

Mike Thornton



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

2 April 2015

Ref: cw/Aff001/2

Dear Ms Shawcross,

This is a constituency enquiry. Further to previous correspondence I have been contacted by Mr Affleck of 2 Suffolk Green, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh SO53 3ES regarding a response to his ongoing enquiry to Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead regarding historic child abuse.

In your response dated 25 March you make a number of claims over which Mr Affleck has raised serious concern. You state that the amount received was not even a six figure sum and was paid to Berkshire County Council's insurance arrangements. Mr Affleck believes that the amount itself is of secondary importance to that fact that an arrangement was reached between BCC's insurance arrangements and Mr Gilbert-Smith, a man being accused of child abuse, which allowed his name to be kept out of the civil proceedings in exchange for money. No matter the volume of money changing hands, this is morally suspect.

Through the course of our correspondence you have stated several times that RBWM have not received any money from Mr Gilbert-Smith. However, you have also mentioned that RBWM inherited responsibilities from the County Council when the allegations of abuse first came to light, such being why you have access to such detailed information regarding this enquiry. As the successor authority it seems to me that the responsibility for the insurance arrangements made by BCC in this matter would surely have been passed to RBWM as well, so the ultimate responsibility for the acceptance of the payment rests with your Council. This is a point Mr Affleck is also very keen to stress.

...Con't

Can't
win
here

Lab
10%

Con
39%

Lib
Dem
46%

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