



STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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STRATHCLYDE
POLICE

CHIEF CONSTABLE

William Rae QPM
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Date: 26 April 2004

Dear Mr McKie

SHERLEY McKIE -v- CHIEF CONSTABLE, STRATHCLYDE POLICE

I refer to your letter of 21 April to Mr Rae, received on Friday, 23 April. The Chief Constable has forwarded your letter to me for reply on his behalf.

Having carefully considered all that you write, I have to say that there really is nothing further that Mr Rae can say than what was contained in his personal letter to you of 14 April.

With specific reference to your daughter's application for Legal Assistance, I have noted the terms of the then Deputy Chief Constable, Mr J Richardson's, letter to your daughter dated 27 March 1998.

Again, there is nothing I can usefully add to the terms of that letter, other than to refer you to the fact that your daughter invoked - as was her right - her appeal to the Joint Police Board, which subsequently approved her Legal Assistance, and public funding from the Joint Police Board's Account paid for her legal defence of the High Court proceedings raised against her. As you will know, the Scheme for Legal Assistance involving police officers is a Scottish Executive approved Scheme and administered in terms of a Circular from the former Scottish Office, Home Department.

I note also what you write in relation to Shirley's ill-health pension and, again, that is 'well documented, in terms of the various processes through medical referees, in respect of the Police Pensions Regulations. The medical appeal process was administered through the offices of the Joint Police Board and, as such, I regret I am unable to make any further comment. What I can say, however, is that I do not recognise from the facts known to me that Shirley was denied "basic legal rights". She has been dealt with - in

relation to her ill-health pension - in accordance with her entitlements, as found vouched by independent medical referees.

In closing, there is just one further point. You refer - in connection with the Crown proceedings against your daughter - to alleged "misspending" of £100,000s of public money. You will appreciate that such public spending was not by the Police Authority or this Force. As such, I am unable to comment upon that matter.

With reference to your request that the claim for legal expenses be waived, or that the Chief Constable should recommend that it be postponed until the result of the ongoing Action against the Scottish Ministers is known, I would advise that the former is unlikely given that the sum of £13,000 sought to be recovered is an undisputed sum. As regards the suggestion of a postponement, this matter is currently being considered, in light of a letter from your daughter's Edinburgh Solicitors to my Edinburgh Agents. That request for postponement will be replied to through the recognised channels of communications between Edinburgh Solicitors for the Force and your daughter.

Yours sincerely

Ian McPherson
Solicitor
Director of Legal Services

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