

Confidential

Independent Investigation into Brook House

Friday, 8 December 2017

**Interview with
Jackie Colbran, Chair, Brook House IMB
and
Dick Weber, Vice chair, Brook House IMB**

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case? If they have an individual, why can't you take up something about an individual? You do, don't you?

142. Ms Colbran: ~~We~~You do.

143. Q. People approach you in the centre and say, "here's my issue."

144. Ms Colbran: Yes. In fact, we sent them some application forms because another avenue is when they are visiting if they come across an issue they can now actually write an application or help a detainee to write an application form to the IMB and tell them where to put it. We have been through that process. It was becoming more and more frequent, and I felt very uncomfortable. I find it difficult to put my finger on, but I think it was probably to do with the fact that there are correct ways of going about this thing. Some of the issues were relatively minor. Not minor to the individual, and we would have picked them up had we been in the centre, but it should have gone to G4S. We are monitors, really, rather than the resolvers of problems. It is not quite clear-cut like that, but one of the questions on our IMB form is, 'who have you spoken to about this already?' with the implication being there are avenues. You talk to your wing officer if you don't have a blanket.

145. Q. Are you trying to tell me that it has to become a trend before it is your concern?

146. Ms Colbran: No.

147. Mr Weber: No, we are not. I think we had a concern that there was a danger that they were making bullets. That is perhaps putting it slightly too harshly, but in other words, we were becoming involved or being asked to get involved in situations where it wasn't entirely appropriate, or at least it wasn't appropriate to do it in that way. We were almost becoming a servant of GDWG.

148. Q. There is something about their motives?

149. Mr Weber: Not necessarily. I am not impugning their motives. It is simply that we are independent and we are independent of the Home Office, we are independent of G4S, and, actually, we have to be independent of the Gatwick Detainee Welfare Group.

150. Q. Yes, I see.

151. Mr Weber: I think that there was a concern that we might not be perceived as being independent, if we appear to be, to some extent, at the beck and call. If they had something that they regarded as being intractable, or whatever, that we became their first port of call, and there are ways in which it can be done. Jackie has indicated, one of the ways is that that group says to a detainee, "either see a member of the IMB, or put in an application and they will see you" and I think there is an element that certainly I felt. I am not trying to speak for Jackie or anybody else, that ultimately it is down to the detainee to come forward and do something.

152. I think also, just to widen it out slightly, two things. First of all, going back to motive, I think that, as Jackie has said, we may have a view about detention, whether it is appropriate or not, and I would have thought that if we absolutely thought detention was wrong in any circumstance, it would not be appropriate for us to be on the IMB. We should be in a campaigning group against the detention of people, against the immigration rules.

153. I think that there are people within the Gatwick Group who, if not of the view that detention is wrong full stop, are certainly approaching that, and I think