 9 it was witnessed by other staff members. However, 10 I would say that the culture of the school was such that 11 RC-F96 would have been unlikely to have been challenged 12 about his behaviour. It was a hierarchical, deferential 13 school. I don't think any other staff member would have 14 been inclined to make waves by challenging him. 15 "When the scandal did eventually break, I wanted to 16 make sure that it was known and understood that the 17 monks at Ealing Abbey had actually been abusive for many 18 years. 19 "I got in touch with Jonathan West and through him 20 I appeared in a TV item concerning the school. I told 21 people what had happened with RC-F96. 22 "Following that TV programme, various people 23 contacted me. I remember an elderly man, who was 24 73 years old, telling me he had been abused by RC-F96. 25 "What I wanted to get across was that monks had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>	<p>1 behaving this way at the school for 60 consecutive years 2 to 2010. The abuse scandal at St Benedict's was not 3 just recent. It had been going on for a long time. 4 Unfortunately, I think it was part of the culture at the 5 school. 6 "That said, I cannot say that I was aware of other 7 abuse at the school. Also, it is important to say that 8 there were some good teachers at the school." 9 He mentions one who he describes as a fairly elderly 10 teacher in the senior school: 11 "He was a very nice man. Later on, after I had left 12 the school, he used to come on summer Cadet camps and 13 I looked after him. 14 "Overall, I would say that at St Benedict's 15 90 per cent of the staff were good but, sadly, there 16 were some very bad ones who were abusers and the school 17 turned a blind eye to them." 18 Chair, I am conscious that you wish to rise in four 19 minutes. It may be a little longer than that. Is that 20 all right? 21 THE CHAIR: That's fine. 22 Statement of WITNESS RC-A24 (read) 23 MS KARMY-JONES: The next statement is that of RC-A24. It 24 is at your tab 2. It is dated 12 September 2018. 25 RC-A24 was born in 1963. He was a pupil between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 1968 and 1981: 2 "My parents were both devout Catholics and both were 3 closely associated with St Benedict's School and Abbey." 4 He mentions his siblings and says that both he and 5 his brothers went to St Benedict's. He says his 6 parents' social life revolved almost entirely around the 7 school and the abbey: 8 "We went to the abbey on Sundays to worship. I was 9 also a member of the abbey choir. 10 "My first year of schooling was elsewhere, but 11 I started at St Benedict's in 1968 at the junior school 12 and I stayed at St Benedict's right through to the age 13 of 18, attending junior, middle and senior school 14 successively. 15 "If asked to describe my experience at 16 St Benedict's, I would have to say I am torn between the 17 positive and negative aspects. 18 "On the positive side, St Benedict's was a fantastic 19 academic education, for me at least. 20 "I was always artistic and when I was a pupil there 21 St Benedict's had a superb music, art, English and 22 languages departments. 23 "The headmaster during much of my time there was 24 RC-F47." 25 He goes on to make positive comments about RC-F47</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 saying that he was inquisitive, broad minded for a monk, 2 unlikely to venture far from his London parish, and very 3 committed to academic learning. He says that he was 4 proud of the fine liberal arts education that he had had 5 at St Benedict's School. 6 He says: 7 "There were also some negatives, however. 8 "Even in the junior school, one grew up 9 acclimatising oneself to the eccentricities of a series 10 of frankly terrifying men employed by the school. There 11 were particular teachers whose reputation was that they 12 were almost deranged in their pursuit of corporal 13 punishment. 14 "Notable amongst these at the junior school was 15 RC-F298 who taught 9-year-olds. He was notorious for 16 his use of corporal punishment. The legend about him 17 was that he had [something] as a permanent threat to 18 pupils who might think about misbehaving. I remember 19 consoling a friend in his class who had received 20 physical punishment and was completely terrified of 21 him." 22 He names a teacher who he says taught him when he 23 was 8 or 9 and who was a fine academic teacher: 24 "But even this benign adult had his own threatening 25 eccentricities -- for example, a little doll on the wall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>
<p>1 as you filed into class. It was said that if the doll 2 was turned towards the wall, then you had to watch out, 3 as any class anarchy would warrant physical punishment. 4 "When I went up to the middle school, RC-F46 was the 5 headmaster. Not long afterwards, RC-F47 took over. 6 "RC-F46 had a reputation for fierceness. However, 7 I had a different experience of him. To me, he was 8 nothing but kind. 9 "John Maestri was a very dynamic teacher. He was 10 younger and more engaging than most of the other 11 teachers. As a maths teacher, he was incredibly 12 inspiring. Part of his gift was that he was in touch 13 with popular culture -- for example, he would talk about 14 the mathematics of Dr Who. 15 "This was the means by which he groomed people. At 16 the age of about 9 or 10, I was mad about Monty Python, 17 as many boys were. Maestri had a ground-floor apartment 18 near the school site on a road called Blakesley Avenue, 19 opposite the abbey. I remember he had a bell outside 20 his apartment with a sticker on it saying 'The flying 21 Scotsman'. He was Scottish. 22 "There were a group of three or four of us who used 23 to hang out with him at his house at weekends. We would 24 play Monty Python records and generally lark around. 25 "On one occasion, I think I was about 9 or 10 years</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>	<p>1 old, for some reason I got left behind at his apartment 2 when the other boys had gone. 3 "Whilst I was in his apartment on my own, he 4 approached me and, holding me, he kissed me on the lips. 5 "Afterwards, he retreated to his bathroom for 6 a mysterious amount of time. 7 "I remember finding this incident extremely 8 embarrassing. I would describe his behaviour as 9 arresting but not forceful. 10 "In a sense, I found the aftermath of this incident 11 even more puzzling. I was very embarrassed by it. 12 I felt I was in an adult world where relationships were 13 becoming more intimate. I didn't feel right about what 14 he had done. I felt that I shouldn't go back to his 15 apartment. 16 "I came back home. I was in something of a state of 17 agitation. My mother and father were both home. 18 "I remember, not long after I got home, the phone 19 rang. The phone was in the hall of our house, in 20 a communal space. If someone phoned up, you could hear 21 what was being said, but the very fact that the phone 22 rang was in itself quite significant -- the phone didn't 23 ring that often in the 1970s. 24 "I became aware that John Maestri was phoning my 25 dad. I overheard the conversation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 "John Maestri was asking my dad for help with the 2 Sunday Times crossword. 3 "This was an extremely bizarre thing to do. Maestri 4 was not so friendly with my dad that it would have been 5 normal for him to phone up and ask for help with 6 a crossword. It was obvious to me that Maestri was 7 phoning up to try and find out whether I had said 8 anything to my parents after I had returned home. 9 "I had a sense during this time that Maestri tried 10 to groom my family. I remember him loaning us a car for 11 a holiday. We didn't have a car at that stage and our 12 family didn't really have enough money to buy one. 13 I felt that Maestri was trying to take advantage of my 14 family and groom us to some extent. 15 "I remember one occasion when Maestri came into the 16 middle school assembly hall. I was with a number of 17 other children in a table tennis area where children 18 were playing. I remember him coming in and embracing 19 a particular child as if the child was a long-lost 20 lover. He was incredibly overfamiliar. He held the 21 child up in the air and was cuddling him. It just 22 seemed totally inappropriate. 23 "After the kiss incident, I would encounter 24 John Maestri on school trips and school events but 25 I never went back to his house.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 "There were two teachers in the upper school who 2 were particularly unpleasant. 3 "David Pearce was known as 'Gay Dave'. Everyone 4 called him this. It was well known that he had a sexual 5 interest in children. He would look at you in 6 a flirtatious way. You had to try to avoid meeting his 7 eye. His behaviour crossed a line and everybody 8 recognised that. 9 "Laurence Soper I would describe as just creepy. 10 There was a creepy vibe around him. He was skeletal, 11 very thin, a very ugly man. Everyone saw him as someone 12 best to avoid. 13 "When I was 13 or 14, I had an unpleasant encounter 14 with Soper. By this time, my father had died. I was 15 going through a period of being disruptive in the Latin 16 class. For some reason, I was very negative about 17 Latin. I wasn't generally disruptive in the school, but 18 I think I wanted to rebel against something and decided 19 that it would be the Latin class. 20 "I frequently got into trouble in the class and was 21 kicked out of the class and made to stand outside the 22 classroom. 23 "On one of these occasions, I was seen by the head 24 of music, who was walking down the corridor. 25 "He took me straight into Soper's office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>
<p>1 "At this time of day, everybody was in class and 2 there was nobody around. 3 "I remember Soper saying to me, 'You have a choice. 4 Either six over the desk or one over my knee'. 5 "I was very clear that I was being offered the 6 choice of either being caned six times on my bottom 7 (this would have been over clothing) or being caned once 8 but having to be on Soper's knee at the time and thus at 9 risk of sexual assault. 10 "It seemed to me quite noteworthy that, at the age 11 of 13 or 14, I fully understood -- and given Soper's 12 behaviour, anyone in the school would have understood -- 13 that Soper was giving me a choice of either six canings 14 on the bottom or being sexually assaulted. 15 "Remarkably, I managed to talk myself out of 16 the situation. I told Soper that the punishment was 17 unjustified and, amazingly, I managed to get out of 18 the room. I didn't bolt out of room, I just talked my 19 way out of it. He made it clear that the next time 20 I would not escape punishment. 21 "I knew that he would try to corner me on another 22 occasion, so I was on my guard. At the end of 23 the summer term, I think the day before the end of 24 the summer term, I was chatting with some friends in the 25 abbey during a service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>	<p>1 "Soper saw us chatting during the service and told 2 us to come to his office after lunch. 3 "I knew what lay in store for me. I just decided to 4 leave the school and walk home. I didn't want to face 5 being in Soper's office. We lived nearby so I simply 6 left. 7 "I told my mother what happened. I told her that 8 I didn't want to go to Soper's office and why. 9 "My mother was quite exercised about the situation, 10 but she was mostly concerned about my disobedience. She 11 was a widow. She did not want to get into 12 a confrontation with the school. 13 "I discovered later that I was suspended from school 14 as a result of failing to turn up at Soper's office 15 after lunch. I do remember at the time my mum 16 negotiating over the phone with a senior teacher. As 17 a result, it was agreed that I could return to school 18 and clean a radiator as punishment. 19 "I was very relieved to avoid another encounter with 20 Soper. 21 "I remember this incident very well. It was a big 22 deal at the time. 23 "I felt that my mother didn't believe me about the 24 risk. It simply did not occur to her that Soper would 25 be capable of anything bad. She believed that priests</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 were saintly. She wasn't prepared to hear any negative 2 sentiments about clergy." 3 That concludes that statement. Thank you. 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms Karmy-Jones. That 5 concludes today's hearing. 6 (4.22 pm) 7 (The hearing was adjourned to 8 Tuesday, 5 February 2019 at 10.00 am) 9 10 11 I N D E X 12 13 Welcome and opening remarks by THE1 14 CHAIR 15 16 Opening statement by MS KARMY-JONES5 17 18 Opening statement by MR SCORER66 19 20 Opening statement by MR KHAN79 21 22 Opening statement by MR ENRIGHT90 23 24 Opening statement by MR GREENWOOD97 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 Opening statement by MR COLLINS102 2 3 Opening statement by MS HENKE105 4 5 Opening statement by MS GALLAFENT115 6 7 Opening statement by MS LEEK123 8 9 WITNESS RC-A8 (sworn)126 10 11 Examination by MS KARMY-JONES126 12 13 Statement of MR JEREMY HARVEY (read)150 14 15 Statement of WITNESS RC-A24 (read)156 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>

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