

Lesley Edwards

Your Ref:

Our Ref: HS/DV/CH

17th April 2002

If telephoning or calling please ask for:
Hew Smith

Dear Lesley

I hope this letter finds you well and everything is still as positive as the last time we spoke. I hear from Joyce and Ruth, who travelled with you to Aberdeen, that you are doing well.

My reason for writing is to let you know about your complaint against staff at Kerelaw School. This seems to have been ongoing forever, and it is over six months now. Anyway, I have now seen the staff records from the night of your alleged assault. There are separate records that agree with your account that you were removed from the window and placed seated on the bed. The accounts also agree that your head clashed with a member of staff.

The staff's account does not suggest you were grabbed by the throat and explains the clash of heads as you standing up and accidentally hitting the head of one of the workers who was trying to restrain you.

Looking at the evidence it is going to be very difficult to prove conclusively whose account best reflects the events of that night. My guess is that living in such a fraught atmosphere the truth is somewhere in the middle. The accounts of the nights events describe a very hostile incident with you and your fellow resident displaying very disruptive behaviour which was likely to have put everyone under considerable pressure. It is very clear how unhappy you were at Kerelaw.

I have spoken to the Investigating Manager at Kerelaw, Colin MacQuarrie, who would like to meet with both you and myself to try to reach some conclusion in this matter.

I have suggested we come to see you in Livingston on 17th May 2002 at 11am. If this is inconvenient to either you or your foster carer can you let me know at your earliest opportunity in order that we can rearrange. Otherwise, I will ring to confirm.

Yours sincerely

Hew Smith
Team Manager

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