

**From:** Debra Reading **On Behalf Of** Christabel Shawcross  
**Sent:** 09 March 2015 09:31  
**To:** REDWOOD, John  
**Subject:** RESTRICTED: Mr John Millo, 54 Bathurst Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG415JB

Dear Mr Redwood,

Thank you for your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

The claims for compensation following abuse at Greenfields House go back to the 1960s. It is important to note that at no time did the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) run this home. It was operated by Berkshire County Council (BCC). The reason for RBWM's name being mentioned throughout Mr Millo's concerns is, because as the successor authority, RBWM inherited the past responsibilities of the county council when the abuse claims came to light. The insurers of the county council (MMI) appointed solicitors to deal with all the claims arising from this time.

The BCC insurance arrangements, not those of RBWM, operated to compensate Mr Millo. Any payments received from Mr Gilbert-Smith were a contribution towards these costs. At the time of the compensation claims Mr Gilbert-Smith was not subject to any criminal prosecution and he has not been convicted of any child abuse offences. A trial was held in July 2010 at which Mr Gilbert-Smith was cleared of fifteen charges and the Crown Prosecution Service did not pursue a retrial on the two charges which the jury were unable to reach a verdict on.

RBWM never received a seven figure cheque for £1.5M nor any other amount from Mr Gilbert-Smith.

1. Mr Millo asks if it is "...legal and proper for RBWM to enter into a secret deal with a man they are accusing of raping/abusing twelve boys in their care". RBWM did not accuse Mr Gilbert-Smith of anything - the allegations of abuse came from the former residents of the home. Normal legal process were followed in the course of settling these claims, including attempting to make a recovery of any outlay where possible. It was determined there was merit in pursuing such a recovery against Mr Gilbert-Smith and a counter claim was issued. On legal advice, the claimants settled their claims and Mr Gilbert-Smith also elected to settle these proceedings out of court.
2. As this was a civil matter, the outcome did not affect the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service to bring criminal proceedings.
3. The question, "Who in RBWM authorised this payment to be secret". The terms of the out of court settlement was an arrangement made between solicitors representing Mr Gilbert-Smith and those representing BCC.

While RBWM has every sympathy with Mr Millo, it appears that neither the Council nor its legal representatives have handled the matter in a fashion that perverts the course of justice as suggested.

Yours sincerely,

Christabel Shawcross  
Interim Managing Director  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead