



WEST MERCIA PCC: DISCLOSURE LOG RESPONSE TO REQUEST

Reference: 2020 – 206 / WE2495

Date of response: 26th March 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

During the last General Election in 2019, there was a race hate comment made by the conservative candidate for Ludlow constituency Mr. Phillip Dunn towards his Labour opponent Mr. Kuldip Sahota. The comment was that, "Kuldip was talking through his turban." Kuldip found this comment to be offensive towards himself and his Sikh religion. This was picked up by the unit at the West Mercia Police which monitors such race hate related comments.

Kuldip Sahota was subsequently interviewed by the police and was then informed that after reading his statement Detective Chief Inspector Nally decided that no further action will be taken against Mr. Phillip Dunn.

- Was Police and Crime commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia aware of this incident?
- Did the PCC read the statement which Kuldip Sahota gave to the police?
- Did the PCC or his office, directly or indirectly, had any input in the final decision made by the Detective Chief Inspectors Nally not to interview Mr. Phillip Dunn and not to proceed further?
- Does the PCC agree with the final decision made by the Police not to interview Mr. Phillip Dunn?
- Does the PCC find such comments acceptable in our multi-cultural and multi-faith society?
- Was the PCC disappointed that Mr. Phillip Dunn was not interviewed by the police and no action was taken against him?
- Please provide copies of any communications regarding this matter that have taken place involving the PCC. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes any communications, but not limited to, using any media, referring to Mr Kuldip Sahota and/or the General Election and/or the hate comment and/or Mr Kuldip Sahota's complaint and/or the West Mercia Police investigation into the hate comment by Mr Phillip Dunn.

I look forward to your response,

Response.

Please see the below response to your questions.

- Q1 Yes, the Commissioner was aware of the incident.
- Q2 No, the Commissioner did not read the statement.
- Q3 No, neither the PCC or his Office had any input into the final decision, directly or indirectly. By virtue of the Police Protocol 2011 the PCC must not fetter the operational independence of the police.
- Q4 This is an operational matter for the police.
- Q5 Information not held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Q6 Information not held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Q7 There was no communications by the PCC.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write to the Information Compliance Unit; Information Compliance Unit, PO Box 55, Worcester, WR3 8SP. Email: information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely,

**FOI Officer
West Mercia PCC**

Complaints

If you think that the Police and Crime Commissioner has failed to supply information in accordance with the publication scheme, then you should write in the first instance, to the:

Chief Executive, OPCC – West Mercia, Hindlip Hall, Worcester. WR3 8SP

The PCC will aim to deal with your complaint within 10 working days. If you are dissatisfied with the response you can ask for the matter to be internally reviewed. Internal reviews will be completed promptly and a response given to you within 20 working days of your further request.

If, after the internal review, you remain dissatisfied, then you can complain to the Information Commissioner (Office of the Information Commissioner), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF).