



Minutes

Title of meeting: Interview with DCM Steve Dix

Date: 07 September 2017

Time: 10:16

Venue: Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC)

Attendees: DCO Steve Dix, Jana Schwab (PSU investigator)

1. Ms Schwab said for the purposes of the recording the date was 7th September 2017 and the time was 10:16hrs. She confirmed she was Jana Schwab the investigating officer, interviewing DCM Steve Dix. She said the interview was taking place at Brook House IRC.
2. Ms Schwab said DCM Dix had chosen to attend on his own and DCM Dix confirmed he was happy for the interview to proceed without anybody else present to support him. Ms Schwab asked DCM Dix to inform her if this changed at any point during the interview and the interview would be stopped until arrangements could be made.
3. Ms Schwab explained that she works for the Home Office's Professional Standards Unit and investigates serious complaints made by members of the public against Home Office staff or contractors. She was here to gather evidence in relation to these complaints and to decide whether or not any of these complaints can be substantiated.
4. Ms Schwab explained that if a complaint was to be substantiated, she could make recommendations for lessons to be learnt, change in policies and procedures in future or she could recommend that disciplinary matters be considered against individuals. If this was to be the case it would be passed back to the management of that particular individual but a copy of your interview today might be made available if any future disciplinary action is taken against anybody.
5. Ms Schwab explained that DCM Dix was interviewed in relation to a complaint made by Mr [D1234] who alleged that excessive force was used by officers during his removal on 28 March 2017. She said she would ask him questions about allegations relating to him and also relating to other staff present as a witness.
6. Ms Schwab said once the investigation was complete the investigation report would be forwarded to the Home Office Contract Monitor for any actions that they may feel are appropriate. A copy of the investigation report would also be forwarded to DCM Dix's management for their consideration.
7. Ms Schwab explained DCM Dix could seek a break at any stage throughout the interview. She said he could ask any questions at the end of the interview.

8. DCM Dix confirmed that he understood everything that had been said and confirmed he was fit and well and happy to be interviewed.
9. Ms Schwab asked DCM Dix to tell her what he remembered regarding the removal of Mr [D1234] on 28 March 2017.
10. DCM Dix said he believed Mr [D1234] was due to be removed on a charter flight to Nigeria and he was on an ACDT constant supervision. He said he, other managers and staff were in contact with Mr [D1234] during the day to engage with him and find out his intentions and whether he would comply with the removal. He said Mr [D1234] kept changing his mind throughout the day between complying and not complying. He said they were trying to encouraging him to comply and explained to him he could go to the airport and get cancelled if his appeal was granted. He said the plan was to get Mr [D1234] to comply and to walk and use of force or planned intervention were the last options to affect the removal.
11. DCM Dix said when the time came to take Mr [D1234] to reception he said he was not going. He said when they last spoke to Mr [D1234] he was not refractory. He said based on this a planned intervention had to be arranged and the officers had to change into wearing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). He said a briefing was held with the team.
12. DCM Dix said when they got to Mr [D1234]'s room he decided to strip himself naked and began to shout and quoting from the bible shouting to God. He said this made it very hard to engage Mr [D1234] and he was no cooperative and not listening. He said this was classed as non compliance as Mr [D1234] refused to move. He said due to this the team was sent in to facilitate the removal.
13. DCM Dix said Mr [D1234] became "quite disruptive" and made it difficult for the staff. He said Mr [D1234] was eventually restraint by the team and handcuffs were applied. He said Mr [D1234] was very vocal, made it difficult for the staff's instructions to be heard and did not listen to the staff.
14. DCM Dix said ideally they wanted Mr [D1234] to walk even though the handcuffs were applied. He said the idea was to de-escalate the situation and get Mr [D1234] to comply but he "was having none of it".
15. DCM Dix said due to the length of time the restraint could take he made the decision to "cuff carry" Mr [D1234] to discharge. He said this was the only safe way to do it if a person did not comply. He said he believed he gave Mr [D1234] a chance to walk but got no response from him. He said the team picked Mr [D1234] up again and carried him to discharge where he was handed to TASCOR escorts.
16. DCM Dix said TASCOR swapped cuffs and he believed Mr [D1234] was struggling with the TASCOR officers as well. He said he believed Mr [D1234] was spitting at the officers and tried to bite one of them. He said once he removed his handcuff it was TASCOR's responsibility.
17. DCM Dix said he held a briefing with the team prior to the planned intervention in which he explained the situation and Mr [D1234] history including any history of disruptive behaviour in the IRC. He said Mr [D1234] was on constant supervision and this would be taken into account.

18. Ms Schwab explained that she had not been able to speak to Mr [D1234] about his complaint as he had been removed by the time it was received. She said in his written complaint Mr [D1234] said the handcuffs were applied to both his wrists, the cuff were cutting into his wrists and he screamed in pain but was ignored.
19. DCM Dix confirmed he applied the handcuffs and they were applied behind Mr [D1234] back which was the way they were trained. He said according to his report Mr [D1234] was in a seated position at the time. He said Mr [D1234] was screaming and shouting throughout but he did not recall Mr [D1234] ever saying the cuffs were hurting. He said if he had heard this he would have checked the cuffs. He said the cuffs had to be applied securely and tight enough so they did not come off but they would check that there was about a finger width space between the cuff and the wrist. He said if anyone had heard Mr [D1234] saying he was in pain they would have stopped and checked. He said to carry in handcuffs was pain full and why they tried to de-escalate the situation.
20. DCM Dix said healthcare was also present as was standard for planned interventions and they could have intervened if they had concerns about his medical condition.
21. DCM Dix said handcuffs could be applied for a number of reasons and generally was considered the safest way for a detainee to be moved for their own safety and that of staff. He said due to Mr [D1234] refractory behaviour and the struggle he presented it would not have been safe to walk Mr [D1234] in "final locks". He said while there was some control and pain compliance which could be used but this carried the risk of potentially causing more damage to the wrist. He said he felt applying the handcuffs was justified due to Mr [D1234] non compliance and aggression. He said had Mr [D1234] agreed to comply and walk they would have allowed him although the handcuffs may have remained on.
22. DCM Dix said he removed the handcuffs as TASCOR had different handcuffs. He said when he removed his handcuffs, TASCOR were likely to have applied a handcuff themselves to get control.
23. DCM Dix said did not notice and redness or bruising when removing the handcuffs. He said he would probably not have noticed unless there had been a significant injury such as bleeding in which case healthcare would be called.
24. Ms Schwab said Mr [D1234] further alleged two officers held his head and turned it violently to try and turn him around, he felt a crack in his neck which he told the officers but they took no notice, he hit his head on the floor and was grabbed and jostled.
25. DCM Dix said he said there was a certain number of staff generally three to four depending on how disruptive the person was. He said a certain control was needed dependent on where the head was and whether Mr [D1234] tried to spit or bite but also for his safety there was an element of force an officer may need to use. He said he was certain if he saw two officers on an arm or the head for any length of time he would have stopped it and moved one away. He said he did not recall seeing two officers on Mr [D1234] head. He said he did not hear Mr [D1234] neck crack and did not hear him complaining about it
26. DCM Dix said he thought Mr [D1234] as standing up but ended up on the floor eventually but he could not recall the circumstances. He said there would be "a

certain amount of jostling” depending on the person’s position when they went down.

27. Ms Schwab said Mr [D1234] alleged an officer held his throat. DCM Dix said he did not see any officer hold Mr [D1234] throat.

28. Ms Schwab said another allegation was that an officer stamped on Mr [D1234] toes. DCM Dix said in the initial jostle it was possible an officer may have stood on his toes but he very much doubted it was done on purpose. He said he could not say that he noticed anything like this. He said they then carried Mr [D1234] all the way.

29. Ms Schwab said Mr [D1234] said he was in extreme pain throughout and asked the officers to stop but was refused and ignored. [21:42]

30. DCM Dix said

31. DCM Dix said

32. Ms Schwab thanked Mr Dorey for his time and attending the interview and asked if he was happy with the way the interview had been conducted which he confirmed he was.

33. Ms Schwab concluded the interview at 12:04hrs

Interview Concluded: 12:04hrs