Chief Officer Ruari Hardy
Guernsey Police Headquarters
Rue des Frênes
Hospital Lane
St Peter Port
Guernsey
GY1 2QN

18th June 2024

Dear Mr Hardy,

Defamation claims

Recently, Guernsey police cell CCTV footage was shared, by way of social media, showing, inter alia, what [redacted] submits was an unlawful assault on his person whilst in police custody. In response, you made public allegations about [redacted] which you knew to be false.

The Allegations

1. On 4 June 2024, ITV aired an interview with you in which you claimed [emphasis added]:

   "… **while enroute to custody and in custody** [redacted] threatened to assault the officers and also **threatened to self-harm himself**…"

   "Our officers still have a duty of care to look after [redacted], but **because of the threats to cause self-harm, the officers were compelled to put him into clothing that didn't pose a ligature risk**…"

2. On 19 June 2024, the Bailiwick Express ('BE') published an interview with you which was made publicly available. During which, you alleged that:

   "[redacted] had caused injury to [himself] by doing a certain act that injured [himself], [redacted] also threatened to further self-harm…"

3. All Allegations relating to [redacted] 'self-harming' and/or threatening to do so are false and you must have known them to be false.

4. [redacted] categorically denies these Allegations: they are defamatory, untrue and have already, and may further cause, serious damage to [redacted] reputation. During both your interviews there were other more concerning allegations therein (considered no further here).

5. Indeed, when questioned over this matter, you refused to respond to the following:

> "….[ ], when we touch about the conversation about self-harm, has since come out to say, 'I didn't say that.' We talk about this ongoing social media narrative, and it's how are [sic] the public meant to decipher who to believe in this kind of scenario especially when it's a moment in time where I guess there is this potential for trust to be a bit eroded? Does that make sense?"

6. Whilst being interviewed by ITV, you complained that "when [the footage] was first posted online there was no context…" and "it's about context. And that is the issue we are seeing on social media, all too often it's been spun in a way that is if we've done something hurriedly wrong. If you know the full facts and the full circumstances, it's a very different picture".

7. Likewise, you complained in your interview with the BE [emphasis added]:

> "What we're seeing here in Guernsey at the moment is a situation where a small number of individuals are using, for example, social media to put certain information into the public domain. **The importance for me is that information is truthful, that information is accurate and where necessary and where there has to be context to that information, that is also really, really important**."

8. However, when Dr Rebecca Tidy then released the entirety of CCTV footage of whilst in detention in order for the public to review, thus understand the "*full facts and full circumstances*", as you put it, she submits that the Guernsey police quickly complained to Facebook (where it was posted in full), ending in the video being removed.

9. Moreover, submits that you made false Allegations in an attempt to mislead the public into believing that your officers acted lawfully, when in fact, they did not. Notably, whilst being interviewed, you failed to inform the public that your officers had failed to adhere to domestic law, human rights legislation, and the applicable College of Policing guidelines detailed in the original complaint submitted on 13 May 2024 (for which we have yet to receive a response). This casts considerable doubt over your assertions that providing the public with accurate information, the full facts, and context is "really, really important".

10. You went on to say that, "What I would say though is that we have body worn cameras. We also have video cameras in our van. We have CCTV and audio in our custody suite. We're trying to be as open and transparent as we possibly can and any incident like that we would secure and preserve all that kind of footage as part of an investigation".

11. Police submit that they have provided with all CCTV footage of his time in police custody. If this claim is truthful, having viewed it, the footage evidences your Allegations to be false.

12. Of course, if you Allegations are in fact "truthful" and "accurate", and your claims made in both interviews are also "truthful" and "accurate" (partially reproduced above), you will be able to evidence the same.

Next Steps

13. requests a public apology and correction of the facts, from you personally, by 3 July 2024; and/or if similar Allegations made by you as referred above, will issue Court proceedings seeking, inter alia, damages. His rights remain fully reserved.

14. Please confirm receipt of this letter no later than 21 June 2024.

15. Please note, at this time, all correspondence is to be addressed to .

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]