

BHATT MURPHY SOLICITORS

**JORDAN WALKER-BROWN:
TASERED, HOSPITALISED BUT DETERMINED TO SEEK JUSTICE!**

Jordan Walker-Brown, a young black man left paralysed from the chest down after being tasered by the police, has spoken out for the first time about his determination to hold officers to account for what they have done to him:

“I am a young black man, living in Tottenham in North London. Until 4 May 2020, I was in good health. On that day, aged 24 years, I had an encounter with police officers of the Metropolitan Police Territorial Support Group (TSG) on Burgoyne Road in Haringey. As a result, I find myself in hospital, paralysed from chest down. Why?”

“In short, I tried to run away when the TSG officers came out of a police van that pulled up near me – they chased me and then tasered me as I tried to jump over a wall in order to get away from them. As a result, I fell some distance to the ground, and I have been told that I have suffered serious life changing injuries, including complete or permanent damage to my spinal cord.

“I do not pretend to be anyone other than myself: I ran from the police because I had a small amount of cannabis in my possession for personal use – and I had fresh in my mind the memory of a similar encounter with TSG officers only the previous day when I was arrested, mistreated and charged for possession of a similar amount of cannabis.

“I recognise that, as the law stands, the police were allowed to stop me if they had reason to believe that I had cannabis in my possession. However, I also know that I would not have been the subject of any police attention – on either day – if I had not been a young black man. And I know – from my own personal experience as a young black man – that I always have to be very careful and very fearful of being alone with police officers in a police van: that is an experience to be avoided if at all possible for the sake of my own safety, as most black men know from their encounters with the police.

“I recognise also that the law allowed the police to chase me when I tried to run away from them. But what they were not entitled to do is to use a taser on me when they knew that I did not pose any threat to them whatsoever: I was running away from them! And I was running away from them precisely because of the threat they posed to me and my safety: a threat that, as a young black man, I could not afford to ignore. I know that I could have easily joined the long line of other black men who have died at the hands of the police: those like Roger Sylvester and Mark Duggan whose fate was a lesson for those like me who grew up in Tottenham and elsewhere.

“I have been told that I shall not be able to walk again because of what the police did to me, but I am determined to prove them wrong, just as I am determined to prove that the police are not above the law.

“I am speaking out now about what the police have done to me because I want them to know that what they did was wrong; that they will have to answer for their actions; that people like me matter; that black lives matter!”

Raju Bhatt, the solicitor acting for Jordan Walker-Brown, said:

“What happened to Jordan reflects a pattern of increased use of tasers by the police which follows the recent rollout of these weapons to rank-and-file officers across the country. What we see are the dangers of arming officers with tasers when the guidance given to them is vague, and individual officers are left to exercise judgment which we know from experience results in the detriment – including serious injury and even death – of black men on our streets.”

24/06/2020

**Please direct any enquiries by e-mail to:
Raju Bhatt (r.bhatt@bhattmurphy.co.uk)**

Bhatt Murphy
10 Tyssen Street
London E8 2FE

Tel: 020 7729 1115
Fax: 020 7729 1117
www.bhattmurphy.co.uk