

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors

PRESS RELEASE

23 December 2011

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE APOLOGISE AND PAY £20,250 FOR WRONGFUL ARREST AND ASSAULT ON BLACK MAN

Mr Philip Abrahams, a former further education lecturer, has forced an apology and substantial damages out of Nottinghamshire Police as a result of his claim for assault, false imprisonment, race discrimination and breaches of his human rights following an incident in October 2009.

It was Mr Abrahams' case that he was driving in his car when PC Brough, an officer of Nottinghamshire Police, stopped him without good reason. Unable to provide proof of his identity he got out of his car to which he was handcuffed, thrown to the ground in full view of the public, and arrested wrongfully before being taken to Bridewell Police Station where he received a warning before being released without charge. In the course of these events, Mr Abrahams sustained a deep wound to his wrist which required stitches as a result of the way in which the handcuffs were used by the officer.

In response to the claim brought on behalf of Mr Abrahams, Nottinghamshire Police have acknowledged that the officer's actions were unlawful and apologised in the following terms:

"I understand that on this day you were stopped by PC Brough, an officer acting under the direction and control of Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police. During the course of your interaction with PC Brough, unlawful force was used upon you and you were unlawfully detained. In the course of this incident you sustained injuries. I accept that this experience and its aftermath have had a significant impact on you and have damaged your perception of Nottinghamshire Police".

Philip Abrahams said:

"This incident has had a big impact on me. This officer's actions caused me physical injury and left me feeling humiliated and deeply distrustful of the police. The wrong done to me can never be repaired, but I hope this case will serve as a lesson to PC Brough and his fellow officers that casual violence has no place in routine dealings with the public; that everyone is entitled to be treated with respect, regardless of colour or creed. I also hope to put these events behind me and move on with my life".

Sophie Naftalin of Bhatt Murphy, solicitors for Philip Abrahams said:

"Mr Abrahams' case is only one of all too many cases that we see where police officers seem willing to abuse their powers in contempt of the rule of law. The outcome here is a tribute to Mr Abrahams' determination to remind all officers that, one way or another, they will be held to account for their actions".

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