

Interview summary **D1538**

Date: 15 December 2017

Location: ROM meeting room, Cardiff Reporting Centre, Cardiff.

Start time: 12:00

End Time: 12:40

Present: N. Adamson (PSU)

D1538

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 **D1538**'s solicitors that officers had pushed, and attempted to slap, him on 3 June 2017 and had made homophobic comments to him on 28 June 2017, in Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) and to report on whether any of the complaints can be substantiated.

D1538 confirmed no other persons were present in the room.

D1538 confirmed that he was well and fit to be interviewed.

D1538 was invited to recount, in his own words, the events that occurred in Brook House IRC on the stated dates.

D1538 initially related events centred on an incident regarding an issue over an empty seat and a detainee with a pipe following which he was held by an officer.

Mr Adamson clarified the dates and specific incidents in question as referred to in **D1538**'s solicitors' letter which formed the basis of the complaints. **D1538** stated he had a lot of incidents and there were not only one or two and **D1538** had told them everything that had happened to him there.

D1538 stated, of the incident in the computer room, he had asked the attendant officer for use of a computer but the officer did not speak to **D1538** and did not give him access to a computer. **D1538** stated he had asked two or three times for a computer but had not been given one. **D1538** stated that, following his attempts for a computer, he asked the officer why he did not talk to him and asked if the officer was racist or something.

D1538 further stated the officer started shouting, pushed **D1538** and called his friend who said do you want to try and fight with me.

[D1538] stated after the incident in the computer room he spoke to a manager who said he could not go to the computer room for two weeks and [D1538] was taken to "the block".

[D1538] stated, of the comments made on 28 June 2017, he had did not have clothes, only T shirts and small shorts, the boxers, blue ones for the prison people.

[D1538] stated an officer said [D1538] should go and change and asked why he was like that in jail like gay people and started laughing and swearing at [D1538]

[D1538] further stated he asked the officer why he was speaking to him like this as there was no reason to. [D1538] stated he told the officer he would do what he was asked. [D1538] further stated the officer said if [D1538] was not happy about that and wanted to complain about him then they should go to the office. [D1538] stated when they got to the office the officer started complaining about [D1538] to the manager. [D1538] stated nobody gave him a chance, did not help him and everyone listened to the officer. [D1538] stated it was not his fault and he was not happy with the way officer spoke to him and the comments about being gay.

[D1538] stated a "lot of stuff" has happened to him and it was not only these two or three, in the Verne, Colnbrook, Tinsley(?) House, too many times. [D1538] stated he had been pushed for smoking spice but it was only tobacco. [D1538] stated he was now in college and he came here for school and to learn but sometimes he feels himself crying and pissed off because nobody helps him. [D1538] stated too many incidents had happened to him.

[D1538] stated there had been too many incidents in Brook House and Colnbrook and Tinsley(?) House, where they have the big bad guys. [D1538] stated he was pushed and his back was hurt. (At this point [D1538] stood, raised his shirt and showed his back, no major injuries were visible but there was some raised reddening, possibly a rash.)

[D1538] stated he had never been fighting and he came here for help. [D1538] stated he would help himself.

When asked with regard to events on 3 June 2017, [D1538] confirmed he had asked which computer number he could use but the officer in the computer room did not speak to him. [D1538] stated the officer was sitting behind his computer with headphones on, maybe looking at pictures. [D1538] further stated the officer did not speak to any of the detainees.

When asked, [D1538] confirmed he did not get on a computer and further confirmed he never got on a computer on the day in question.

When asked, [D1538] stated nobody had explained why he could not have a computer and that nobody said anything to him.

When asked, [D1538] confirmed he had been put in the "block" that day.

When asked, [D1538] stated there had been one officer in the computer room but that officer called his friend who pushed [D1538]

When asked, [D1538] stated he had not sat at a computer and further confirmed he had not sat down anywhere but that he had asked to use a computer.

When asked, [D1538] stated there were two officers, one with blond hair and glasses and one with dark hair. [D1538] recalled the darker officer was the shorter of the two.

When asked, [D1538] confirmed it was the blond officer who did not give him a computer.

When asked, [D1538] stated both officers had pushed him but the dark officer had done so first. [D1538] further stated neither officer had said why they pushed him.

When asked, [D1538] stated he had not said anything to the officers but had shown them his identification card and that he had done so many times.

When asked, [D1538] stated he had not defended himself, did not push the officers and did not grab or hold them.

When asked, [D1538] stated the manager had not spoken to him but spoke to both officers. [D1538] further stated the officers told the manager that he, [D1538] had caused trouble. [D1538] recalled the manager said he had checked the camera and then took [D1538] to the "block". [D1538] stated it was maybe three hours later that he was taken to the block. When asked, [D1538] stated he walked to the block with no resistance.

When asked, [D1538] stated he was not given a reason for his removal. When asked, [D1538] further stated he had not been given a reason by anybody, including the Home Office or Healthcare.

[D1538] stated he has trouble in his mind. When asked, [D1538] stated he has not seen a doctor but is due to see one in January 2018. [D1538] stated he has trouble sleeping and has problems in his head from smoking spice.

When asked, [D1538] stated he used to smoke spice, including whilst in Brook House, but did not do so now.

When asked with regard to events on 28 June 2017, [D1538] confirmed he had only T-shirts and shorts like "boxers" to wear. [D1538] further confirmed he had arrived in Brook House on 2 June 2017 and they were the only clothes he arrived with.

When asked, [D1538] stated he had told other detainees he had few clothes and had told Home Office staff who had said it would take three to four days to get him some more clothing.

When asked, [D1538] confirmed officers had helped filled in some papers in the office to ask for more clothes but none were ever supplied to him. When asked, [D1538] confirmed he had no other clothes issued during the twenty six days he had been in Brook House.

When asked, [D1538] recalled he was on E wing at the time and had met the detainee from C wing in the gym. [D1538] stated the other detainee had offered to give [D1538] some spare clothes if [D1538] went to see him.

When asked, [D1538] stated he did not know why he could not arrange for the clothes to be given to an officer to pass on to him.

When asked, [D1538] stated he knew he was not allowed to go to C wing but further stated he had asked if it was alright to go. When asked, [D1538] confirmed he had asked an officer on E wing who had said it was ok for [D1538] to go to C wing and that the officer had called C wing to let them know [D1538] was coming. [D1538] stated it was the officer on C wing who had said [D1538] was not allowed into C wing.

When asked, [D1538] stated the officer on C wing pushed [D1538] and told him to go out and was swearing at [D1538]. [D1538] stated the officer had a big beard but no hair on his head and that the officer was now a manager on E and C wings.

When asked, [D1538] stated he could not remember what the officer had said as his memory was damaged and he could not always remember things. [D1538] stated he was now having bad dreams.

When asked, [D1538] recalled the officer said [D1538] looked gay and pushed him out. [D1538] stated he was pushed out and his head was put down. [D1538] stated he was shouting why, why, why. [D1538] stated, because of the officer's comments, other detainees would be thinking he was gay. [D1538] stated he had seen detainees given spice after they had slept with other detainees in their room. [D1538] stated that was why he did not want other detainees coming to him.

When asked, [D1538] confirmed he was worried other detainees would find out he was gay because once detainees had given you spice they would come back every time to your room. [D1538] further stated he had not told anybody he was gay other than his solicitors and Immigration.

When asked, [D1538] stated it was not correct that the officer had said [D1538] could use any available computer and re stated that he had asked to sit but the officer did not talk to him. [D1538] stated he had asked for a computer three times but the officer started shouting at him.

When asked, [D1538] stated it was not correct that he had sat at a computer and further stated he did not swear at the officers.

When asked, [D1538] stated he did not stand up and walk over to the officers but he had stood and went over to the manager when he arrived.

When asked, [D1538] stated he did not walk over to the officers but repeated that they had both pushed him.

When asked, [D1538] stated he never went closer than about one and a half meters to the officers but that they both came to him.

When asked, [D1538] stated he could not remember getting hold of either officer and stated he did not shout at them.

When informed that CCTV recordings did not agree with his version of events, [D1538] stated he did not move to the officers ([D1538] then stood and demonstrated slowly walking around with his hands in his pockets).

When asked, [D1538] had nothing further to add other than stating a lot of things had happened to him. [D1538] stated he had been in four detention centres and nothing had happened, he had never been fighting, never been to prison, that he was clean in this country. [D1538] stated he respected everyone and had no family but the Home Office had given him a bank card, money and a house. [D1538] stated it was not easy for him, he was sick but wanted to help himself and go to school. [D1538] stated he goes out but comes home early, cleans the house he shares with one other male but that he has problems with dreams and sometimes cries and thinks he is different people.

End