

**Details of Investigation**

22/10/2001 17:09

DS 185025 G MORGAN

This case was referred to the CPT by Father Carroll who is the Child Protection Co-ordinator for the Westminster Diocese.

Summary

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Approximately five years ago a sixth form boy (no details known at present) informed a teacher (no details known at present) at Ealing Abbey School that he had been molested by a monk, Fr Pearce, when he was eight years old. It appears that Fr Pearce was the head teacher of the junior school at this time. The teacher did not inform anybody of this allegation until early October 2001 when she spoke to Abbott Martin Shipperlee, who is in charge of Ealing Abbey. It was decided to trace the boy and ascertain his views on the subject. The boy, who is now in his mid 20s, stated the following incidents had occurred:

1. Fr Pearce had insisted on drying the boys when they had finished a swimming exercise, ensuring that their genital area was dry.
2. If the boys lost their locker keys during swimming lessons, Fr Pearce would check their swimming trunks in search of the keys.
3. When the boy came to see Fr Pearce with a rash on the upper part of his body, Fr Pearce insisted on examining his genital area.
4. When the school showers weren't working, Fr Pearce stayed and watched the boys showering after the system was fixed.

**DPA**

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09/11/2001 14:53

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**parents of RC-A631** had attended the school and spoke to Abbott Laurence, the predecessor of Abbot Shipperlee, who informed them that the school would deal with the matter. **mother of RC-A631** stated that work colleague, **Name Redacted** wished to speak to police re Fr David's treatment of her son. I have asked **mother of RC-A631** to pass my details on to **Name Redacted** and her sons in order that they can speak to me.

Both **mother of RC-A631** & **RC-A418** stated that they believe that Fr David is still in contact with children at the school, taking mass and also taking confession. I have left a message for Abbott Shipperlee to contact me re this and other matters. I have attempted to contact Mrs Ravenscroft at her h/a without success at present. Enquiries continue.

15/11/2001 12:47

DS 185025 G MORGAN

On 13/11/01 Kate Ravenscroft, the staff member of St Benedicts, phoned me in response to a message that I left on her answering machine the previous evening. An appointment was made for me to attend the school that day to speak to her. She confirmed the disclosure made by **RC-A418** and provided me with a list of ex-pupils and members of staff who may have information in relation to Fr David. She also stated that there were rumours in the school that an **DPA** boy called **Name Redacted** had **DPA** couple of years ago partly as a result of suffering abuse from Fr David. There was also a rumour that Fr David had been an army dentist and his **DPA** had committed suicide over something that Fr David had done. Ms Ravenscroft



**DPA** CrType:C Notifiable/MPS/Other: Status:U Press:N Class:S/Gross B U/14  
GLU:XDPress Restrictions:CPT enquiry

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is prepared to make a statement in relation to this matter.

On 13/11/01 I spoke to Abbott Shipperlee who provided me with the date of birth of Fr David and contact numbers of members of staff. He also assured me that Fr David has no unsupervised contact with the schoolchildren, contrary to the reports provided to me by **RC-A418** and **Mother of RC-A631**. I conducted a general registry check on **RC-A418** and Fr David. **RC-A418** N/T, Fr David Trace **DPA**. I have requested this file. Abbott Shipperlee informed me that this docket would be in relation to an allegation of abuse by Fr David on a schoolboy called **RC-A595** which involved a police investigation resulting in there being insufficient evidence to proceed.

On 14/11/01 I spoke to **RC-A418** who stated that he would be prepared to make a statement if there were other boys who were willing to come forward.

An appointment was made for him to attend the CPT offices at 5pm on 19/11/01.

On 15/11/01 I spoke to **Name Redacted** **DPA** nobile

**DPA**. She stated that her son **Child** (date of birth **DPA** 82) had attended the junior school when he was eight and told her that Fr David had chased the boys around the showers after swimming lessons and rub the boys genitals with a towel. **Child** had never been caught by Fr David. She had never complained because Fr David was head of school and she felt there was nobody to complain to. She felt it was suspicious that Fr David had been moved from the position of head at a moment's notice in 1992. In 1998 she had

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DI Valentine has spoken to D. Supt Kay in relation to this report and updated him on the facts of the case. Enquiries continue.

22/11/2001 08:31

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**RC-A418** attended CPT offices on 19/11/01 and a full statement was obtained. Enquiries continue.

27/11/2001 16:13

DS 185025 G MORGAN

I have attempted to contact the following

27/11/2001 16:43

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**RC-A630** **DPA** left a message for him to contact me.

**Child** - no reply

**Child** **DPA** stated that when Fr David supervised swimming he would check that boys were dry by slapping their bottoms. Fr David had not touched him during these swimming lessons. The boys would joke about Fr David's actions and called him 'Gay Dave'.

**Child** - no reply

**Child** - no reply

**Child** - no longer at phone number given, possibly living at **DPA**

**DPA**

**RC-A632** - message left with mother **DPA**

All the boys are ex-pupils of St Benedict's and are in their late teens or early twenties. Enquiries in hand.



**DPA**

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Although there have been a variety of rumours in relation to Fr David's inappropriate behaviour in relation to the schoolchildren, I have been unable

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to find evidence of any criminal offences committed by Fr David.

The ex-pupil, [RC-A418] who was the source of this report, recalls an incident involving Fr David that occurred 17-18 years ago when [RC-A418] was eight years old. [RC-A418] states that during a swimming lesson at a local leisure centre, a schoolfriend, [RC-A632] lost a locker key. During the search for the key, Fr David placed his hand down the swimming trunks of

[RC-A632]. This incident lasted a matter of seconds. Due to the passage of time, [RC-A418] is extremely vague about what occurred; he is even unsure as to whether he was present or was told about it later that day. [RC-A632] states that he recalls Fr David did put his hands down [RC-A632] trunks for a matter of seconds with a view to finding the key but could not remember anything else about the incident.

It is fair to say that [RC-A418] and [RC-A632] are reluctant to give evidence in court and would only be willing if further evidences came to light in relation to Fr David. I have spoken to a number of other ex-pupils, teachers and parents in relation to Fr David. None of these have provided me with any evidence that Fr David has committed any criminal offences. In general, this group gave a vote of confidence to Fr David.

The incident described took place 17-18 years ago. The allegation is of a minor nature, relating to inappropriate conduct rather than a criminal offence. The witness and suspect are both reluctant to give evidence in



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court. In light of this and the historical nature of the allegation, I do not propose to interview Fr David in relation to this matter. Fr David is no longer a member of the teaching staff at St Benedicts School and hasn't been for some time. He isn't allowed any unsupervised contact with the schoolchildren and this will continue to be the case. I have spoken to Peter Turner, the Child Protection Officer from the Westminster Diocese, and informed him of the outcome of our enquiries. He will recommend that Fr David does not come into any contact with children of the parish in his capacity as member of the church. This report is complete.

21/04/2004 11:40

DC 179200 K HUDSON

I have recently arrested and interviewed the same suspect, Father David PEARCE, for other similar allegations. I have contacted this victim, **RC-A418** to inform him that I will be continuing the investigation into allegations made against father PEARCE. He is happy to assist the police investigation and attend court, if the evidence is forthcoming. There is a great number of potential victims/witnesses, detailed on the DETS for this investigation, that need to be contacted.

To be SCREENED IN for further investigation.

26/04/2004 12:35

DS 5877 966SW LM JEFFRIES

OIC Changed

20/05/2004 10:25

DC 179200 K HUDSON

I have completed a general letter, omitting the suspect name & the school and I have sent this letter to the following persons mentioned in this report:



**DPA**

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23/07/2004 09:05

DC 179200 K HUDSON

answer phone of **DPA** which was **Child** No response as yet.

I have wrote to the **RC-A632** family at **DPA** & left messages on the home number **DPA** & mobile **DPA** No response.

I have spoken to a female that resides with **Child** **DPA**. Message left with her. No response.

All these efforts have been made in an effort to link this investigation with the parallel investigation, concerning allegations made by **RC-A6** against Father PEARCE.

I have updated Mr Peter TURNER, Child Protection Advisor for the Catholic Church.

01/08/2004 10:53

DC 179200 K HUDSON

Ongoing enqs in this investigation, parallel to second report re same suspect.

16/08/2004 15:03

DC 179200 K HUDSON

In relation to this specific investigation (linked to VIW **RC-A6** investigation reference same suspect, I have exhausted enqs into the following witnesses/victims:

1. **RC-A418** (made previous MG11 but not recovered original, therefore typed copy needs signature). Numerous messages left on mobile number I have. Never any answer. No reply ever received.

2. **RC-A631** family of **DPA**. Spoke to **mother of RC-A631** reference her sons **Child** **RC-A631** & **Child**. All refused to be spoken to, seen by police or make a statement.

3. Kate Ravenscroft. (Ex teacher). NOT TRACED.

4. **RC-A595** Made interview to police in 1980's. No longer at **DPA** NOT TRACED.

5. **Name Redacted** Had son **Child** at school. Mother spoke to son who doesnt wisg to get involved.

6. **Child** Numerous messages left on answer service of old number. Never any reply on phone. No response from messages.



**DPA**

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DC 179200 K HUDSON

messages left on old mobile number. Not known if still his number. Never any reply on number. No response from messages.

8. **RC-A632** Several messages left on old contact number. No response. Wrote a letter to **DPA** No response.

9. **Name Redacted** Several messages left with partner on **DPA** Never any response from the messages.

10. **child** of **DPA** THIS IS THE ONLY WITNESS who has made a statement.

I have completed all my intended enquiries into this specific crime report. Enqs into **RC-A6** report still not complete.

The suspect will return on bail on the 19th OCTOBER 2004. In between now & then, a report will be submitted to the CPS to ascertain whether they feel there is sufficient evidence against PEARCE. This report only provides ONE potential witness, **Child** This report does not provide any victims willing or able to support a criminal prosecution. I therefore intend to close this report as whether or not the CPS feel there is a case to answer in relation to **RC-A6** allegation against PEARCE, it does not affect the completion of this report.

\*\*\*\*\* COMPLETE \*\*\*\*\*