

**From:** Debra Reading **On Behalf Of** Christabel Shawcross  
**Sent:** 25 March 2015 13:04  
**To:** 'mike@mikethornton.org.uk'  
**Cc:** Christabel Shawcross  
**Subject:** Constituency Enquiry: Mike Thornton MP  
**Importance:** High

WTF?<sup>6</sup>

Dear Mr Thornton,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 March 2015 (copy attached).

As part of Mr Gilbert-Smith's criminal trial, the Crown Prosecution Service made an application for disclosure of everything to do with the civil proceedings against Berkshire County Council (BCC). This application specifically included documents relating to the settlement made by Mr Gilbert-Smith. Due to the extensive and sensitive nature of these files, a directions hearing was held in February 2010 to assist the Judge in connection with this request. Counsel representing BCC made submissions to the Judge with the aim of not disclosing confidential, privileged or sensitive information without an appropriate Court Order. Nevertheless, all the documentation was made available to the Court for this hearing. It was therefore up to the Judge to decide what documentation was relevant and what would be disclosed for the criminal trial. All the material requested in the Court Order was delivered to the Crown Prosecution Service. This order included correspondence between representatives of Mr Gilbert-Smith in connection with the civil trial.

The amount paid by Mr Gilbert-Smith to settle out of court was not £1.5M. Whilst the terms of the settlement remain confidential as part of the settlement, it can be clarified that it was not even a six figure sum - a huge difference to that cited by Mr Affleck. As stated previously, the payment was made towards the insurance arrangements of the former BCC and not direct to RBWM.

Finally, BCC/RBWM did not bring a civil case against Mr Gilbert-Smith. The allegations of abuse and the case were made by former residents of the home against BCC. BCC intended to include Mr Gilbert-Smith as a co-defendant in the case against BCC for a contribution towards the costs paid in settlement of those claims.

Yours sincerely,

SO WHAT  
FUCKING PRICK

Christabel Shawcross  
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