

MIMS DAVIES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr J Affleck
2 Suffolk Green
Chander's Ford
Eastleigh
SO53 3ES

2nd
April 2016

Dear *M. Affleck*

Firstly please accept my apologies for the lack of detail in the covering letter sent with the reply we received from Michael Penning MP. Unfortunately on this occasion the reply had not been passed to the correct member of my team for processing.

We have since received a reply from Alison Alexander, the Managing Director for The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council, in respect of our enquiries and I have attached a copy for your consideration.

I would like to highlight that the council have confirmed that the insurers for the previous Berkshire County Council, Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI), were advised by the solicitors that MMI had instructed, Browne Jacobsen LLP to settle claims out of court. Settlements to claimants occurred between October 2006 and April 2010. These claims were settled by MMI who then chose to seek recovery from the named abusers. As such it was the Insurer who made an out of court settlement with Mr Gilbert-Smith in November 2006 and not the council.

May I also highlight that Ms Alexander has confirmed that no meeting was held between MMI's solicitors, Browne Jacobson, the RBWM, Mr Gilbert-Smith and his barrister. She has also confirmed that Mr Gilbert-Smith did not write a cheque for £1.5M.

I hope this new information confirms that the RBWM Council did not enter into an out of court agreement with Mr Gilbert-Smith.

With my kind regards

Mims

Mims Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Eastleigh

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Member of Parliament for the Eastleigh constituency