

**BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS  
PRESS RELEASE  
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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

**CPS DECIDE TO PROSECUTE POLICE OFFICER  
FOR RACIALLY AGGRAVATED PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCE**

The CPS has announced that it has decided after all to instigate a prosecution of a police officer for a racially aggravated public order offence in relation to his conduct towards Mr Mauro Demetrio on 11 August 2011.

Michael Oswald of Bhatt Murphy, who acts for Mr Demetrio, said:

“We welcome the decision of the CPS to instigate a criminal prosecution of PC Alex McFarlane of Forest Gate Police Station in relation to Mr Demetrio.

“We regret that it required Mr Demetrio to challenge their initial refusal to prosecute before the CPS was able and willing to recognise the patently flawed nature of that original decision.

“However, now that they have belatedly chosen to do the right thing, we – like Mr Demetrio himself – look to the CPS to do their job properly in the conduct of the prosecution of PC McFarlane all the way through to the trial. In the process, we hope that justice may be seen to be done, so that some semblance of confidence in the criminal justice system may yet be salvaged for Mr Demetrio and those many others who tend to find themselves in his position.

“Mr Demetrio’s efforts have helped to shine a light on a pattern of failures within the CPS in their handling of cases where complaints have been made against the police. In that light, we call upon the CPS and the DPP to initiate two inquiries:

- ❑ First, an inquiry into the circumstances – including apparent failures of supervision and quality control – in which the original reviewing lawyer in this case was permitted to reach a decision which was so clearly and patently flawed, against the weight of all the evidence presented to him.
- ❑ Secondly, and more generally, a more wide ranging inquiry into the handling of complaints against police within the CPS, to ensure that those tasked with the responsibility of upholding the rule of law and their decision making processes in relation to such complaints are fit for purpose. “

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