

# **Schedule of Evidence**



## Schedule of evidence

Complaint against Councillor and Assembly Member Mr R Barnbrook by  
Councillor Ms V Rush

Case No: Sept-05/ MC9/08

### A: Complaint and relevant correspondence

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2	July 2008	LBBB Members' Code of Conduct	11-20
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CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

PART 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Introduction and interpretation**

1. — (1) This Code applies to **you** as a member of the Greater London Authority ("the Authority").

"Member" means the Mayor of London, the Deputy Mayor, members of the London Assembly and includes: a co-opted member and an appointed member; a co-opted member of a committee or sub-committee or advisory committee or advisory sub-committee of the Assembly. In this Code, the term co-opted member has the meaning given to it by section 49 of the Local Government Act 2000, and the Independent Members of the Standards Committee shall be regarded as co-opted members of the Authority.

(2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State, which are as follows:

**Selflessness**

You should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

**Honesty and Integrity**

You should not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

**Objectivity**

You should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

**Accountability**

You should be accountable to the public for your actions and the manner in which you carry out your responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to your particular office.

### **Openness**

You should be as open as possible about your actions and those of your authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions

### **Personal Judgement**

You may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach your own conclusions on the issues before you and act in accordance with those conclusions.

### **Respect for Others**

You should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. You should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

### **Duty to Uphold the Law**

You should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in you.

### **Stewardship**

You should do whatever you are able to do to ensure that your authority uses its resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

### **Leadership**

You should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

(3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.

(4) In this Code—

“meeting” means

- (a) any meeting of the Assembly;
- (b) any meeting of any of the Assembly's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, advisory committees or advisory sub-committees;
- (c) any meeting of the Standards Committee;
- (d) any occasion at which the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or a member of the Assembly exercises executive functions in respect of any matter

*(5) In relation to a parish council, references to an authority's monitoring officer and an authority's standards committee shall be read, respectively, as references to the monitoring officer and the standards committee of the district council or unitary county council which has functions in relation to the parish council for which it is responsible under section 55(12) of the Local Government Act 2000.*

### Scope

2. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you—

(a) conduct the business of the Authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or

(b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of the Authority,

and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.

(3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3(2)(c), 5 and 6(a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.

(4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).

(5) Where you act as a representative of the Authority—

(a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct; or

(b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority's code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

(6) In this Code "relevant authority" has the meaning given to it by section 49 of the Local Government Act 2000. It also includes any "functional body" as defined in section 424 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

**General obligations**

3. —(1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not—

(a) do anything which may cause the Authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006);

(b) bully any person

(c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be—

(i) a complainant,

(ii) a witness, or

(iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings,

in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct;

(d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Authority; or

(e) provide or offer to provide a reference for any candidate for employment or promotion with the Authority

*(3) In relation to police authorities and the Metropolitan Police Authority, for the purposes of sub-paragraph (2)(d) those who work for, or on behalf of, an authority are deemed to include a police officer.*

4. You must not—

(a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where—

(i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;

(ii) you are required by law to do so;

(iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or

(iv) the disclosure is—

(a) reasonable and in the public interest; and

(b) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or

(b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

6. You—

(a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and

(b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority—

(i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;

(ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and

(c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

7. —(1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by—

(a) your authority's chief finance officer; or

(b) your authority's monitoring officer,

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

(2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority.



PART 2

INTERESTS

**Personal interests**

8. —(1) You have a personal interest in any business of the Authority where either—

(a) it relates to or is likely to affect—

(i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Authority;

(ii) any body—

(aa) exercising functions of a public nature;

(bb) directed to charitable purposes; or

(cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;

(iii) any employment or business carried on by you;

(iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;

(v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;

(vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in the Authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);

(vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between the Authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);

(viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;

(ix) any land in the Authority's area in which you have a

beneficial interest;

(x) any land where the landlord is the Authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;

(xi) any land in the Authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or

(b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of—

*(i) (in the case of authorities with electoral divisions or wards) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision;*

*(ii) (in the case of the Greater London Authority) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the Assembly constituency affected by the decision; or*

*(iii) (in all other cases) other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the Authority's area.*

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is—

(a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or

(b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;

(c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or

(d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

#### **Disclosure of personal interests**

9. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), where you have a personal interest in any business of the Authority and you attend a meeting of the Authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

(2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the

Authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.

(3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.

(5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in the Authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

(6) Where the Mayor or Deputy Mayor makes any decision which affects a matter in which he or she has a personal interest (within the meaning of paragraph 8 above) that must be disclosed in accordance with paragraph 9(1) and in accordance with any relevant procedure of the Authority.

#### **Prejudicial interest generally**

10. —(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of the Authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

(2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Authority where that business—

(a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;

(b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or

(c) relates to the functions of the Authority in respect of—

(i) housing, where you are a tenant of the Authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;

(ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;



(iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;

(iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;

(v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and

(vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**11 (1)** You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before a scrutiny committee or sub-committee of the Assembly where:

(a) that business relates to a decision made, or action taken, by another of the Assembly's committees, subcommittees, joint committee or sub-committee of which you are a member or any matter for which the member has been appointed as a representative of or adviser to the Mayor; and

(b) At the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

**11 (2)** However sub-paragraph (1) does not apply where you attend the meeting of the scrutiny or sub-committee of the Assembly for the purpose of answering questions or otherwise giving evidence relating to that decision or action.

#### **Effect of prejudicial interests on participation**

**12. —(1)** Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Authority—

(a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—

(i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;

(ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Standards Committee; and

(b) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

**(2)** Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the Authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of a scrutiny committee or

scrutiny sub-committee of the Assembly) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

### PART 3

#### REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

##### Registration of members' interests

13. —(1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of—

(a) this Code being adopted by or applied to the Authority; or

(b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in the Authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to the Authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to the Authority's monitoring officer.

##### Sensitive information

14. —(1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and the Authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

THE TEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING  
THE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The principles as set out below define the standards that Members should uphold

**Selflessness** - Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

**Honesty and Integrity** - Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

**Objectivity** - Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.

**Accountability** - Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.

**Openness** - Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

**Personal judgement** - Members may take account of the view of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

**Respect for others** - Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.

**Duty to uphold the law** - Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

**Stewardship** - Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

**Leadership** - Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

# MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

## PART 1

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Introduction and interpretation

1. (1) This Code applies to you as a member of an authority.
- (2) You should read this Code together with the general principles prescribed by the Secretary of State.
- (3) It is your responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.
- (4) In this Code
  - "meeting" means any meeting of
    - (a) the authority;
    - (b) the executive of the authority;
    - (c) any of the authority's or its executive's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees;

"member" includes a co-opted member and an appointed member.

#### Scope

2. (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (5), you must comply with this Code whenever you
  - (a) conduct the business of your authority (which, in this Code, includes the business of the office to which you are elected or appointed); or
  - (b) act, claim to act or give the impression you are acting as a representative of your authority,and references to your official capacity are construed accordingly.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4), this Code does not have effect in relation to your conduct other than where it is in your official capacity.
- (3) In addition to having effect in relation to conduct in your official capacity, paragraphs 3(2)(c), 5 and 6(a) also have effect, at any other time, where that conduct constitutes a criminal offence for which you have been convicted.

- (4) Conduct to which this Code applies (whether that is conduct in your official capacity or conduct mentioned in sub-paragraph (3)) includes a criminal offence for which you are convicted (including an offence you committed before the date you took office, but for which you are convicted after that date).
- (5) Where you act as a representative of your authority
  - (a) on another relevant authority, you must, when acting for that other authority, comply with that other authority's code of conduct; or
  - (b) on any other body, you must, when acting for that other body, comply with your authority's code of conduct, except and insofar as it conflicts with any other lawful obligations to which that other body may be subject.

### General obligations

3. (1) You must treat others with respect.

(2) You must not

- (a) do anything which may cause your authority to breach any of the equality enactments (as defined in section 33 of the Equality Act 2006);
- (b) bully any person;
- (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be
  - (i) a complainant,
  - (ii) a witness, or
  - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings,

in relation to an allegation that a member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct; or

- (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, your authority.

4. You must not

- (a) disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where
  - (i) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;

- (ii) you are required by law to do so;
- (iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
- (iv) the disclosure is
  - (aa) reasonable and in the public interest; and
  - (bb) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
- (b) prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

5. You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute

6. You

- (a) must not use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
- (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your authority
  - (i) act in accordance with your authority's reasonable requirements;
  - (ii) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
- (c) must have regard to any applicable Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

7. (1) When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by

- (a) your authority's chief finance officer; or
- (b) your authority's monitoring officer,

where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.

(2) You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority.

PART 2

INTERESTS

Personal interests

8.(1) You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where either

- (a) it relates to or is likely to affect
  - (i) any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
  - (ii) any body
    - (aa) exercising functions of a public nature;
    - (bb) directed to charitable purposes; or
    - (cc) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union),

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

- (iii) any employment or business carried on by you;
- (iv) any person or body who employs or has appointed you;
- (v) any person or body, other than a relevant authority, who has made a payment to you in respect of your election or any expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties;
- (vi) any person or body who has a place of business or land in your authority's area, and in whom you have a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that person or body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital (whichever is the lower);
- (vii) any contract for goods, services or works made between your authority and you or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi);
- (viii) the interests of any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25;
- (ix) any land in your authority's area in which you have a beneficial interest;



- (x) any land where the landlord is your authority and you are, or a firm in which you are a partner, a company of which you are a remunerated director, or a person or body of the description specified in paragraph (vi) is, the tenant;
  - (xi) any land in the authority's area for which you have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or longer; or
  - (b) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a relevant person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the electoral division or ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), a relevant person is
- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association; or
  - (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
  - (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
  - (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph (1)(a)(i) or (ii).

#### **Disclosure of personal interests**

- 9.(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (7), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you attend a meeting of your authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.
- (2) Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect a person described in paragraph 8(1)(a)(i) or 8(1)(a)(ii)(aa), you need only disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of that interest when you address the meeting on that business.
- (3) Where you have a personal interest in any business of the authority of the type mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a)(viii), you need not disclose the nature or existence of that interest to the meeting if the interest was registered more than three years before the date of the meeting.
- (4) Sub-paragraph (1) only applies where you are aware or ought reasonably to be aware of the existence of the personal interest.
- (5) Where you have a personal interest but, by virtue of paragraph 14, sensitive information relating to it is not registered in your authority's register of members' interests, you must indicate to the meeting that you have a



personal interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information to the meeting.

- (6) Subject to paragraph 12(1)(b), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must ensure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.
- (7) In this paragraph, "executive decision" is to be construed in accordance with any regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 22 of the Local Government Act 2000.

### Prejudicial interest generally

10. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority you also have a prejudicial interest in that business where the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.
- (2) You do not have a prejudicial interest in any business of the authority where that business
  - (a) does not affect your financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in paragraph 8;
  - (b) does not relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described in paragraph 8; or
  - (c) relates to the functions of your authority in respect of
    - (i) housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
    - (ii) school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
    - (iii) statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
    - (iv) an allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
    - (v) any ceremonial honour given to members; and
    - (vi) setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

## Prejudicial interests arising in relation to overview and scrutiny committees

11. You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of your authority (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where
- (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by your authority's executive or another of your authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
  - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were a member of the executive, committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee mentioned in paragraph (a) and you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

### Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

12. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority

- (a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held
  - (i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;
  - (ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority's standards committee;

- (b) you must not exercise executive functions in relation to that business; and
- (c) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

- (2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your authority or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Registration of Members' interests

13. (1) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of

- (a) this Code being adopted by or applied to your authority; or
- (b) your election or appointment to office (where that is later),

register in your authority's register of members' interests (maintained under section 81(1) of the Local Government Act 2000) details of your personal interests where they fall within a category mentioned in paragraph 8(1)(a), by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

(2) Subject to paragraph 14, you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new personal interest or change to any personal interest registered under paragraph (1), register details of that new personal interest or change by providing written notification to your authority's monitoring officer.

**Sensitive information**

14. (1) Where you consider that the information relating to any of your personal interests is sensitive information, and your authority's monitoring officer agrees, you need not include that information when registering that interest, or, as the case may be, a change to that interest under paragraph 13.

(2) You must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change of circumstances which means that information excluded under paragraph (1) is no longer sensitive information, notify your authority's monitoring officer asking that the information be included in your authority's register of members' interests.

(3) In this Code, "sensitive information" means information whose availability for inspection by the public creates, or is likely to create, a serious risk that you or a person who lives with you may be subjected to violence or intimidation.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

3

3

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Reporter:

on the subject of headlines, there's going to be a story breaking in Thameside in Manchester very soon about the way the council has taken it upon itself to monitor the news and meet up with editors and journalists so the news isn't too damaging to Labours regime up there, quite sinister. But headlines of a different nature and different problems here in London and in Barking and Dagenham specifically, can you briefly tell us about this?

Richard:

Yes I will do, I must say this is an indication our democracy is actually failing: when you get people telling the media what they should and should not put forward to [the] general public, giving the general public the wrong impression what is going on in their neighbourhoods. So yes, what we have here are three stories, back to back, over the last 3 weeks with the, what I would say is the rotten face of Labour.

Here we have Val Rush who is non the executive for law and order and community working, or non working as I see it, and many other people agree with me in Barking and Dagenham. This is simply a photo opportunity: front page, on a free newspaper, going to every single door of the Labour party, now doing a clean up job in Barking and Dagenham. Well low and behold, 3 [or] 4 years ago we were out there on the streets, no press coverage, no fancy headlines, just getting on quietly with cleaning up the community, by removing graffiti and making the place more aesthetic, and more pleasing to the eye and the people living there: a tidier community. And the next story is again Val Rush saying no to knife crime. Now this only came out in, I think about 3 weeks ago, if I am correct.

Reporter:

This is a petition about knife crime.

Richard:

It is.

Reporter:

Where did they get that idea from?

Richard:

Do you know I think it is that we started ours in January/February this year: London's mother's against knives, and they've jumped on the bandwagon again. But what is more disgusting is that Labour now are bringing in the clergy to do their dirty work. Now I presume this priest is a very good Christian and serves the community very well, but I think this is tactless and I think this gentleman should be kept outside the political arena. He can have his views, but do not push them in front of the community.

Reporter:

It is would you say it is an abuse of the Church and an abuse of a local newspaper, would you not?

Richard:

Oh definitely, the irony is, we have been asking the labour councillors in barking and Dagenham, and also here with Boris Johnson and the Assembly, to do more about the knife crime: giving manage to sensors out and also trying to protect school people. Remember, this year alone, up till now, there's been 27 murders of youths between the ages of 13 and 17 by knife crimes, with several thousand more being attacked by knives. In Barking and Dagenham alone 3 weeks ago, there was a murder of a young girl. We don't know who's done it, her girlfriend was attacked inside an educational institute. Again, 2 weeks ago there was another attack by knives on the streets of barking and Dagenham where 2 people were murdered. And last week, at the end of last week, a girl, a young girl, going to one of the schools in barking and Dagenham, a secondary school, and actually threatened to murder another girl because they had some little dispute in the playground. Thank god it was actually stopped. Now the point is we have been saying to Barking and Dagenham "get the metal magnet knife arches on the school gates". They say to us, "there's no knives in schools, no-one's been threatened by knives in schools". This is a problem affecting all of our community, and Barking and Dagenham are simply falling behind what we are doing, at a slow pace. We will push this project further and further forward, both in City Hall and [in] Barking and Dagenham. And the point I want to make quite clearly here is, whatever policies we put forward, whatever motions

we put forward, Labour and the conservatives simply follow behind by doing half the job that we do without the resources or authority to carry it through. We will get these things resolved

Note - unsure what he said for text in red



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Councillor Rush, Valerie [mailto:Valerie.Rush@lbbd.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 25 September 2008 17:27

**To:** John Biggs

**Subject:**

**Importance:** High

~~John, can you help please, I have spent ages this afternoon filling in on line a Standards Board complaint form for GLA every time I have submitted it its crashed, im going to send it over to you (see below) could you please ensure it gets to the right people.~~

~~Complaint to GLA Standards Board regarding the conduct of Richard Barnbrook.~~

~~Can I please ask that you firstly follow the link and watch a short video made by Richard Barnbrook and his publicly funded GLA PA.~~

~~<http://www.richardbarnbrook.com/2008/09/a-tale-of-two-cathedrals/>~~

~~Please note that this is on Richard Barnbrooks blog which introduces him as a Greater London Assembly Member. It is also on youtube.~~

~~At the beginning of the video Richard Barnbrook is introduced by his GLA PA as Assemblyman Richard Barnbrook.~~

~~On the basis of the comments made in the latter part of the video where Richard Barnbrook quite clearly states that~~

~~3 weeks ago a young girl was murdered in an education establishment in Barking and Dagenham~~

~~I know this to be an absolute lie~~

~~He also goes on to claim a further 2 murders in the borough in the last 2 weeks which is also a lie.~~

~~On making these false statements not only on his blog but on You tube which has a world wide audience I believe that Richard Barnbrook has brought his position as an elected member of the GLA into disrepute he has also tried to damage the reputation of the GLA and its elected Members as well as Barking & Dagenham Council, the fact that Barking and Dagenham is on public record as a Safe place to live is brought into disrepute by his total lack of honesty and integrity~~

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I would make you aware that I have already lodged a formal complaint with the Monitoring Officer at Barking & Dagenham Council.

I can provide a recording of the video as evidence

I am very much aware of all of the incredible work that is being done by the GLA and its member alongside London boroughs to tackle knife crime in the capital and I am very disappointed that all an elected Assemblyman can do is to mock the efforts of others and to openly and outrageously lie to whip up fears in the London community.

Thank you.

Regards,

Cllr Val Rush

Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods and Communities

Tele No. 0208 595 1587

email: val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk

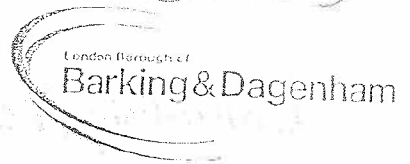
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# Complaint Form

## Complaints Against Members of the Council

Please note

- we can only accept complaints in writing
- one of our officers may contact you personally to go through the details of your complaint
- your identity will normally be disclosed to the subject Member other than in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Standards Committee where relevant criteria is met.

### About You

title: Mr  Ms  Mrs  Miss  Councillor  Other (please specify).....

first name VAL surname RUSH

address 427 LODGE AVE

DAGENHAM postcode RMA 4 20

daytime telephone 0208 595 1587 evening telephone.....

email val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk

Please consider the complaint I have described below and in the evidence attached. I understand and accept that the details will normally be disclosed to the Member, particularly if the matter goes through to investigation.

signature Val date 7th Oct '08

### Your Complaint

#### Who are you complaining about?

Please give the name of the Member/s or statutory co-opted member/s who you consider has broken the Code of Conduct.

RICHARD BARNBROOK

Please tick here if you work for the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Please tick here if you are a Member of the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

# Complaint Form

What are you complaining about?

Please provide us with as much information as you can about your complaint to help us to decide whether or not it should be investigated. Include the date(s) and details of the alleged misconduct, and any information that supports the allegation. We can only investigate complaints that a Member has broken the local Code of Conduct. Please continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form.

ON 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPT '08 A VIDEO APPEARED ON RICHARD BAENBROOKS  
BLOG AND ON YOUTUBE WHICH REALLY APPEARED TO FOCUS /  
CRITICIZE THE BOROUGH & PRESS ARTICLES  
MORE IMPORTANTLY IN THE LATTER PART OF THE VIDEO  
HE CLAIMS THAT "IN THE LAST 3 WEEKS A YOUNG  
GIRL HAD BEEN MURDERED IN AN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT  
IN B & D AND IN THE LAST 2 WEEKS 2 MEN HAD  
BEEN MURDERED IN B & D" THESE 2 STATEMENTS  
ARE LIES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT MURDERS  
IN THE BOROUGH.

If you would like some advice about filling in this form, or would like the information on audio or in enlarged print, please contact Margaret Freeman on 020 8227 2134. You can also email her at [margaret.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk)

If you wish to complete this form online, please go to the following link:

<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/9-council/complaints/complaints-members.cfm>

## Evidence (if this applies)

Please attach to this form copies of any correspondence, documents, names and details of witnesses, and any other evidence that you feel is relevant to your complaint. Please avoid sending us large amounts of background information that is not directly related to your complaint.

Please tick the box if you would like us to return the evidence to you.

Please send this form to:

Ms Nina Clark  
The Monitoring Officer  
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham  
Civic Centre  
Dagenham RM10 7BN

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**From:** Clark Nina  
**Sent:** 21 October 2008 10:45  
**To:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Cc:** Councillor Fairbrass, Charles; Councillor Smith, Liam  
**Subject:** PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Councillor Rush

Thank you for your email. Your additional comments are helpful and I can assure you that any joint approach to dealing with your two complaints will be in accordance with Standards Board guidance as would be the case if we dealt with them separately.

Regards  
*Nina*

Nina Clark  
Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services  
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
Room 152, Civic Centre,  
Dagenham, RM10 7BN

Phone: 020 8227 2114; Mobile 07971 111416  
Email: [nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk)  
Fax: 020 8227 2252  
Website: [www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk](http://www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk)

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**From:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Sent:** 20 October 2008 18:46  
**To:** Clark Nina  
**Cc:** Councillor Fairbrass, Charles; Councillor Smith, Liam  
**Subject:** PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL  
**Importance:** High

Dear Nina,

Ref MC9/08 Complaint against Cllr Barnbrook

I refer to your letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 08 where you advised that you have spoken to officers at the GLA about a joint approach in dealing with my complaint. While I can fully appreciate and understand the sense in adopting this I would need to be reassured that both parties are signed up to a vigorous and robust approach in this matter.

In your final paragraph you asked that I expand slightly on my complaint to LBBD as to which part of the Members Code of Conduct I consider Cllr Barnbrook has breached, please see outline below:

**Honesty and integrity**

Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.

I believe that in his video launched on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 on his GLA website and youtube (which you have a copy of) in stating that "in the last 3 weeks a young girl had been murdered in an education establishment in Barking & Dagenham. And further "that in the last 2 weeks 2 young men had been murdered in the borough as well". That Cllr Barnbrook knew that these statements were false, and therefore has placed himself, and as technically a spokesman for his party on the Council in a situation where his honesty and integrity may be questioned.

**Duty to uphold the Law**

Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

**Leadership**

Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

If I may link these 2 together please, I believe that lying to the public in this manner is directly at odds with with principle Duty to.....and the nature of the lie, in that it attempts to undermine confidence in public safety, the council and their partners the police is at odds with Leadership.

To inflame public fears, and heighten public perception in this negative manner is I believe totally against the Principles as set out in the Members Code of Conduct.

Regards,  
Cllr Val Rush  
Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods  
and Communities

Tele No. 0208 595 1587  
email: val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk

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Doc: 7

LONDON BOROUGH of BARKING and DAGENHAM

Helen Sargeant  
Senior Legal Adviser – Employment and Governance  
Legal and Procurement Group  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA

7<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 7<sup>th</sup> October. Below please see further detail as requested.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September Richard Barnbrook put a video on his blog which is entitled "Greater London Assembly Member", this video was also put onto youtube.

The first part of the video does not really concern the GLA, but I strongly believe that the latter does.

In which he states that in the last 3 weeks a young girl had been murdered in an Education Establishment in Barking & Dagenham, he also claimed that in the previous 2 weeks 2 men had been murdered.

These 2 statements are in fact lies.

He then goes on to state that as an Assembly member he has tried at every opportunity to raise these issues, he states that the GLA and the Mayor "Boris" are failing the people of London, and that only he and his party know how to deal with the issues.

He is also claiming to be leading on a campaign London Mothers Against Knives, when the Mothers Against Knives campaign is copywrited, and Richard Barnbrook is well aware of this.

I honestly believe that by stating these lies on video which can potentially be viewed by millions under the banner of "Greater London Assembly Member" he has brought into question his honesty and integrity as an elected Member and therefore brought the GLA into disrepute.

It is also my honest opinion that to make false statements such as this just inflames fears across communities.

I have no problem at all with Richard Barnbrook knowing who is making this complaint, as you will see by my Portfolio responsibility I would be failing in my duty if I did not bring this to your attention.

I enclose a copy of the video.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Val Rush  
Executive Member for  
Safer Neighbourhoods  
And Communities

---

**From:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Sent:** 08 November 2008 19:09  
**To:** Clark Nina  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: Cllr Richard Barnbrook My Telegraph.htm STANDARDS BOARD DECISION  
**Importance:** High

Nina, in my members post i received a copy of the Decision Notice with regard to my complaint against Cllr Barnbrook.

The Standards Board state that no action will be taken because in the video basically there is nothing to tie Cllr Barnbrook into B & D

I am amazed that the Board has taken this rather simplistic standpoint, bearing in mind that Cllr Barnbrook makes a number of references in the video to what "we" have been doing in Barking & Dagenham, and by "we" he is of course referring to himself and his party.

But I am appealing the decision of the Board and would draw their attention to below, which is one of the sites mentioned in my complaint where Cllr Barnbrook posted the video, as you can see it quite clearly refers to him as Cllr Richard Barnbrook and on the right hand side quite clearly refers to Barking and Dagenham.

Regards,  
Cllr Val Rush  
Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods  
and Communities

Tele No. 0208 595 1587  
email: val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk

---

**From:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Sent:** 08 November 2008 18:59  
**To:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Subject:** Emailing: Cllr Richard Barnbrook My Telegraph.htm

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**liz**

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**Cllr Richard Barnbrook**

London

**I Blog About:**

Cllr Richard Barnbrook



## A Tale of Two Cathedrals

Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 04:42 PM GMT [General]

It's been a while since I've uploaded any video to my blog and since I am very short of time at the moment, this little clip affords me the opportunity to make my point in a minimal amount of time. All being well I should be able to upload a little more video tomorrow concerning something completely different. Despite the hysteria and violence of the far-left I must say I enjoyed my time in Cologne greatly. Speaking to the Pro Cologne organisers afterwards I take it that they are genuinely satisfied with their weekend's work, after all every one knows about the plan to disfigure this beautiful city now.

0 (0 Ratings)

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Ah yes how is Southwark? Still full of your pals in the police taking kickbacks from drug dealers? All that palaver about a masjid. Good news it wasn't a Synagogue, huh?

[Kisangani Oyebo Phd](#)

September 24, 2008

05:17 PM GMT



Dear Mr BNP, What are your feelings re: the economic downturn? It just occurred to me that we could both do well on this one and I had a modest proposal. Do you think it's worthwhile we forget our differences once things get really bad? Join forces (temporarily) so to speak as PLOD is the real enemy? Could you set some mercury tilt switches under their vehicles? (They are very nervous once we appear). There is a list of elements in Hertfordshire, London & Sussex that need getting rid of. In return I'm sure we could come to some arrangement. Yours Sincerely, Shanghai  
Joe, Commissar, 765th Coy, Grand Old Army of the Proletariat.

[Shanghai](#)

September 24, 2008

05:35 PM GMT



You say, "disfigure this beautiful city now."

What you fail to explain is that the proposed mosque is not near the famous Dom. Indeed, Cologne's World Heritage status was recently threatened by a non-Muslim proposal.

Cologne has more to it than just the main tourist traps. As you (and Bomber Darby) are aware, if anyone changed the architecture of Cologne, it was the Allies in the fight against Nationalists like your party.

So, Islamafication is building a big mosque? Will they be preventing people from attending the Dom?

(Cue one of the slugs to slime about not being able to have cathedrals in Saudi)

THEN you have the temerity to talk about jumping on the bandwagon about knife crime campaigns! Priceless hypocrisy from Max headroom.

You talk about Christianity and then you have a go about a clergyman speaking out in the press. "He can have his views..."! You then try, in your pitiful way, to patronise him by saying that you are sure he's serving

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his community very well. Welcome to the real BNP.

You're not bothered about Christianity, you just want a chance to knock people with minority views or beliefs.

"We have been asking..Labour Council ...and even Boris Johnson to do more about knife crime, giving out mandatory sentences...!"

How can anyone take you seriously when YET AGAIN you fail to understand the jurisdiction of the Mayor. Please buy a book on Constitutional Law and stop making a tit out of yourself.

As regards your purported conversation with B & D Council over metal detectors in schools, provide proof.

You still haven't answered the questions about knives on previous posts. Shortly, I shall list them in full until you answer.

**Eric The Fish**

September 24, 2008

07:08 PM GMT



What you want is to get English Heritage to say what and what cannot be in a mosque, get our muslim compatriots to go through an extensive planning process and get the proposal rejected even by the inspector.

**tiger stripes**

September 24, 2008

07:25 PM GMT



I'd be very interested to know which church Cllr Barnbrook attends every week and who his Parish Priest is.

**H**

September 25, 2008

05:28 PM GMT



Why St Georges of course! Rev Bigott? Does he realise little baby Jesus didnt have fair hair + blue eyes?

**Kisangani Oyebo Phd**

September 25, 2008

05:35 PM GMT



I do think Mr Barnbrook has made some quite dramatic errors in his statements regarding knife crime in a certain East London borough.

**liz**

September 25, 2008

06:14 PM GMT



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The Standards Sub-Committee (Assessment)

Assessment Summary -- 06 November 2008

Case No:	MC/09/08
Date Received:	07.10.08
Date Assessed:	06.11.08

---

**Allegation:**

That during an interview which was subsequently featured on a blog and on You Tube, the councillor had appeared to focus on and criticise the Borough and include false information.

The complainant alleged that the councillor:

- (1) had acted in a way which had brought his honesty and integrity as a councillor into disrepute and also, by association, the Council; and
- (2) had acted at odds with two principles within the Code of Conduct: a duty to uphold the law and leadership.

**Assessment outcome:**

Having considered the allegations and supporting information, the Committee agreed to take no action in respect of the complaint. The Committee concluded that during the conduct giving rise to the complaint, the councillor was not acting in his official capacity as a member of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, nor giving the impression of acting in his official capacity or as a representative of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, thereby bringing his actions outside the scope of the Code of Conduct.

Any such request by the complainant must be received in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice, explaining in detail on what grounds the decision should be reviewed. Any request should be sent to me as the Council's Monitoring Officer at the Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7BN.

A request for a review will be dealt with within a maximum of three months of receipt. I will write to all the parties mentioned above, notifying them of the outcome of any such review.

### Additional Help

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reading this notice we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you, in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2000.

This decision notice is sent to the complainant and the Member against whom the allegation was made.

Signed .....

Date 7 November 2008

Nina Clark  
Monitoring Officer  
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

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## **DECISION NOTICE**

Reference MC9/08

### **Complaint**

On 6 November 2008 a Sub-Committee of the Council's Standards Committee considered a complaint from Councillor Mrs V Rush concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor R Barnbrook, a Member of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. 3

A general summary of the complaint is set out below:

That a video recording of an interview, which appeared on Richard Barnbrook's blog and on You Tube, appeared to focus on and criticise the Borough, and include false information.

The complainant considered that the statements made during the interview resulted in the councillor acting in a way which brought his honesty and integrity as a councillor into disrepute, and also, by association, the Council.

The complainant also considered that the councillor's actions were at odds with two principles within the Code of Conduct: a duty to uphold the law and leadership.

### **Decision**

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Sub-Committee decided that no action should be taken on the allegation. 3

### **Reasons for decision**

The Sub-Committee considered that there was no evidence on the video recording of Councillor Barnbrook at any time being introduced as, or acting as, or giving the impression of acting as, a councillor of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

### **Right of review**

At the written request of the complainant, the Standards Committee can review and change a decision not to refer an allegation for investigation or other action. A different Sub-Committee to that involved in the original decision would undertake such a review.

THE ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER LONDON  
AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2008

**DECISION NOTICE**

GLA Case Reference: Sept-05/08

**Complaint**

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the Assessment Sub-Committee of the GLA's Standards Committee convened in private and considered a complaint from Councillor Valerie Rush concerning the alleged conduct of Mr Richard Bambrook, Assembly Member.

Set out below is a brief and general summary of the complaint:

The Complainant alleges that Mr Richard Bambrook, Assembly Member, made statements on the internet about the death of a young girl murdered in an education establishment, and two further murders, all in the borough of Barking and Dagenham, and that these statements are untrue.

**Decision**

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided to refer the allegation to the Monitoring Officer with an instruction to investigate the matter in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

**Reasons for decision**

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Assessment Sub-Committee carefully considered the written correspondence from the Complainant, and also watched the internet footage of the statements.

On the information and evidence before it, and having regard to the Standards Board for England's Guidance, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided that the complaint did merit further action for the following reasons:

1. Richard Bambrook appears to hold himself out or allows himself to be held out as an Assembly Member and therefore the alleged conduct of the member falls within the scope of the Authority's Code of Conduct;
2. If the statements made by Richard Bambrook, Assembly Member, are false then this could be a potential breach of paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct "You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute."



Confidentiality and publication

Taking into account the fact that the Complainant did not request, when asked, that her identity and a summary of her complaint be kept confidential, and taking into account the public interest and whether any such disclosure would prejudice any investigation, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided that these details should be provided to Mr Bambrook.

Accordingly, this Decision Notice has been sent to the Complainant, Richard Bambrook, Assembly Member and will be published by the GLA for a period of 6 years starting from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Signed ..... *Alan Haffey* ..... Date ..... *22/10/08* .....

Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee

Signed ..... *Richard Hadden* ..... Date ..... *22/10/08* .....

The GLA's Monitoring Officer

3

3

Legal & Procurement Group

DOC 11

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Richard Barnbrook  
Assembly Member  
City Hall

[Richard.barnbrook@london.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.barnbrook@london.gov.uk)

Our Ref: SG/Legal  
Your Ref:  
Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

Dear Richard

**Complaint against Richard Barnbrook, Assembly Member**

Further to previous communications, I'm writing to inform you that, on 20 October 2008, the Assessment Sub-Committee of the GLA's Standards Committee considered a complaint about your alleged conduct.

The Sub-Committee's decision is contained in the Decision Notice enclosed.

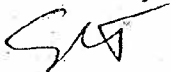
Please note that it has been decided that the complaint should be investigated. I will be in touch to explain in more detail how this investigation will be conducted. However, general details about this process are available at the link below, in particular, at pages 16-19 (Stages 5-6 Section B):

<http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/complaints-members/docs/member-complaints-procedure.pdf>

Details on how the decision will be published are contained in the Decision Notice enclosed, and are also available at the above link.

If you require any other assistance in relation to this matter, please do not please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Stephen Gee**  
Senior Legal Adviser  
Employment & Governance

020 7983 4590  
[Stephen.gee@london.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.gee@london.gov.uk)

Direct telephone: 020 7983 4590 Fax: 020 7983 4700 Email [Stephen.gee@london.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.gee@london.gov.uk)

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## DECISION NOTICE

GLA Case Reference: Sept-05/08

### Complaint

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the Assessment Sub-Committee of the GLA's Standards Committee convened in private and considered a complaint from Councillor Valerie Rush concerning the alleged conduct of Mr Richard Barnbrook, Assembly Member.

Set out below is a brief and general summary of the complaint:

The Complainant alleges that Mr Richard Barnbrook, Assembly Member, made statements on the internet about the death of a young girl murdered in an education establishment, and two further murders, all in the borough of Barking and Dagenham, and that these statements are untrue.

### Decision

In accordance with Section 57A(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided to refer the allegation to the Monitoring Officer with an instruction to investigate the matter in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.

### Reasons for decision

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Assessment Sub-Committee carefully considered the written correspondence from the Complainant, and also watched the internet footage of the statements.

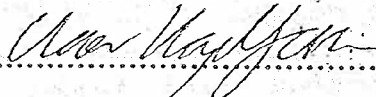
On the information and evidence before it, and having regard to the Standards Board for England's Guidance, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided that the complaint did merit further action for the following reasons:

1. Richard Barnbrook appears to hold himself out or allows himself to be held out as an Assembly Member and therefore the alleged conduct of the member falls within the scope of the Authority's Code of Conduct;
2. If the statements made by Richard Barnbrook, Assembly Member, are false then this could be a potential breach of paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct "You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute."

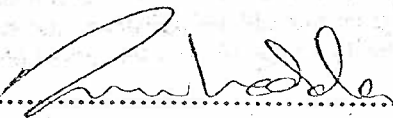
Confidentiality and publication

Taking into account the fact that the Complainant did not request, when asked, that her identity and a summary of her complaint be kept confidential, and taking into account the public interest and whether any such disclosure would prejudice any investigation, the Assessment Sub-Committee decided that these details should be provided to Mr Barnbrook.

Accordingly, this Decision Notice has been sent to the Complainant, Richard Barnbrook, Assembly Member and will be published by the GLA for a period of 6 years starting from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 22/10/08 .....

Chair of the Assessment Sub-Committee

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 22/10/08 .....

The GLA's Monitoring Officer

## THE STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (REVIEW)

Wednesday, 3 December 2008  
(11:30 am - 1:00 pm)

**Present:** Councillor Mrs P A Northover, Mr K Madden and Mr D Sandiford

5. **Apologies for absence**

None.

6. **Appointment of Chair**

Delbert Sandiford was appointed as Chair.

7. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

8. **Monitoring Officer Report - Complaint MC/9/08**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the report regarding a review request by the complainant following the assessment of the complaint on 6 November 2008 by a Standards Sub-Committee. The decision at that time was that no action be taken as the allegations did not, in the Assessment Sub-Committee's view, amount to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

Having considered the report and additional supporting documentation, the Review Committee **agreed** to refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer for investigation because potential breaches of the Code of Conduct had been disclosed.

The Standards Sub-Committee (Review)

Review Summary – 3 December 2008

Case No:	MC/09/08
Date Received:	07.10.08
Date Assessed:	06.11.08
Date Review Request Received:	08.11.08
Date Reviewed:	03.12.08

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**Allegation:**

That during an interview which was subsequently featured on a blog and on You Tube, the councillor had appeared to focus on and criticise the Borough and include false information.

The complainant alleged that the councillor:

- (1) had acted in a way which had brought his honesty and integrity as a councillor into disrepute and also, by association, the Council; and
- (2) had acted at odds with two principles within the Code of Conduct: a duty to uphold the law and leadership.

**Assessment outcome:**

Having considered the allegations and supporting information, the Committee **agreed** to take no action in respect of the complaint. The Committee concluded that during the conduct giving rise to the complaint, the councillor was not acting in his official capacity as a member of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, nor giving the impression of acting in his official capacity or as a representative of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, thereby bringing his actions outside the scope of the Code of Conduct.

**Review outcome:**

The Review Sub-Committee considered the allegations and additional supporting documentation, which included further correspondence from the complainant, and agreed to refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer for investigation as a potential breach of the Code of Conduct had been identified, namely:

**Paragraph 5** You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

The Sub-Committee also considered that the alleged conduct may have conflicted with the general principle in the Code relating to Honesty and Integrity.

Helen Sargeant

---

From: Matthew Kleebauer  
Sent: 05 December 2008 16:39  
To: Helen Sargeant  
Subject: FW: GLA Investigation Sep 05

DOC:13

-----Original Message-----

From: Matthew Kleebauer  
Sent: 05 December 2008 16:26  
To: Richard Barnbrook  
Subject: GLA Investigation Sep 05

Richard,

Please see attached



Letter to Richard Barnbrook.doc...  
decision notice.pdf  
(136 KB)

Matthew Kleebauer  
Administration Officer  
Legal & Procurement Group  
GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY  
Tel: 0207 983 4972



Helen Sargeant

---

From: Helen Sargeant  
Sent: 13 February 2009 16:24  
To: Richard Barnbrook  
Cc: Simon Darby  
Subject: Record of meeting 6 February 2009 - By email and internal mail

Please find attached letter and record of meeting.



Letter to Richard  
Barnbrook 13...



Record of meeting  
6 Feb 09.doc...

Helen Sargeant  
Senior Legal Adviser - Employment and Governance  
Legal and Procurement Group  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

T: 020 7983 4483  
F: 020 7983 4700

## Legal & Procurement Group

Richard Barnbrook  
Assembly Member

[Richard.barnbrook@london.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.barnbrook@london.gov.uk)

**Private & Confidential**

City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
More London  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **HS/Legal**

Your Ref:

Date: 13/02/2009

Dear Mr Barnbrook,

**Ref: Sept/05**

I write further to our interview of 6 February 2009 and enclose as agreed two copies of the record taken from the interview.

**Record:**

I would be grateful if you could review the record and make any alterations you consider necessary from your recollection of the interview. Please then sign and date the declaration at the end of the interview record and initial the bottom of each page, returning one copy to me to the above address by Friday 20 February 2009. Should you not sign and return a copy of the interview record by this date I will assume that you accept and agree with its content.

The copy of the interview record has been provided to you solely to enable you to confirm the accuracy of the interview. It should not be disclosed or used for any other purpose. You are, however, able to disclose these documents to your solicitor, should you choose to appoint one, or other representative, for the purpose of seeking advice in relation to this investigation.

If, on reading the interview record, you have any additional comments that you feel are relevant to the investigation, please address these to me in writing in a separate document and send it to the above address, or by sending an email to [helen.sargeant@london.gov.uk](mailto:helen.sargeant@london.gov.uk). Alternatively you can telephone me directly 020 7983 4483.

Yours sincerely

Helen Sargeant  
Senior Legal Adviser – Employment and Governance

Direct telephone: 020 7983 4486 Fax: 020 7983 4700 Email: [Helen.sargeant@london.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.sargeant@london.gov.uk)

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TERRITORIAL POLICING

Councillor Val Rush  
Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods & Communities  
Barking & Dagenham Council  
Civic Centre  
Dagenham

KG - Barking &amp; Dagenham Borough

9th floor  
Maritime House  
1 Linton Road  
Barking  
IG11 8HG

Telephone: 02082175557  
Facsimile: 02082175  
Email: Hugh.Boyle@met.police.uk  
www.met.police.uk

Your ref:  
Our ref:

9 December 2008

Dear Val

Barking & Dagenham – Murder statistics

You requested information with regard to incidents of murder within Barking & Dagenham Borough for the period 24 August – 24 September 2008 inclusive. I can confirm that there were no murders for that period this year.

The most recent murder, also the only one recorded in the current financial year 2008/09 was on Saturday 19 April 2008 at Corals Bookmakers in Barking. The victim was Mr Leslie Bones. Two men have subsequently been convicted for this offence.

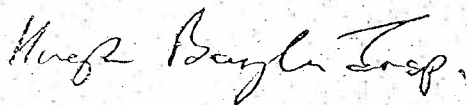
To assist you in any further enquiries and highlight that such offences have significantly decreased in the past three years the following statistics may be of use.

FY – 2008/09 – total one (1)

FY – 2007/08 – total three (3)

FY – 2006/07 – total six (6)

Yours sincerely,



Hugh Boyle  
Inspector  
Performance & Review Unit  
Barking & Dagenham Police

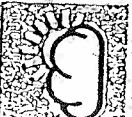
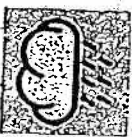


Emergency: 020 8594 8356

**NHS DIRECT**  
0845 4647 for 24-hour health information and advice  
**ELECTRICITY**

Extern: 01708 384000; London: 020 8298 9898

**DENTIST:** For the relief of pain and other urgent conditions, registered NHS patients should contact their own dentist. For emergency dental treatment NHS, 020 8554 9865

## WEEKEND WEATHER

Today (Thursday)	Tomorrow (Friday)	Saturday	Sunday
			
Sunny intervals Max temp 10C; min 8C	Heavy rain Max temp 8C; min 5C	Heavy rain Max temp 5C; min 3C	Sunny intervals Max temp 7C; min 4C

## TRAVEL

### TRAINS AND TUBES

**C2C:** A full Saturday service runs from Barking to Upminster with minor re-timings to Laindon and Ockendon. Barking to Upminster and Barking to Grays via Rainham: full Sunday service runs, with minor re-timings to Laindon and Ockendon. Due to engineering works in the Grays area, Rainham services will be re-timed to run 15 minutes later from Barking and Grays.

**National Express:** No service on Saturday and Sunday between Liverpool Street and Stratford.

**DISTRICT LINE:** Suspended on Saturday and Sunday between Barking and Upminster. Replacement bus services operate.

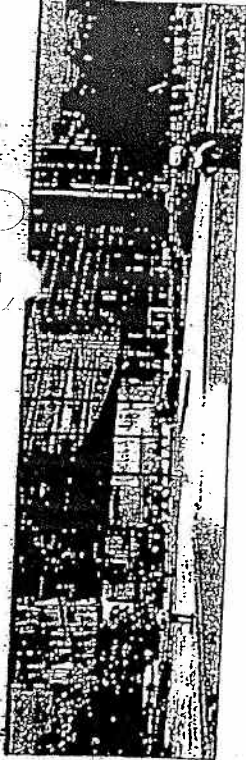
**HAMMERSMITH & CITY LINE:** No service on Saturday and Sunday between Platow and Barking.

**JUBILEE LINE:** Suspended, on Saturday and Sunday between Stanmore and Waterloo. Replacement bus services operate.

**METROPOLITAN LINE:** Suspended on Saturday and Sunday between Harrow-on-the-Hill and Aldgate. Rail replacement bus services operate.

**Barking and Dagenham Recorder offices at Media House, 539 High Road, Ilford Essex IG1 1UD and is part of Archant London**

ARCHANT LONDON



HLM said the development, promoting sustainable transport, would not include parking spaces.

Swan Housing has not yet lodged a planning application to Barking and Dagenham Council.

A Swan spokesman said: "We are still at a very early stage of discussions with the local authority about the proposed development at Cambridge Road."

# BNP's Barnbrook under fire over 'YouTube murder claim'

THE British National Party deputy leader in Barking and Dagenham and London Assembly member Richard Barnbrook is under investigation after he claimed on a video-sharing website three murders had taken place in the borough.

He could be suspended from City Hall for up to six months if a complaint by Labour Cllr Val Rush is upheld.

Goresbrook ward Cllr Barnbrook is said to have maintained three murders - including two fatal stabbings - had happened in the borough as he criticised Mayor Boris Johnson in a clip posted on YouTube via his website.

Met Police figures show one murder was officially recorded in Barking and Dagenham in the past 12 months to September.

Cllr Rush, Barking and Dagenham executive member for community safety, lodged the complaint which is being investigated by a Greater London Authority (GLA) standards sub-committee.

She said: "If the investigation discovers that Cllr Barnbrook brought his position into disrepute and therefore the GLA into disrepute, I am hoping their standards board takes the necessary steps."

"We can't have duly elected members of either the GLA or a local authority inflame fears of Londoners and residents of Barking and Dagenham by lies."

City Hall said Cllr Barnbrook could be forced to apologise, undergo training and be suspended for six months depending on its findings.

Cllr Barnbrook said: "The GLA are going into the investigation



● **PROBE:** Cllr Richard Barnbrook and Cllr Val Rush as we speak. It could be two or three weeks. People at the GLA are quite thorough." Cllr Rush said: "I am thankful to the GLA and its standards board for taking the complaint seriously."

For all the latest news log on to [www.burrower.co.uk](http://www.burrower.co.uk)





# Male machismo leads to early exit

**I**T'S A fact of life the majority of men die before women, and Redbridge is no exception, female average life expectancy 81.6 years compared to 77.5 years for males.

It perhaps isn't surprising, as men are genetically programmed to be bigger risk takers and that approach to life can lead to a premature exit, especially if you have a penchant for high-risk sports.

However, the majority of us are more likely to be found watching TV or taking the dog for a walk, so why the disparity between the longevity of men and women?

The answer is the totem of male health, totem because we're happy to dance around

the subject without really addressing it.

Male machismo and globally adopted metaphors such as "soldiering on", "not letting the side down" and "taking it like a man" have led to a male mindset associating a visit to the doctor with being weak, unnecessary, or a waste of time.

This means conditions often go untreated, and problems build up.

I believe many men have a subconscious fear of the health service because our contact with it is minimal, largely confined to the beginning and end of our lives, with a brief mid-term dalliance at the maternity ward when our children are born.

Women are more familiar and at ease in the health system through prolonged association with it through birth, bringing up children, and inevitable visits to the doctor.

Attitudes require a major change. Men need to understand care and treatment don't equate with weakness.

You can't put a price on good health, because if you don't have it there isn't much else you can enjoy.

Greater personal responsibility for our health is the key to a healthier life and remains a priority with NHS Redbridge.

**EDWIN DOYLE,**

Chairman NHS Redbridge

# I and disgusted by the centre's closure

Ittee member Club for the partially blind has been giving

life to blind

for 20 years.

sed at different

igs, some where

difficulty safely

sing members,

n from homes

for five years at

r Gresham Drive

oad car park.

Although this centre was established primarily for daytime use by, and in support of, people in the borough with learning difficulties, it also gave excellent accommodation for our "once a month" meetings - and to other groups.

Since early this year there have been repeated threatened closures of Chadwell Centre, culminating in the declared closure in July of 2009.

We attended a "Chadwell Consultation" in October, which was called by the Learning Disability Partnership. We were invited to give our views on the proposed closure.

Based on reasoning, prioritised exclusively by relevance to the current policies of "care in the community" for those with

learning difficulties, the centre is now to close.

In the past decade various mayors and councillors have acknowledged how greatly our community depends on help from the private voluntary sector.

I am saddened, not to say disgusted, that this closure of the Chadwell Centre seems based on limited criteria, and demonstrates just how little our cost-free usefulness is now appreciated.

This action will undoubtedly put at risk our ability to continue the Focus Club's good works - and I think we shall be missed.

**JOHN GOUGH**

Queenborough Gardens

Ilford

# Number of murders not relevant

**T**HE complaint made against me by Councillor Rush as to precisely how many murders I said had taken place in the borough, is typical of the unhelpful approach taken by so many mainstream politicians today.

They seek to whitewash and sidetrack the genuine concerns of the man in the street by raising issues which are simply irrelevant.

Violent street crime is a grave concern for all of us who live in Barking and Dagenham and in London.

To my mind, it makes little difference whether there were one or three murders - just one murder is one too many!

We need to focus on what, if anything, is being done about it, and I was simply trying to do just that. Arguing about numbers won't solve anything.

**CLLR RICHARD BARNBROOK, BNP**  
Greater London Assembly

# operating double standards on masts

Wilson Chowdhry (Letters, November 27) alleges is concerned at plans for a mobile phone mast at the junction of Gresham Avenue/Barley Lane. There have been two proposals for mobile phone masts at the junction of the main college building. As they can only have been possible with the agreement of the college, where was the concern then? The college has a primary school field and play area, and a special needs school. Perhaps the college

Mr Chowdhry mentions studies from such organisations as the World Health Organisation. Local councils have received specific planning guidance from his own Labour Government that they are not able to take into account any such information in considering mobile phone mast applications.

He also suggests the mast plan for this junction was made by the local councillors, of which I am one. Well Mr Chowdhry should be aware such applications are made by mobile operators not local councils. We just consider their merits.

Notes of Standards Investigation Interview with Councillor Mrs V Rush

16 January 2009

Committee Room 3

Barking Town Hall

11.30-12.30

Present: Sanjay Prashar; Deputy Head of Law; Corporate Law + Employment LBBB (SP)  
Helen Sargeant – Senior Legal Adviser Employment and Governance (HS);  
Satish Mistry Deputy Head of Law (SM) – GLA  
Elly Leathers (EL) (notes)

Councillor Mrs V Rush (VR)

Morgan McSweeney, Political Assistant Majority Party (MM)

After introductions Satish explained what the meeting was for and how it would be conducted.

VR On/ around 24 September 2008 I found a found a video posted on Cllr Barnbrook's Daily Telegraph Blog. It had also been posted on You Tube and on his own Richard Barnbrook blog in which he attributes himself as a London Assembly member for the GLA.

I presume you have watched the video – he is seen holding up a number of newspapers and criticising articles.

What concerned me greatly is one section of the video where he says that in the three weeks prior to the video a young girl had been murdered in an educational establishment in Barking and Dagenham and that two young men had been murdered in the borough.

Because of my portfolio responsibilities I knew these statements to be false. I also felt them to be incredibly inflammatory.

Dealing with community fears/fear of crime is a responsibility that any elected member should take seriously. By stating lies on film I feel he inflamed fears in our community (not just in Barking and Dagenham but across London).

I feel when you take up public office and sign to uphold duties of office there is a code of conduct you sign up to – specific and well laid out for Barking and Dagenham / GLA.

This covers:

- Honesty and integrity
- Duty to uphold the law
- Leadership

C:\Documents and Settings\hsargeant\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\OLKB\Draft minutes Cllr Rush 160109.doc  
C:\Documents and Settings\eleathers\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\OLK5C\Draft minutes Cllr Rush 160109.doc

Lying in this manner is directly at odds with the principle to uphold the law. It seems to be attempting to undermine confidence in public safety, confidence with the police, and directly at odds with the principle of leadership.

Across London we are working hard to reassure people that the streets are safe and we are always reassuring the elderly / young people that the streets are safe and by what Councillor Barnbrook has said he has deliberately set out to inflame fear and undermine the public's trust and confidence in local government and the Police.

I watched the DVD several times and decided to make a complaint because I felt that strongly.

SM Is there anything else you would like to add?

VR (Presents letter) Written statistics from Barking & Dagenham Police identify:

2006/07	6 murders in the borough
2007/08	3 murders in the borough
2008/09	1 murder in the borough

We are talking financial years here— therefore only recorded murder this year was on the 19 April which was nowhere near the time span Councillor Barnbrook was referring to.

This evidence shows how far we have come in Barking and Dagenham in the fight against such crime. Lies in the video undermine the work we have done.

SM This letter is unsigned.

VR This is because it came by email. The inspector said he would send me a copy though we haven't received it. I will get a signed copy and forward it to you.

SM Anything else you would like to introduce?

VR To give you an idea of the character of the man what we have learnt in Barking and Dagenham since 2006 is the fact that he doesn't pay too much attention to the truth but will stand up and speak at great length and even if what he is saying is not the truth people will listen.

[VR refers to a letter in the local papers]

[She stated that a letter was sent (11/12/08) to two local papers (Cllr Mrs Rush read the article) and he refers to himself as both Councillor Barnbrook and Greater



London Assembly and he said it made no difference as to how many deaths there had been ]

This letter appeared in the local paper headlined 'number of murders not relevant'.

Whilst I agree arguing about numbers does not solve anything I think that it is very relevant the simple fact that there were no murders. There is a big difference between no murders and one or three.

HS How did you come across the blog?

VR Politically – I am the Labour group's secretary. I sweep through a number of blogs on a daily basis.

HS How well read do you think these blogs are?

VR They are.

MM We had a resident labour party member tell us about the blog. Don't know what the number of hits are though.

VR It is on You Tube as well. There are links to his political party on his blogs so people who are not politically minded, looking at You Tube may pick up the blog. Regarding the number of hits, it appears to be well used.

MM It is easy to find on google. It wasn't difficult to find on You Tube.

SP Is the video still on the blog.

VR It is on all of them.

HR Why do you think it brings the council into disrepute?

VR When we have had a murder, not the last April, but the year before, we work with the Police and there is an awful lot of effort by the Partnership on community reassurance. Myself/Police will go into the community and reinforce community message. We have done a lot of that over the last two and a half years. Community have been responding well to reassurance message. Great relationships have built up with the Police. There is a trusted messenger relationship across the borough.

This throws that all off side. I have had people come up to me and say three murders – what are you keeping from us? I have had to say that they did not take place, but we are on the back-foot. When we have come so far in good community relations and our young people are engaging with the Police, it is frustrating to then have to say that this did not actually happen.

Another example: Councillor Barnbrook is very good at inflaming situations. We have had an incident of TB in a primary school. We had one case. Once again Councillor Barnbrook has inflamed the community. He was at the school filming children. Parents demanded he turned the cameras off. He would have you believe that all the children had TB. It makes people fearful.

SM Can I ask – in your perception that there is anything particular in relation to Councillor Barnbrook's own position that makes it important for him to be careful what he says?

MM Fear of crime is the main issue in boroughs. There is a disparity between actual and fear of crime. Not just a reputational problem. Affects quality of life of all people in borough. People won't engage. Young people are more inclined to join gangs when there is a perception of crime. Also affects business. Older people are likely to leave their house after dark. If you come to the town centre in the evening it is remarkably quiet, and therefore this affects the borough.

Councillor Barnbrook is not currently the leader of the opposition but he was in 2006. There is now a new Leader of the Opposition who does not have the same profile as Councillor Barnbrook. The BNP's reputation is taken very seriously and they are a legitimate party. Councillor Barnbrook does hold sway with a good number of people in Barking and Dagenham. I think that in other boroughs people would also be able to pick out Richard Barnbrook. He then uses that profile to inflame situations and uses topics such as murder.

SM If there is credible evidence that fear of crime has increased more here than in other London boroughs and also you said that when this is discussed it increases people's anxiety levels. If you could provide evidence of this that would be useful.

VR We can get that.

SM Do you think Councillor Barnbrook made his comments knowing them to be false or is he just misconceived?

VR He made the comments knowingly. I don't have a personal assistant, someone who proof reads press statements – Councillor Barnbrook, as an assembly member, has far more access to correct and accurate information.

MM In his letter he acknowledges the evidence is wrong yet leaves the information on his website.

MM At worst he is lying; at best, it is a disregard for the truth. It is reckless and irresponsible without checking with the police and council. If he had checked with the Police and local authority, they would have confirmed the facts as being untrue.

The BNP is different to elsewhere in Britain. It is seen as credible, so when he says something like that a lot of people would believe him.

SM So you are saying that it is not that it is Councillor Barnbrook, but also because he is an influential politician.

SP Are you able to give examples of people approaching you regarding the blog?

VR A number of examples. It is very hard to deal with people's perception of crime. The only way you can do that is by being very honest with people. It is about reassurance and then people's perceptions change. We have seen it in other boroughs where people start to feel safe. We have now got to say we have to change people's perceptions. Changing people's perceptions is very difficult.

SM One last thing. In terms of outcomes, as the complainant what would you like to see as an outcome?

VR I think I would like a public apology to the residents of Barking and Dagenham and London. I think that a period of time of cooling off until Councillor/Assemblyman Barnbrook understands that there are certain standards for elected members that he has to abide by. For example, sitting outside the Chamber for a couple of months.

VR Impact also on his role as Assembly Member. I cannot see how you can impose on one and not the other – I assume that the standards are the same at the GLA and at LBDD.

SM If the matter proceeds, it will be a matter for the respective Standard Committees.

We will put together a transcript and send to you. If you could get it back to us by the following week with any other evidence. When it comes to producing a draft report we will invite your comments at that stage.

End of interview.

I have read these notes and accept them as a true and accurate record of the interview

Signed.....

Dated.....

C:\Documents and Settings\hsargeant\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\OLKB\Draft minutes  
C:\Documents and Settings\leathers\Local Settings\Temporary Internet  
Files\OLK5C1\Draft minutes-CHR-Rush-160109.doc

Notes of Standards Investigation with Councillor and Assembly Member Mr R  
Barnbrook

Friday 6 February 2009

Committee Room 8

City Hall

14:00 – 15:30

**Present:**

Councillor and Assembly Member Mr R Barnbrook (RB)  
Sanjay Prashar, Deputy Head- Corporate Law and Employment LBBB (SP)  
Helen Sargeant, Senior Legal Adviser Employment and Governance (HS) - GLA  
Satish Mistry, Deputy Head of Law (SM) - GLA  
Lisa Newman, Trainee Solicitor (LN) - GLA

RB stated that he thought this complaint was a personal attack on him and was upset about other recent complaints that had been made about him, which he considered to be personal also.

SM explained the format of the interview

**HS Question 1. For how long have you used website blogs in your political capacity as a tool for communicating to the electorate?**

RB said that he hasn't and that he doesn't use blogs. He said he hasn't got the knowledge to do this. RB said that this is either done by his aides or the BNP film crew. HS asked how long RB had appeared on blogs.

RB said from approximately 2004/ 2005. RB said that he doesn't use 'google' as a means of disseminating information but that he understands that other websites lift and use the content from his blog.

**HS Question 2. We understand that the blog can be viewed on You Tube and the Daily Telegraph website. Is it posted elsewhere?**

RB said that he dictates to aides who type content onto the blog, and they read it out to him. He said that he takes responsibility for the content of his blog. He didn't know the process for the content appearing on other websites.

SM asked if he checked the content.

RB said he did and that he takes responsibility for this.

SM asked RB if he had looked at the statement in question on his blog.

RB said no, that he didn't recall looking at this one, and that he didn't have time to see the final version.

HS Question 3. Do you know how many hits have been entered against the blog?

RB said he was too busy to look at these and that he doesn't follow them.

HS Question 4. You were specific in your comments that there were 2 incidents of knife attacks in the B&D area within a stated period resulting in 3 deaths. From where did you source this information?

RB said that prior to the video going out, there was a murder of a young African Caribbean woman in Barking and Dagenham. The other incidents were two fatal attacks in Gorsebrook ward and Parsloes ward.

HS read out what the blog said about these three incidents. RB clarified that the woman who was killed was from Barking and Dagenham, but was killed outside the area in Newham.

SM clarified with RB that he said on the video that the attack was in Barking and Dagenham.

RB said that this statement "came out wrong" because of the speed of his delivery. RB meant to say that the woman was from Barking and Dagenham and murdered in Newham.

SM asked whether there was evidence to support this? RB said yes.

SM clarified that what RB meant to say was that there had been a murder of a girl from Barking and Dagenham. RB said this was correct and what he had meant. RB said he has evidence to show the occurrence of this.

SM referred back to the second statement on the blog where RB had said that there were two murders. RB said that this is what he had said - but that the two people didn't die, they were critically ill, but didn't die. RB said he "spoke too soon." He knew at the time of the statement that they were on life support.

HS asked if this statement was still on the blog? RB said he didn't know because he doesn't check it and hasn't been asked to pull it.

SM said "before we move on, can I put something to you. You said that you don't check the blog, but you said you take responsibility for it and you didn't know [about the possible inaccuracy] until you got the complaint. You then took the opportunity to view the blog?"

RB said "no, well I was in front of the camera, I generally know what I say, but no...that's not true, I did look at the blog (Mothers Against Knives) told me about the complaint. I then had a brief look at this". He said that he now accepts that there were two inaccuracies.

RB said the videos are usually on the personal blog for three weeks.



SM asked whether RB had looked at the blog and noticed the inaccuracies?  
RB said "no". He said that the national BNP party including legal asked him whether he wanted to leave it up as he did believe that the overall tenor still stands that it should be left on there regardless of the misstatement and that he said yes. RB said his belief in gun-crime is strong enough to keep it on the website and that he was of the view that this would be removed in 4-6 weeks anyway.

RB said that he felt because \_\_\_\_\_ had made comments about the school, then the blog should remain.

**SP Question 5. Do you have a system for verifying statistical data or other factual information before publicising it?**

RB said verification was from three sources:

1. Media
2. Police
3. Public

He said that the information from the public was very important and said "I always believe without question and will report. This is the same in this situation. I was told [about the incidents] by the public and I confused what they were saying".

RB said that he did have a system to verify the information that the public gave him in this case. He said he got the information as to the location of the attacks but that he mixed up exactly where the attack took place.

SP "from what you have said, can you tell us if there is an audit process for screening information before publishing it?"

RB said "yes", by using 1. the press 2. the police and 3. local community (leaks). RB said he sometimes used his first-hand notice of witnessing the incident, such as witnessing a cordoned off crime scene and asking the police what has happened.

SP said "we are concerned that this wasn't the case here. Your statement was inaccurate."

RB said that in this case, it was because he spoke too quickly and got it wrong. RB said the filming was very rushed and he spoke too quickly. "I dispute that. I didn't try and cause scaremongering. That's just politics and I made a statement."

SP asked "why wasn't this picked up on the video before going on the blog?"

RB said that "they must have assumed that the details were correct. There have been attacks in Barking and Dagenham so it would be likely that this could be true."

**SP Question 6. Do you accept that the details regarding the murders which you gave on your blog were factually inaccurate?**

RB said he accepted that the evidence was factually inaccurate but that he will not make an apology. "I won't accept the fact that knife crime doesn't exist. I will take responsibility, but will not apologise".

SM asked whether RB would apologise for the statement being inaccurate?

RB said "no, I would say that the information that was given over was not correct. But until knife crime is over, I will not apologise". RB said that a mistake was made, it was not malicious but could be seen as aggressive. RB said that he did not regret making the statements, but he did regret not putting the correct information over, and it would be have been better if the correct information had been put across. He regretted saying that there were two murders when there were not.

SM clarified that the officers present are not responsible for making a decision in this case.

SP said "can I just say that we will not be taking a decision on this, we are just . We are just looking at whether you have brought your office into disrepute".

RB asked for clarification on what 'disrepute' means.

HS. SM and SP all said that this depends on what facts are established in this case

**SP Question 7. Do you regret making the statement?**

RB said "No, I do regret saying that two people died and they didn't, but I don't regret saying about the murder".

**SP Question 8. The complainant has referred the investigation officers to a letter sent by yourself to 2 local newspapers in December 2008. In the letter you suggest that it made no difference as to how many deaths there had been. Do you still subscribe to that view and if so why?**

RB said that what he was saying here is that nothing is being done in the Borough, even if one person dies or twenty, something still has to be done.

**SM Question 9. If you knew the information to be inaccurate why was it (the video) left on the blog at the time of the letter being published?**

RB said "I thought it would have been pulled."

**SM Question 10. Are you aware of whether it (the video) is still on the blog?**

RB said he thought it would have been removed, especially if there are inaccuracies.

HS asked if the video was still on there?

RB said they will be removed because of the inaccuracies, but it was not an apology.

**SM Question 11 As a local politician do you feel you have a role in managing the public's perception of crime both in B and D and in London generally?**

RB asked "can you be more accurate as to 'control'? I think that the politician should report what is happening."



SM said "but the difference here is that they were inaccurate. Do you accept that you have a higher level of responsibility?"

RB said "I could have said that three murders took place, that wouldn't have been inaccurate, murders have happened in the Borough, it was the speed of my delivery. I could have said that people are dying by the knife and that would have been accurate. I don't believe that I misled them, there are murders happening."

RB said that 3 murders took place at Chadwell Heath.

SM said "you say that but police figures say the number of knife crime is decreasing."

RB said that he can see that knife crime is happening.

SM said "but you were talking about murders [in this statement]."

RB said that he didn't trust the figures and that he had made a Freedom of Information Act request and had different figures returned.

SM said that the Monitoring Officer would need to see those figures. SM said that if RB's figures were different, that was important.

RB said he also had figures from local papers.

SM clarified that the police figures show that there were no murders in the period RB was talking about.

RB said that there were figures from the Met police coming out at that time, showing that there were murders in London.

SP said that RB's statement was in relation to Barking and Dagenham, and not London as a whole.

SM agreed and said that it was important to compare figures before this can be investigated further and asked RB to provide the documentation.

**SM Question 12. What would you say in response to the proposition that the comments which form the subject matter of this investigation would have had the effect of undermining the public's trust and confidence in Local Government and in the Police?**

RB said that he doesn't believe this to be the case. He said the police don't have the resources. It doesn't undermine the police as the police don't have the power to deal with this.

SM asked whether RB thought his comments undermined politicians?

RB said "no, politicians should say what is happening. They should tell people that they should petition government to solve this problem. I feed back to the community what is happening in real life."

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RB said that parents say to him that the police can't do anything because they have no resources, and therefore what is the point of me complaining because the police are not able to do anything.

SP said that he thought the interview should go deeper at this point. "I accept what you are saying, but whenever you provide factual data, you have (as a politician) got to make sure that this is accurate. If you say there have been two murders and there hasn't, this will raise the fear of crime. This is what is in contention. No one is questioning your role as a politician, but if you rely on information to make a point, this must be accurate."

RB said "I accept that, but I could have made lots of other reports if I'd wanted to undermine police and the Borough. If I had to go through this again, I would do it again, but making sure it was accurate." RB said his comments were to show that this is happening, it was not enough for politicians to say it is all going nicely.

SM said that he thought that completed the questioning and asked RB if he had any questions.

RB said that his actions weren't intentional.

SM told RB that this would be dealt with independently and asked what documentation RB would like to leave for the Monitoring Officer.

RB said he would like to leave all of the evidence he had and that he had lots about knife crime in the Borough.

SM clarified whether RB would be using this as evidence to show the level of knife crime in the Borough? He asked RB to identify what relates particularly to this complaint and police statistics.

RB said he would ask Simon Darby to do this.

It was agreed that RB would submit his evidence by Friday 13 February 2009.

I have read these notes and accept them as a true and accurate record of the interview

Signed.....

Dated.....



Phone: 020 8227 4394  
Fax: 020 8227 3698  
Email: Sanjay.prashar@lbdd.gov.uk

Our address  
1 Town Square  
Barking  
Essex IG11 7LU

# Fax

<b>To:</b>	Lisa Newman	<b>From:</b>	Sanjay Prashar
<b>Fax:</b>	Recipient's fax number	<b>Date:</b>	Example: 2 March 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Subject title -notes of standards investigation interview		
<b>Pages:</b>	Number of pages including this one 6		

Urgent    For review    Please reply    Please comment

Message:



2024-2026  
Barking Library Director

63

with 18- minutes

Notes of Standards Investigation Interview with Councillor Mrs V Rush  
16 January 2009  
Committee Room 3  
Barking Town Hall  
11.30-12.30

Present: Sanjay Prashar; Deputy Head of Law; Corporate Law + Employment LBBB (SP)  
Helen Sargeant – Senior Legal Adviser Employment and Governance (HS);  
Satish Misfry Deputy Head of Law (SM) – GLA  
Elly Leathers (EL) (notes)

Councillor Mrs V Rush (VR)  
Morgan McSweeney, Political Assistant Majority Party (MM)

After introductions Satish explained what the meeting was for and how it would be conducted.

VR On/ around 24 September 2008 I found a found a video posted on Cllr Barnbrook's Daily Telegraph Blog. It had also been posted on You Tube and on his own Richard Barnbrook blog in which he attributes himself as a London Assembly member for the GLA.

I presume you have watched the video – he is seen holding up a number of newspapers and criticising articles.

What concerned me greatly is one section of the video where he says that in the three weeks prior to the video a young girl had been murdered in an educational establishment in Barking and Dagenham and that two young men had been murdered in the borough.

Because of my portfolio responsibilities I knew these statements to be false. I also felt them to be incredibly inflammatory.

Dealing with community fears/fear of crime is a responsibility that any elected member should take seriously. By stating lies on film I feel he inflamed fears in our community (not just in Barking and Dagenham but across London).

I feel when you take up public office and sign to uphold duties of office there is a code of conduct you sign up to – specific and well laid out for Barking and Dagenham / GLA.

This covers:

- Honesty and integrity
- Duty to uphold the law
- Leadership

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Lying in this manner is directly at odds with the principle to uphold the law. It seems to be attempting to undermine confidence in public safety, confidence with the police, and directly at odds with the principle of leadership.

Across London we are working hard to reassure people that the streets are safe and we are always reassuring the elderly / young people that the streets are safe and by what Councillor Barnbrook has said he has deliberately set out to inflame fear and undermine the public's trust and confidence in local government and the Police.

I watched the DVD several times and decided to make a complaint because I felt that strongly.

SM Is there anything else you would like to add?

VR (Presents letter) Written statistics from Barking & Dagenham Police identify:

2006/07	6 murders in the borough
2007/08	3 murders in the borough
2008/09	1 murder in the borough

We are talking financial years here— therefore <sup>THE</sup> only recorded murder this year was on the 19 April which was nowhere near the time span Councillor Barnbrook was referring to.

This evidence shows how far we have come in Barking and Dagenham in the fight against such crime. Lies in the video undermine the work we have done.

SM This letter is unsigned.

VR This is because it came by email. The inspector said he would send me a copy though we haven't received it. I will get a signed copy and forward it to you.

SM Anything else you would like to introduce?

VR To give you an idea of the character of the man what we have learnt in Barking and Dagenham since 2006 is the fact that he doesn't pay too much attention to the truth but will stand up and speak at great length and even if what he is saying is not the truth people will listen.

[VR refers to a letter in the local papers]

[She stated that a letter was sent (11/12/08) to two local papers (Cllr Mrs Rush read the article) and he refers to himself as both Councillor Barnbrook and Greater



London Assembly and he said it made no difference as to how many deaths there had been.]

This letter appeared in the local paper headlined 'number of murders not relevant'.

Whilst I agree arguing about numbers does not solve anything I think that it is very relevant <sup>WHAT</sup> the simple fact that there were no murders. There is a big difference between <sup>is</sup> no murders and one or three.

HS How did you come across the blog?

VR Politically – I am the Labour group's secretary. I sweep through a number of blogs on a daily basis.

HS How well read do you think these blogs are?

VR They are. – VERY

MM We had a resident labour party member tell us about the blog. Don't know what the number of hits are though.

VR It is on You Tube as well. There are links to his political party on his blogs so people who are not politically minded, looking at You Tube may pick up the blog. Regarding the number of hits, it appears to be well used.

MM It is easy to find on google. It wasn't difficult to find on You Tube.

SP Is the video still on the blog.

VR It is on all of them.

HR Why do you think it brings the council into disrepute?

VR When we have had a murder, not the last April, but the year before, we work with the Police and there is an awful lot of effort by the Partnership on community reassurance. Myself/Police will go into the community and reinforce community message. We have done a lot of that over the last two and a half years. Community have been responding well to reassurance message. Great relationships have built up with the Police. There is a trusted messenger relationship across the borough.

This throws that all off side. I have had people come up to me and say three murders – what are you keeping from us? I have had to say that they did not take place, but we are on the back-foot. When we have come so far in good community relations and our young people are engaging with the Police, it is frustrating to then have to say that this did not actually happen.

Another example: Councillor Barnbrook is very good at inflaming situations. We have had an incident of TB in a primary school. We had one case. Once again Councillor Barnbrook has inflamed the community. He was at the school filming children. Parents demanded he turned the cameras off. He would have you believe that all the children had TB. It makes people fearful.

SM Can I ask – in your perception that there is anything particular in relation to Councillor Barnbrook's own position that makes it important for him to be careful what he says?

MM Fear of crime is the main issue in boroughs. There is a disparity between actual and fear of crime. Not just a reputational problem. Affects quality of life of all people in borough. People won't engage. Young people are more inclined to join gangs when there is a perception of crime. Also affects business. Older people are likely to leave their house after dark. If you come to the town centre in the evening it is remarkably quiet, and therefore this affects the borough. UNLIKE

Councillor Barnbrook is not currently the leader of the opposition but he was in 2006. There is now a new Leader of the Opposition who does not have the same profile as Councillor Barnbrook. The BNP's reputation is taken very seriously and they are a legitimate party. Councillor Barnbrook does hold sway with a good number of people in Barking and Dagenham. I think that in other boroughs people would also be able to pick out Richard Barnbrook. He then uses that profile to inflame situations and uses topics such as murder.

SM If there is credible evidence that fear of crime has increased more here than in other London boroughs and also you said that when this is discussed it increases people's anxiety levels. If you could provide evidence of this that would be useful.

VR We can get that.

SM Do you think Councillor Barnbrook made his comments knowing them to be false or is he just misconceived?

VR He made the comments knowingly. I don't have a personal assistant, someone who proof reads press statements – Councillor Barnbrook, as an assembly member, has far more access to correct and accurate information.

MM In his letter he acknowledges the evidence is wrong yet leaves the information on his website.

MM At worst he is lying, at best, it is a disregard for the truth. It is reckless and irresponsible without checking with the police and council. If he had checked with the Police and local authority, they would have confirmed the facts as being untrue.



The BNP is different to elsewhere in Britain. It is seen as credible, so when he says something like that a lot of people would believe him.

SM So you are saying that it is not that it is Councillor Barnbrook, but also because he is an influential politician. *THIS IS NOT WHAT WE I SAID - IT IS BECAUSE HE IS NOT ONLY CLLR BARNBROOK BUT ALSO ASSEMBLY MAN AND BELIEVE.*

SP Are you able to give examples of people approaching you regarding the blog? *MAN AND BELIEVE.*

VR A number of examples. It is very hard to deal with people's perception of crime. The only way you can do that is by being very honest with people. It is about reassurance and then people's perceptions change. We have seen it in other boroughs where people start to feel safe. We have now got to say we have to change people's perceptions. Changing people's perceptions is very difficult. *BY SOME BE AN INFLUENTIA POLITICIAN*

SM One last thing. In terms of outcomes, as the complainant what would you like to see as an outcome? *BUT WE ARE CONSTANTLY WORKING ON THIS*

VR I think I would like a public apology to the residents of Barking and Dagenham and London. I think that a period of time of cooling off until Councillor/Assemblyman Barnbrook understands that there are certain standards for elected members that he has to abide by. For example, sitting outside the Chamber for a couple of months. *SUSPENSION*

VR Impact also on his role as Assembly Member. I cannot see how you can impose on one and not the other - I assume that the standards are the same at the GLA and at LBBB.

SM If the matter proceeds, it will be a matter for the respective Standard Committees.

We will put together a transcript and send to you. If you could get it back to us by the following week with any other evidence. When it comes to producing a draft report we will invite your comments at that stage.

End of interview.

I have read these notes and accept them as a true and accurate record of the interview

Signed *V. Rush* WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS

Dated *7.2.09*

**Sent:** 01 April 2009 17:39  
**To:** Prashar Sanjay  
**Subject:** Fw: Serious Violence information

Sanjay

I am sorry this has taken a little time to get the information to you but I am sure you will understand the police pressures at the moment

I am now confident that the information provided by Inspector Boyle. Below evidences that there were NO individuals on life support during the period Cllr Barnbrook refers to in his evidence/interview

Cllr Val Rush

**From:** Hugh.Boyle@met.pnn.police.uk  
**To:** Councillor Rush, Valerie  
**Sent:** Wed Apr 01 17:31:12 2009  
**Subject:** Serious Violence information

Val,

The following information taken from the CRIS crime reports relate to offences classified as Most Serious Violence (MSV) reported in the period 1 - 24 September 2008 for Barking & Dagenham Borough.

- a) 17 offences are classified as MSV - these are either injury to head or cuts to the body ( based on revised Home Office counting rules)
- b) all the injuries were subsequently deemed non-serious.
- c) apart from hospital admissions for triage purposes, there were no critical injuries requiring intensive care ( on life support).

Regards

Hugh

H Boyle

Inspector

P & R Unit - KG

755557

07801 794672

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Councillor Rush, Valerie [mailto:Valerie.Rush@lbbd.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 31 March 2009 17:15

**To:** Boyle Hugh - KG

**Subject:** RE: Your request - what is needed !

**Importance:** High

Hugh,

Could you please provide me with the following information please.

Information is requested on the number of victims of recorded serious violence ( Most Serious Violence) on Barking & Dagenham Borough between 1 - 24 September 2008. I am particularly interested in the number who sustained such serious injuries that they were hospitalised, including those on life support machine/ in intensive care.

Thank you

Regards,

Cllr Val Rush

Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods  
and Communities

Tele No. 0208 595 1587

email: val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk

From:

\*\*\*\*\*

It is the policy of the MPS that:

MPS personnel (or agents working on behalf of the MPS) must not use MPS systems to author, transmit or store documents such as electronic mail (e-mail) messages or attachments:

- \* containing racist, homophobic, sexist, defamatory, offensive, illegal or otherwise inappropriate material;
- \* containing material requiring a protective marking higher than RESTRICTED, (and not higher than NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED across the internet) without the use of approved encryption;
- \* containing personal data for use other than in accordance with the notification(s) under the Data Protection Act, 1998 of the system(s) from which the data originates.
- \* This Email message has been scanned for viruses and contents.

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E-mail confidentiality notice. This message is intended for the addressees only. It may be private, confidential and may be covered by legal professional privilege or other confidentiality requirements. All communications sent to or from this organisation may be subject to recording or monitoring in accordance with relevant legislation. If you are not one of the intended recipients, please notify the sender immediately on +44 0 20-8215-3000 and delete the message from all locations in your computer network. Do not copy this email or use it for any purpose or disclose its contents to any person: to do so maybe unlawful.

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- \* containing personal data for use other than in accordance with the notification(s) under the Data Protection Act, 1998 of the system(s) from which the data originates.
- \* This Email message has been scanned for viruses and contents.

\*\*\*\*\*

70

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[Click here to report this email as spam](#)

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From: Councillor Rush, Valerie

Sent: Wed 18/03/2009 19:42

To: Prashar Sanjay

Subject: RE: Investigation Report

Thank you Sanjay, I fully understand the position. There are another couple of comments I will advise you on and its up to you what is done with them.

Cllr Barnbrook refers to 2 individuals who he states were on life support, and who did not die, when he made the blog.

Can I please advise you that to my certain knowledge bearing in mind that I am always briefed by the Borough Commander on all critical incidents when they happen in the borough, that during the timescale that Cllr Barnbrook was referring to in the video there were no such incidents or individuals.

The Only incident where a young man was stabbed in the borough and then driven to Newham by his friends before calling an ambulance and police, and who did end up on life support and was very lucky to recover happened just before Christmas.

So well outside the time that your investigation was covering.

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Regards,

Cllr Val Rush

Executive Member for Safer Neighbourhoods

and Communities

Tele No. 0208 595 1587

email: [val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:val.rush@lbbd.gov.uk)

Response to Investigation Report  
Case Reference: Sept-05/MC9/08

I have read the above report into the allegation made against me by Councillor Rush and wish to make the following points:

- I accept the general validity of the complaint but do not accept that the inaccuracy of my statement was deliberate.
- I did not know that the data contained in the recording was incorrect. I would not have posted the recording if I had known that it was incorrect.
- Once I realised that the data was incorrect, the recording was removed from the Internet on my instruction within 24 hours.
- Although I knew that the video was to be used for some purpose, I did not know the exact timing or media that would be used to convey it.
- The speed to the delivery of the report, \_\_\_\_\_ meant that some of the remarks I had intended to make, did not come out as I had intended them.
- I had meant to say that one girl from Barking and Dagenham had been murdered in Newham, not that she had been murdered within the Barking and Dagenham borough.
- The other two cases I mentioned were attempted murders and, at the time, the victims were in intensive care. Very fortunately these victims pulled through.
- When I stated that these were "murders" I had actually meant "attempted murders". This was not picked up in the editing of the report.
- The message I was trying to convey, in filming the report, was that knife crime in the borough of Barking and Dagenham is rife and proportionately one of the highest in London. My intention in highlighting this was to make people aware of this in order to engage and encourage them to join in combating the problem rather than to frighten people or to criticise the Metropolitan Police.
- The Metropolitan Police statistics that they publish are inaccurate.
- I apologise for passing on information that was incorrect. It had not been my intention to mislead anyone and the inaccuracies were unintentional.
- I do not apologise for trying to highlight a genuine problem in order to encourage something to be done about it.
- I consider that the complaint is part of a political campaign against me.

Richard Barnbrook

15 April 2009