

Slough Borough Council
Iken Quicknote

Date: 10 March 2011

Client: SBC Slough Borough Council

Matter: 013250-COR-290 - Standards Investigation - SBC23 Councillor Dhillon

Name: Kuldip K Channa (T: 01753 875189 E: kuldip.channa@slough.gov.uk)

Meeting with Steve Wagner;

I asked him to recall the details of 26 May 2010 again; he described the same situation again that he was the last person in the office that day and he took a telephone call from Cllor Dhillon;

asking him again to cast his mind right back carefully and he said what he had said was what he remembered about who telephoned who that evening.

Advising him that following his prompt to me to check the telephone records about a week or so ago I did have those telephone records checked.

I then showed him a copy of the telephone records from Tony Gorski for the 26 May 2010 between 1600 -1900 hours; I directed him to the calls made from his telephone extension and advised him that the call at 17:40:31 was to Cllor Dhillon's mobile telephone.

He looked very shocked and held his hands in his head. He said he was "gobsmacked"; and shook his head and then went onto say "I would have put my mortgage on it that he phoned me". He looked at the records again and said, "but obviously I am wrong; I have to accept I am wrong and I must have called him but I cannot remember why I would have done so; I had no reason to do so; I can only speculate now that I must have recieved a message to call him but that is me speculating now, as I cannot honestly remember calling him. I remember how difficult he was."

I asked him to tell me how messages are provided to team members. He said it was a combination of verbal information, messages on a piece of paper and an electronic message template.

Steve Wagner then said that he tends to keep most of his messages so he went to see if there was a note of anything from Cllor Dhillon for 26 May 2010.

He came back about five minutes later and said there was nothing he could find in his notes to ring Cllor Dhillon. He further said that he did used to record things in his diaries and he used to keep all his diaries but when the team moved to Airways House, those diaries were thrown away.

He studied the telephone records again and said he was "deeply embarrassed" but he was not concerned about holding his hands up and saying he was wrong in remembering who called who that evening.

We briefly discussed process options and he will speak to his manager and provide me with any further details by Monday 14 March. He is conscious that he will be leaving SBC

on 21 March. He has no problem about coming back for the hearing on 28 March. He has indicated that he would like to press ahead with his complaint but that in the light of the new information and as matter of courtesy he may just need to discuss the situation with his manager as he does not want there to be any impact on his team. He was very apologetic about his mistake.

Having assessed the situation I am of the view that Steve Wagner has made a genuine mistake. He prompted me to check telephone records when I had quizzed him about whether he had called Clor Dhillion as he was convinced that he had simply answered the telephone that evening. I am not sure if a person who had anything to conceal would have taken this action. I am inclined to accept that what he said at his first interview is how he remembered the telephone call.

KKC.