

Mike Thornton MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Christabel Shawcross
Managing Director
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

18 March 2015

Ref: cw/Affl001/2

Dear Ms Shawcross,

This is a constituency enquiry. Further to previous correspondence I have been contacted by my constituent Mr Affleck of 2 Suffolk Green, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 3ES raising concerns with a letter from your Council dated 2 March.

Whilst my constituent accepts that in the strictest technical sense that it was not Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council which accepted a £1.5 million payment from Mr Gilbert-Smith, Mr Affleck feels RBWM has a degree of responsibility. Given that RBWM succeeded responsibility for care services and the case against Mr Gilbert-Smith from Berkshire County Council, Mr Affleck argues that RBWM became ultimately responsible for any payments received.

Mr Affleck also feels that contrary to the reply dated 2 March the criminal trial against Mr Gilbert-Smith was affected by the acceptance of a £1.5 million payment, in lieu of proceeding with the civil case to recover costs for compensation to those abused under BCC care.

My constituent argues that by bringing a civil case against by Mr Gilbert-Smith BCC/RBWM were accusing him of abusing children at Greenfields House, an accusation which could not be mentioned in the 2010 trial due to the out of court settlement. Mr Affleck asserts that this payment prevented mention of the civil matter in the July 2010 trial by either BCC, RBWM or any of the 8 victims giving testimony. My constituent feels that this missing testimony perverted the Crown Prosecution Service's case and the course of justice.

I should be grateful for any comments that you may have on the issues my constituent has raised and look forward to your reply in due course.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Mike Thornton MP

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