

EVIDENCE
PS LOUISE LUCAS (sworn)
Examination-in-chief by MR HEMMINGS

1012

JUDGE HUGHES: Yes.

MR HEMMINGS: Number, rank, name and station please, officer.

MS LUCAS: I am Acting Inspector Louise Lucas, 517 from Cardiff Central Police Station.

Q: Thank you. The Court is concerned with events of Tuesday 5th July of last year. Were you on duty that day?

A: Yes I was.

Q: And where were you serving that day?

A: At Cardiff Central Police Station.

Q: Did you have cause to speak to the defendant, Mr Kirk, on that day?

A: Yes I did.

Q: Why was that?

A: I was advised by the front desk clerk that Mr Kirk had come into the Station wishing to make a complaint. As I was the Acting Inspector for the whole station on that day I then took the complaint off Mr Kirk.

Q: Without going into too much detail, what was the general nature of the complaint?

A: The complaint was with regards to the Chief Constable and suchlike, and also the front desk clerk wished to give me a wanted poster relating to a Doctor Tegwen(?) William.

Q: Were you handed such a poster?

A: Yes I was.

Q: Can I hand you this please. What does that show?

A: Yes that is the poster.

A Q: Thank you. I will probably need to show that to Mr Williams. I know he has seen it before. Forgive me, there is a manuscript...

JUDGE HUGHES: Is this one we have seen before?

B **MR HEMMINGS:** This is a new exhibit, your Honour. Before I hand it up please, there is a manuscript annotation on the bottom right hand corner, handwriting. Can you say where that is from?

A: Yes, it is signed "Mr Maurice Kirk, 5th July 2011."

C Q: So it is signed by him and dated 5th July?

A: Yes.

Q: Did he sign that in front of you?

D A: No he didn't sign it in front of me, no.

Q: So if that is his signature it was on there before it came to you?

A: Yes.

Q: Officer, what did you do with that poster?

E **JUDGE HUGHES:** Which number is this, exhibit three?

MR HEMMINGS: Forgive me, it is exhibit four now, your Honour.

JUDGE HUGHES: Right.

F A: When members of the public come in to make any complaint we have to fax all of our information immediately down to Headquarters, our Professional Standards Department. The poster that came in was faxed duly to them. Everything is then put in an envelope, such as this, an A4 envelope, and is sent to Mrs Barbara Dennis(?), who collates all of the information on our behalf, and sends it then on to Professional Standards.

G Q: I see.

H

A A: So the originals go to Barbara Dennis and then onwards to Professional Standards. But Professional Standards demand a copy immediately, so it has to be faxed down. So they get the originals to follow up.

B **MR HEMMING:** The complaint you mentioned, what did you do about that complaint?

A: That complaint is forwarded to Professional Standards. They then make a decision whether it comes back to myself to deal with in part or in whole, or if they will retain it to collate all the information. And on this occasion they said it was a direction and control issue, that they would be dealing with the matter themselves.

C **Q:** So they effectively retained it themselves?

A: Yes indeed.

D **JUDGE HUGHES:** But what was the complaint?

A: One of the complaints was against the Chief Constable, the past one and the present one.

JUDGE HUGHES: Right.

A: There were several other issues of the complaint.

E **JUDGE HUGHES:** Alright.

MR HEMMING: Was your role to action anything about the complaint, or was it a recording of the complaint?

F A: The role initially is always just to record, and then send it down to Professional Standards. They then make the decision who actually actions any actions arising out of it. So we can either deal with it in whole or in part, or they will retain the lot.

Q: As I understand your evidence, you said that they in fact chose to retain?

G A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: So in terms of the complaint made by Mr Kirk, was there any action undertaken by you at all?

H A: Not at all.

A Q: Simply recording?

A: Yes.

Q: Other than that incident on 5th July, when Mr Kirk attended, have you spoken to him since?

B A: Yes. Mr Kirk has been to the Police Station since, yes.

Q: I suppose I should ask you, how do you know it was Maurice Kirk you were dealing with on the day?

C A: Because I have dealt with Maurice Kirk before, and I also used to work in The Vale, where Mr Kirk was a practising vet there, so we used to know persons within our locality.

Q: I see. So you knew him before the day of his complaint?

D A: Yes I did.

Q: Thank you. If you could stay there please.

Cross-examination by MR WILLIAMS

JUDGE HUGHES: Yes, Mr Williams.

E **MR WILLIAMS:** Just one or two questions, officer. When you saw Mr Kirk at the Police Station on 5th July, you were handed the poster you referred to?

A: Yes.

F Q: And then you said to the Court that you then took a complaint from him?

A: That is correct.

Q: I just want to explore that with you a little bit. The complaint, was that a kind of a formal interview?

G A: It is not so much a formal interview, we go into a side room.

Q: Yes.

H

A A: And Mr Kirk is at liberty to tell me exactly what he wishes to complain about. I record everything down. It is then read back to ensure that everything I have recorded is accurate, and then I advise him it will be sent to Professional Standards.

B Q: Thank you. When you did that, were there any other officers present when you took that complaint?

C A: One of the Inspectors who had joined the Station later, there was an awful lot of faxing that had to be done, he entered the room to ask if he could help me at all, and I asked him if he could fax the items for me.

Q: The complaint that you took, presumably was that hand written by you?

A: Yes.

D Q: Yes, and can you recall how long you were in interview with Mr Kirk taking that complaint?

A: Yes, quite some time. I would estimate over an hour.

Q: Yes. Presumably, officer, you made some long detailed notes about that complaint?

E A: On the complaint form I wrote everything down, yes.

Q: Thank you, and that complaint covered a number of issues, is that right?

F A: Yes it did. We were quite some time because Mr Kirk was trying to load up his laptop to gain information from there to give to me. So he had to go back to his car to fetch his laptop, to bring it back, we plugged it in, so that he could then print off stuff as well for me.

Q: Right. Any information that he printed off, was that taken by you off him? And added to any of the complaint papers?

G A: Yes. There was another wanted, off the top of my memory it was along the same lines, "Wanted dead or alive for Barbara Wilding(?)", our past Chief Constable.

H Q: Right. But is it fair to say, officer, that there were a number of issues that Mr Kirk was not happy about, and he was informing you with a view to pursuing that matter further?

A A: Yes, that is correct, yes.

Q: Yes, and apart from your notes, no one else took any notes about the complaint?

A: No.

B Q: Just yourself, is that right?

A: Just myself.

Q: Officer, thank you very much indeed.

JUDGE HUGHES: Insofar as the poster is concerned that you were looking at a minute ago,
C which appears to have been signed by Mr Kirk, you said that was handed to you at the desk?

A: No, it was from the front desk clerk.

JUDGE HUGHES: Right, so the clerk gave it to you?

D A: That is correct.

JUDGE HUGHES: And do you know where the Clerk had got it from?

A: She told me that it had been given to her by Mr Kirk.

JUDGE HUGHES: On that occasion?

E A: Yes.

JUDGE HUGHES: I see, right.

A: I actually asked how, and he said it had slid it under, at the front desk we have like a
F counter that has an underneath, he passed it via that.

JUDGE HUGHES: Yes, I understand. Anything more to ask?

MR HEMMINGS: Nothing, your Honour, no.

JUDGE HUGHES: Thank you very much, Inspector.

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A We hereby certify that the above is an accurate and complete record of the proceedings, or part thereof.

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Signed: Mendip-Wordwave Partnership

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