



OFFICIAL

DIRECTORATE OF LEGAL
SERVICES

9th November 2017

Director: Hugh Giles
Solicitor

FAO: Piers Doggart
Undercover Policing Public Inquiry

10 Lamb's Conduit Street
London

Enquiries to: Melanie Jones

Direct line: [REDACTED]
Facsimile: [REDACTED]
Switchboard: 020 7230 1212

Your ref:

Our ref: 113290/MJ

[REDACTED]
Service not accepted by e-mail

Dear Piers,

NSCPs submissions on psychiatric experts

I write further to your letter dated 6th October 2017 and apologise for the delay in replying.

You request a response to the submissions made by the NSCPs. This is essentially that the question of Dr Bussutil and Dr McLaren's connections with the MPS, through the Priory Ticehurst Hospital should be investigated and full disclosure made.

There is also a reference to a letter from Messrs Leigh Day on behalf of Peter Francis dated 20th September 2017. We have not had sight of this letter.

As you will be aware the psychiatrists are independent experts. Their reports provide a Declaration and Statement of Truth confirming compliance with their overriding duty to the court, both in preparing reports and in giving oral evidence, and that they have drawn to the attention of the court all matters, of which they are aware, which might adversely affect their opinion.

They also confirm that they are unaware of any conflict of interest of any kind, other than any which they have disclosed in their report. For the sake of completeness there are no conflicts identified in the reports.

The details of the proposed psychiatrists were provided to the Inquiry at an early stage and concern was not raised regarding their suitability.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

We are therefore somewhat surprised that the Inquiry should have asked the MPS to spend time dealing with the questions raised by the NSCPs. Even if there had been connections that would not be a basis for questioning the independence or integrity of the experts.

I have nonetheless carried out a preliminary review of the position.

MPS' Occupational Health does not have a contractual relationship with the Priory.

There is however some degree of clinical independence in the MPS to the extent that a number of Operational Command Units have relationships with medical and psychiatric health providers which are not managed or governed through the MPS' Occupational Health, and therefore it cannot be excluded that individual MPS officers may have been treated at the Priory in the past. That said, my enquiries with the Priory to date have not provided any positive indications that MPS officers have been treated by the Priory or by either Dr Bussutil or Dr McLaren.

I hope that information is useful.

But if there are valid concerns about the expert's independence which the Inquiry considers to need further investigation, I suggest that it should ask the experts directly since it is their independence and integrity that is being questioned.

Yours sincerely
[signature]

Melanie Jones
Team Leader (Solicitor)

OFFICIAL