



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Nous travail ensemble pour protéger et sauvegarder le Baillage*



2023

Dear Adv. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated [REDACTED] 2023 concerning your client, [REDACTED]. I have carefully considered the points that you have raised in your letter and the case as a whole.

As you will be aware cases and investigations concerning harassments and/or domestic linked matters can be particularly complex, challenging and often include claims and counterclaims from those involved. Such claims and counterclaims often make it difficult to fully establish what the truth is. Further, the advice provided by PC [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] was not suitable advice and would not have helped the situation. PC [REDACTED] and his Sergeant will be spoken with and given suitable management advice themselves on offering such unsuitable advice.

It is accepted that the officer who met with [REDACTED] should have included the information concerning [REDACTED] statement. This officer will be also given suitable management advice on this matter.

As you will appreciate, we receive numerous reports and complaints of harassment, domestic abuse and related behaviour/offending. Very often several reports in one day. It is simply not feasible or practical for our small team of officers in the Public Protection Unit to investigate every case. It will be an operational and managerial decision as to who will investigate a particular complaint. All officers receive training on investigating harassment and domestic abuse cases and are able to undertake such investigations.

Whilst I acknowledge [REDACTED] wish that she had been dealt with by a female officer, this is not always immediately feasible. Female officers are not 'pigeonholed' to be readily available to deal with such cases on demand, though we will always do our very best to accommodate such a request, should it be made. I do note that on her first visit to report the matter that two female officers (one from the Public Protection Unit) met with [REDACTED]

██████████ In similar cases, where a complainant has requested a female officer, we have provided such support.

I sympathise with ██████████ frustration of a lack of continuity of investigating officer. However, officers do have days off duty, nightshift duties, training commitments, leave and other reasons for absence. On such occasions efforts are made to progress those investigations that cannot await the investigating officers' return. Hence, whilst not ideal, this investigation was passed to others to deal with.

Any delay in an investigation is disappointing but must be considered against the reason for such a delay. Having reviewed the officers' duties at that time I note that he had two rest days followed by four full nightshifts. Whilst this will account for some of the delay in obtaining a signature from ██████████ I do accept that there could have been more priority put on gaining the signed statement. Though, to some degree this was considered, as a different officer actually saw ██████████ to obtain the signature.

Good statement taking is a skill and is enhanced by experience. As with all aspects and fields of criminal justice and criminal investigation, there are some who are better at certain things than others.

There was a missed opportunity by the investigating officers not speaking with ██████████ ██████████ which would have added further support to ██████████ complaint. The officer concerned will be given management advice on the need to complete all reasonable lines of enquiry. ██████████ ██████████

As I have highlighted at the start of my letter, cases such as these often bring claims and counterclaims. When a counterclaim is made officers are obliged to thoroughly consider it and where necessary investigate it. Whilst ██████████ was treated as a suspect following ██████████ I do note that they dealt with her sensitively and in a considerate manner in arranging a convenient and voluntary attendance for interview.

Harassment and domestic abuse matters remain one of our priorities and we strive to provide a good service in such matters. I am sorry that ██████████ feels she did not receive a good service. Should ██████████ wish to meet an officer from our Public Protection Unit for further support and advice please notify me and I will arrange for contact to be made.

Yours sincerely

██████████

Philip BREBAN
Deputy Chief Officer
Operational Policing, Guernsey Police