

5<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Our ref: **DPA** *please quote in all communication*

Mr. Paul Samuels  
Deputy Child Protection Manager  
London Borough of Ealing  
Acton Town Hall  
Winchester Street  
London W3 6NE

Dear Paul,

**Re: Fr. David Pearce and Fr. **RC-F41****

With further reference to our telephone call concerning the above named two Priests.

I understand that an anonymous caller to the London Borough of Ealing made allegations of sexual assault against the above named Priests.

Both the Priests are members of a Religious Congregation residing at the Monastery at Ealing Abbey, and both were teachers at St. Benedict's School, adjacent to the Monastery.

Since approximately 2001 a number of allegations, some from an anonymous source, were made against Fr. David Pearce. These have been investigated by the Police, but no charges have ever been preferred against him. All the allegations related to events that took place a number of years ago within St. Benedict's School.

As a result of these allegations Fr. David was withdrawn from all Parish activities, and was not allowed to enter St. Benedict's School during the day whilst pupils were present. He was also given the task of "Novice Master", which is essentially preparing new men to join the Order, and would certainly not involve any contact with children or young people.

He has been assessed by an independent assessor, the result of which he will never be allowed to have any Public Ministry or come into contact with Children or Young Persons in a pastoral setting.

Recently one of his "victims", who did report the matter to Police, but no charges were forthcoming, undertook a Civil Action against the Order and was awarded a fairly substantial amount in damages. This was reported in the local press.

In respect of Fr. **RC-F41** an allegation was made in early 2005 against him that he indecently assaulted a pupil on a school trip to **DPA**. Upon receiving the allegation, he was immediately withdrawn from all Ministry.

The matter was referred to the Police, but as the alleged offence took place outside the U.K., they were unable to proceed. Fr. **RC-F41** underwent an independent assessment, as a result of which he was permanently removed from all Ministry. A further allegation was then made against him of indecent assault, which resulted in him being charged, and he is currently awaiting trial at **DPA** Crown Court. This matter was also reported in the press at the same time as the matter concerning Fr. David Pearce.

It appears that the anonymous informant to Ealing Social Services was probably as a result of the press reports concerning both Priests.

I am certain that both men have been removed from all Ministry, and do not have any contact with Children or Young Persons, and that no further action is required at this stage.

I hope this summary of events is sufficient for your purpose, but should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter W. Turner**  
**Child Protection Officer**

Copy to Martina Anderlova