

Appendix

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Statement of: Professor Zoe Radnor

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: University
Professor.....

This statement (consisting of 12 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: 

Date: 22/6/11

1. Did you attend the meeting of the Executive on 8 September 2008?

Yes

2. Were you present during the presentation and discussions concerning item no 9 of the agenda (copy of minutes attached).

Yes

3. Please confirm your recollection of the discussion which ensued involving Councillor Elwyn Schofield in relation to this matter.

My recollection was that whilst I did not understand the detail of the conversation and discussion I did notice that that Cllr Schofield had prepared his notes well and thoroughly in order to present his case and views. He referred to a number of documents particularly in the initial part of the discussion in order to make his point. I do recall other members contributing to the discussion mainly to support Cllr Schofield although I do not recall them having any documentation.

4. How would you describe Cllr Schofield's demeanour towards the Monitoring Officer during the course of this discussion.

My recollection was that initially the Monitoring Officer was 'sympathetic' to the technical aspects of what Cllr Schofield was presenting and that she offered to investigate some matters further then report back (I cannot remember who to). She was also only sitting a few people from him around the table (chamber). I remember thinking that she was acting very professionally given the amount of information and data Cllr Schofield was presenting to her. However, I also recall that Cllr Schofield moved the discussion into one less about technical aspects but more on the decision making processes of the officers in the Council. He felt that the Monitoring Officer had, at times, made decisions which were not appropriate for officers to make. My feeling was he was being careful about not

in general – although he did refer to something she had done in reference to the item being discussed. I also recall the Monitoring Officer left after the item has finished.

In summary, my recollection was of a Councillor who had done his homework and presented the evidence well but in a manner that undermined the role of the Officer which in my mind became the focus of the discussion rather than the technical aspects.

5. In your response to the question above you state that Councillor Schofield presented his evidence in a manner that undermined the role of the Officer. Please can you elaborate on this point providing specific references where possible?

I think it is important to separate the content/ technical aspect of the item and the process. Regarding the technical aspect the discussion between Cllr Schofield and the Monitoring Officer could be regarded as the type of challenge you would expect between members and officers within a Local Council. The 'undermining' refers to a discussion I recall regarding the decision making powers of the Officers to which Cllr Schofield referred to some actions the Monitoring Officer had taken. From my recollection (as I mentioned I did have notes on the meeting but recently destroyed them) Cllr Schofield was attempting to expose, from his perspective, the Monitoring Officer regarding some actions she had taken some which were relevant to the agenda item and others not.

6. The complaint received refers to a conversation between you and the Monitoring Officer following the meeting (prior to the commencement of an MDT meeting) regarding Councillor Schofield's conduct. Did you have a conversation with the Monitoring Officer as suggested?

Before a meeting, which the Monitoring Officer attended, to discuss a workshop I was planning with members I did have a quick conversation consisting of a couple of brief comments.

7. If so, please can you provide details of any comments you may have made to the Monitoring Officer about the meeting of the Executive or Councillor Schofield and explain why you made these comments.

In my comments I merely stated that I felt she (Monitoring Officer) had responded very professionally in the meeting ensuring that she was clear in presenting her case. I think I might have also said that she dealt with 'what could seem personal' comments with a professional response. I cannot really remember her response except for a 'thank you' and maybe something about 'common occurrence' referring to the way she was treated. Of course I have no evidence to say whether that was the case or not.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by: