

Your

Our reference: Mapperton

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**DPA**

Dear

Now that the trials of Mr Starling, Mr Davies and Mr Prescott have been concluded, I am writing to you for two reasons. First, I wish to place on record, my sincere appreciation for the assistance that you provided. My staff and I never cease to be impressed by the examples of courage we see from private witnesses.

Mr Prescott pleaded guilty to 4 counts of Indecent assault on four former residents of St Leonard's. He received a reduced sentence of 2 years for pleading guilty. He will be registered on the Sex offenders register for the next 10 years.

The proceedings against Mr Davies, unfortunately due to reasons beyond the control of this investigation, were stayed on the directions of the judge. The judge felt there was a real danger that Mr Davies would not get a fair trial. Mr Davies has not been found not guilty of these offences and the judge said that the case had been properly brought. It was with great regret he stayed the proceedings against Mr Davies as it was in the public interest for this case to be heard. The charges have been ordered to be not to be proceeded with and to lie on Mr Davies' file.

These matters cannot be re tried without the court of appeal granting leave for these matters to be resurrected, which is a very rare occurrence. We are not able to appeal against the judge's decision to stay the proceedings.

The reasons behind the stay of proceedings are as follows:

- 1) There were problems with the police investigation in 1995. This was a small-scale enquiry that failed to produce sufficient evidence for a successful prosecution. The videos from which the statements were prepared have been lost and the videos may have provided material to assist Mr Davies in his defence.
- 2) The tapes of the police interviews in relation to the allegations made in 1995 & 1996 of Mr Davies and Mr Prescott in 1995 have been lost.

- 3) Some people who may have given crucial defence evidence for Mr Davies are dead and no statement was ever been taken from them when they were alive in 1995. When this enquiry started both persons had died. The statements from Stewart Leamy and Sam Gow were necessary to rebut allegations of collusion and to show what previous investigations had been undertaken on Mr Davies by Sam Gow when he was working for Tower Hamlets.

The judge acknowledged that the victims whilst in care had no one to who they could go to and have told what was happening, also the difficulties experienced by victims in coming forward after a length a time and the fear of being disbelieved. The same judge also presided over the case against Mr Starling, who was convicted of 19 counts on 11 former residents at St Leonard's and a Tower Hamlets home in Basildon. He was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

Secondly, you may be aware that you are entitled to apply for an award under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which is operated by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, (CICA). Your interest in this case has already been registered with the CICA. If you wish to participate in the scheme an application form to the CICA is enclosed.

Many applicants find the services of a Solicitor useful when it comes to making such an application. There are of course, a number of Solicitors who specialise in this type of work and their details are retained by the Association of Child Abuse Lawyers (ACAL), PO Box 466, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5YY. Their telephone number is **DPA** or they are available via email on [www.childabuselawyers.com](http://www.childabuselawyers.com). Upon application by you, ACAL will forward a list of qualified lawyers.

You may feel that you have a claim against the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, if you do our advice is to contact ACAL whose details are given in the paragraph above.

You can be assured that we will continue to offer assistance to you where possible. If you require any help in filling out the CICA form or any enquiries you may have, please do not hesitate to contact a member of my staff. Although these trials have concluded investigations into Tower Hamlets children's homes are ongoing.

Operation Mapperton