

Interview summary [D1747].

Date: 26 July 2017

Location: Brook House, Gatwick.

Start time: 13:19

End Time: 14:50

Present: N Adamson (PSU)

Tony Lennon (PSU)

Mr Adamson explained he was an Investigating Officer from the Home Office, Professional Standards Unit which investigates complaints from the public about HO staff or contractors. He was here today to gather evidence into the events surrounding a complaint received from Mr [D1747] that DCO Murphy had assaulted him on 20 June 2017 in Brook House, Healthcare and to report on whether any of the complaint can be substantiated.

Mr [D1747] confirmed that he was well and fit to be interviewed.

Mr [D1747] was invited to recount, in his own words, the events that occurred in Healthcare, Brook House on the 20 June 2017.

Mr [D1747] stated that he was in Healthcare to get his medication for his mental problems. Every week there are different DCOs escorting detainees. There were several people in the room at the time. He stated that having taken his medication he put his cup in the rubbish bin and moved away from the hatch to make space for the next person. An Officer (DCO) then came up to him and said "*What you do it, fucking idiot?*" Mr [D1747] held his hands behind his back and said "*Excuse me, what you say?*" the DCO then hit Mr [D1747] in the chest with his fists, Mr [D1747] said "*What you doing?*" the DCO then tried to hit him again but Mr [D1747] pushed the DCO's hands down. Another detainee then came between Mr [D1747] and the DCO. A second Officer took Mr [D1747] out of the room, the first DCO, who had hit Mr [D1747], then came and threw Mr [D1747]'s ID card at his feet saying something like

"you fucking idiot wanker". Mr [D1747] later called the police to report the incident. Mr [D1747] stated he also asked the lady DCO on his wing, for the DCO's name but she said that she did not know. Mr [D1747] stated that one (1) hour later the lady DCO came back saying she had the DCO's name but Mr [D1747] told her he did not need it now as he was going to complain. When Mr [D1747] saw him later, the DCO laughed in his face. Mr [D1747] also stated that the day after the incident he saw the DCO give a pack of tobacco to the detainee who came between them. After one (1) month the Police came and talked to Mr [D1747] but, despite Mr [D1747] calling them several times, have said nothing. Mr [D1747] stated that he did not want the DCO to go to prison but felt the Detention Centre was not the right place for him to work. Mr [D1747] wants to continue with this complaint as he does not want other detainees to suffer.

When asked, Mr [D1747] recalled that the DCO punched him with two (2) hands, the second time he went to hit him, Mr [D1747] pushed the DCO's hands down. Mr [D1747] did not recall if the DCO moved towards him but does recall that the DCO's hands were down to start with but then he brought them up.

When asked if they were close to each other, Mr [D1747] became agitated indicated he did not want to continue saying there was "*no justice*".

When asked, Mr [D1747] stated he remembered "100%" DCO Murphy said "*What you doing, fucking idiot*" and other "*very bad*" things. Mr [D1747] stated he was very shocked that Officers who worked in the Detention Centre could say such things. Mr [D1747] reiterated that he moved away from the hatch with his hands at his back and asked the DCO "*what did you say sir?*"

Mr [D1747] recalled that the DCO hit him very hard, enough to make him take a few steps back but could not remember if the DCO pulled his hands back to hit him or if it was with hand or fist. Mr [D1747] was not sure if the DCO followed him backwards but did recall he was in the middle of the room. He also stated there were maybe five (5) other detainees and three (3) or four (4) Officers. One of the detainees came between them to help Mr [D1747] because the DCO was twice as big

as he was, DCO Brown then took Mr [D1747] out of the room and told him to relax. Mr [D1747] stated that DCO Murphy was still verbally abusing him and shouting.

When asked Mr [D1747] stated that he was standing outside the room with DCO Brown when DCO Murphy came out and threw his ID card on the floor saying "*this is your fucking something*". Mr [D1747] stated that he was shocked and still could not believe it. When asked, Mr [D1747] stated he saw DCO Murphy throw the card, as did DCO Brown. Mr [D1747] stated that he was not shouting but was nervous as it was a stressful situation.

When asked, Mr [D1747] did not recall if he was angry and shouting when he got back to his wing and spoke to the wing manager, Hayley. He further stated that when she came back later he did not need the DCO Murphy's name as he by then had Hayley's name for the complaint form.

Mr [D1747] confirmed he had no injuries, was not hurt, did not go to Healthcare and the incident would not be mentioned on his health record. There was no visible bruising or redness as Mr [D1747] has [Irrelevant and Sensitive].

Mr [D1747] confirmed he had spoken to the Police about a month ago and had given them no other evidence than he had already supplied.

When asked, Mr [D1747] stated that it was a lie that he had his medication in his left hand and only pretended to take it. He stated that he needed the medication so why would he not take it. He also stated that DCO Murphy may have thought he had not taken the pills but Mr [D1747] put the empty pill container and water cup in the rubbish bin. Mr [D1747] recalled that there may have still been some water in the cup. Mr [D1747] stated that DCO Murphy did not ask him "not to be silly but said "*what you doing fucking idiot*".

Mr [D1747] again became agitated and asked why these questions and that it was important that he had been hit and there was no justice.

When asked Mr [D1747] stated maybe DCO Murphy and he were quite close together, maybe too close, but he did not know if close or too close. Mr [D1747] also stated that he was calm but sometimes people

think he is shouting because when he is nervous he speaks louder and quicker.

Mr [D1747] recalled that maybe another DCO held DCO Murphy but was not sure, he did feel, however, that the detainee who came between them did so to keep DCO Murphy away from Mr [D1747]. Mr [D1747] stated again that was twice as big as he was and the punch was with a large force.

Mr [D1747] requested a break.

Interview suspended 14:13

Interview resumed 14:28

Mr [D1747] confirmed there were still only three people in the room.

When asked to comment, Mr [D1747] stated that he did not hide his medicine, maybe it looked like that to DCO Brown but he needed his medicine for his mental problems.

When asked to comment on Mr [D71] 's statement that Mr [D1747] went close to DCO Murphy, Mr [D1747] did not agree. When asked if he accepted that was how it appeared from Mr [D71] 's perspective, Mr [D1747] made no comment. Mr [D1747] then stated "*next time I promise I smash this guy who touch me I smash as well .. but me I have to go to prison*"

When asked to comment on Mr [D71] 's statement that, in his opinion, the Officer did not do anything wrong and that Mr [D1747] "*got in his face*". Mr [D1747] did not think he could have thought that.

When asked, Mr [D1747] stated that when he got back to the wing maybe he was speaking loudly and fast because he was nervous. He accepted that it is possible the wing manager could have mistaken this with him appearing to be angry.

Mr [D1747] did not complain to the wing manager at first because he did not think there was any point as it would just go to her. Later, another detainee told Mr [D1747] about the locked yellow box and that complaints go straight to the Home Office, not the Detention Centre staff. When asked, Mr [D1747] did not believe it possible that the wing

manager did not remember DCO Murphy's name and thought it was because she wanted to speak to the DCO first. Mr [D1747] confirmed that he did not speak to the wing manager later as he had already put the complaint in.

When asked, Mr [D1747] stated he did not know why his version disagreed with the Officer witnesses but he thought it a simple answer that they were all working together and were taking care of each other.

When asked, Mr [D1747] stated he did not understand why [D71]'s witness statement agreed with those of the DCO's. Mr [D1747] thought maybe, as the detainee was there, he has problems as well. He did not know the detainee so could not say what was going on in other people's heads.

End