

Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:56:37 AM
To: Free Speech Union <info@freespeechunion.org>
Subject: RE: Letter concerning Ms Hatun Tash

Dear Mr Young

Thank you for your email received in the Commissioner's office.

With regards to the incident concerning Ms Hatun Tash, as referred to in your letter, I'm afraid I cannot find any relevant details of such an arrest in the last few months, on our records. While I would be unable to discuss any ongoing investigation or case with you, particularly if you are unconnected with the investigation or the victim/suspect themselves, I can ensure that any such concerns are immediately referred to the senior managers within the relevant department and Borough Command Unit for review and response as would be appropriate.

If you are therefore able to provide me with any further specifics that would allow me to identify this incident, I can ensure the above as soon as reasonably possible.

With regards to your final question regarding training of officers around free speech and their ability to use police powers in public order situations, I can assure you that our Learning & Development Unit, within the Hendon training college (and elsewhere through relevant academic-partnership) has developed and disseminated training specific to all public order situations, hate crime, racially aggravated and motivated offences and other relevant legislation (such a PACE) that allows officers to exercise their powers proportionately, legally and in a fully accountable manner. Any breaches, identified either through complaints and/or via officers' body cam footage, are immediately referred to our Directorate of Professional Standards and dealt with proportionately, with due consideration towards the need for a misconduct investigation if necessary.

The above is part of a specifically structured education program which covers both in-classroom and on-patrol training for all new recruits (including our Special Constables) and is further complimented with regular online learning for appropriate refreshment of knowledge as and when necessary. It is also mandatory for new recruits to complete a full work-based assessment portfolio, signed off by a supervisor and further checked by an L&D trainer to ensure the officer is suitable to achieve independent patrol status (IPS). All of the above, forms part of our normal 2year probationary period, during which officers are regularly tested and their work scrutinised by senior managers.

Additionally, all specific public order deployments of officers is also normally accompanied with a briefing on the situation requiring policing and relevant legislation to any offences identified or apparent.

I am sorry that you feel that your colleague has been treated unfairly. While I cannot go into details, both for lack of specific information, as well as due to the possibility that the investigation may still be ongoing (particularly, if Ms Tash's property has not yet been returned to her); I can advise you that the Met would take any complaints against our officers and their actions very seriously and aim to deal with them proportionately. Once the case is concluded therefore, and Ms Tash feels that she is dissatisfied with the service she have received from the Met Police, or the actions of the officer who may have arrested her, I would encourage her to visit the website below that will provide guidance on how you can register a complaint:

<https://www.met.police.uk/feedback/thanks-and-complaints/>. She can also do so by dialling 101 or attending the local police station with a public front counter.

I'm sorry I am unable to provide further guidance or advise in this matter, but as mentioned above, I can ensure that any relevant and specific information that allows me to identify this case specifically, is immediately passed to the relevant senior managers to review and respond as soon as reasonably possible.

Thank you for taking the time to write in.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Detective Inspector

Staff Officer to Commissioner Cressida Dick

New Scotland Yard, Victoria Embankment, London. SW1A 2JL

