

Sir Toby Harris
Committee Chair
Metropolitan Police Authority
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London 4 August 2002

Dear Sir Toby Harris

Thank you for your reply of 11 July 2002 to my letter of 5 May 2002.

Indications are that the input has been sought entirely from Kensington & Chelsea police – as opposed to involving an assessment of the evidence by an independent party.

I first contacted you because you head a department with the remit “to ensure that London has a police force that is responsive to the needs of its community”. I therefore assumed that your department had the power to get this implemented. Clearly, I was mistaken.

Nonetheless, for the record, and as a London resident, I will now turn to the points in your letter.

1. “...the police cannot act on the basis of your suspicions...”

If this is how the police views the facts then, quite literally, ‘God help us’, as it is happy to accept a fabricated story that a 10 year old child would reject outright given the body of evidence e.g.

- Mrs [redacted] said that her phone had been stolen, then changed her story after several weeks saying it had miraculously reappeared.
- She must have also continued paying the bills over the period during which the phone had allegedly been stolen.
- Please, how gullible and incompetent can the police be?

As I hope this is not indicative of the police’s power of investigation, other explanations come to mind, one of which is that the police cannot be bothered to investigate.

Indeed, since writing to you I have heard about Nicholas van Hoogstraten who was allowed to roam free in spite of throwing people on to the street, ripping the roofs off tenants' homes and threatening others with violence. He was only arrested when he killed a rival landlord, Mohammed Raja. In other words, in this country, the police will turn a blind eye on landlords’ criminal activities up to the point where they commit manslaughter.

Subsequent note: At the time of writing this letter Mr Hoogstraten was reported in the media as having been found "guilty of manslaughter"

If at this point you invoke the ‘need for evidence’ - (although, how can a roof being ripped off not be considered sufficient evidence, I do not know) - I would point out to you that when it suits its own needs – such as for public relations purposes – the police does not have any problem finding evidence e.g.

Detective Gareth Reid – while he was off-duty – reports that Neil Accourt and David Norris, both suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry raced their car towards him, hurled a drinks container at him along with racial abuse.
Outcome? Both end-up with a two-year prison sentence.

While Andrew Ladsky has not driven his car at me, he has:

Subsequent note: Should read "revved"

- Stopped his car when I was waiting at my usual bus stop, sneered at me with the driver of the car, then raved the engine and left at high speed – all with the obvious intention to intimidate
- Jumped out of nowhere behind me as I arrived back from work late at night, forcing me into the building
- Pushed me aside in the entrance corridor to go pass me
- Thrown a hard object (probably a stone) at my windows late at night
- Rung my door bell in the middle of the night
- Has evidently made/instigated anonymous phone calls to my home number, as well as made anonymous phone calls to my office (evident by the way he asked for me)

In addition to this, I have also provided you with ample evidence of harassment and intimidation by Andrew Ladsky of other tenants – even of our local Citizen Advice Bureau.

Note A

Outcome? “We need evidence in order to approach Andrew Ladsky” (The police)

As you accurately surmise, yes, I do view all of this as the intention to put pressure on myself and other residents to either leave or shut up - so that the landlord can benefit financially.

Detective Reid is reported to have said that the incident on 11 May left him “shaken, embarrassed and fearful”. Not only is he a man, he is also a policeman i.e. trained to deal with this type of situations. As a woman, living on my own, these incidents have caused me a great deal of anxiety, distress and fear for my own safety – ruining my life over the last few months.

Note A

While there is the Race Discrimination Act, I would also point out that there is the **Protection from Harassment Act 1997**. But, this is conveniently ignored by the police.

2. “...you must appreciate that officers have to act with consideration for resource and time expenditure when investigating a case such as this...”

However, if there is the possibility of generating PR for the police, it has no concerns about this:

- North Wales police sending two senior officers to interview the BBC director general, Greg Dyke, over Anne Robinson’s ‘anti-Welsh’ comments on a TV show.

This, in fact, made the police a laughing stock:

- “Where are our police when we need them? Where are they when old ladies are pushed to the ground and robbed of their handbags containing a few pounds? Why, naturally, they are questioning that well-known master criminal, BBC director general Greg Dyke” (The Express, 31 July 2002)

and raised questions about its priorities:

- Peter Rogers, Tory member of the Welsh Assembly, was reported in the Daily Post, 31 July 2002 as saying that “To send two senior officers to London when we have serious problems of disorder, drugs and violence to contend with in North Wales is nonsense”.

Note A

All of this, added to my dealings with the police in recent months, has led me to totally – and for ever - lose my confidence in the British police. So, no, I will not waste any more time contacting Kensington & Chelsea police.

Best regards

Noëlle Rawé
(A British national)
cc. Paul Kirby, Chelsea Police Station

Note A

In addition to what had happened up to that point with Kensington & Chelsea police, events the following year vindicated my assessment and position:

See letters to me of 27 Jan 03 and 6 Feb 03 from Neil Watson PC206BS, Crime Investigator and my reply of 11 Feb 03 – to which I never received a response