



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

Specialist Operations

RECEIVED JJ-3699-8
20 MAR 2014

Baroness Jenny Jones

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE12AA

SCO12 - AC Private Office &
Business Support
SCO12 AC Private Office &
Business Support

1130
New Scotland Yard
10 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

Telephone:
Facsimile:
Email:
www.met.police.uk

Your ref:
Our ref:

5 March 2014

Dear Baroness Jones,

Thank you for your letter dated the 11th February 2014.

I have been asked on behalf of the Commissioner to respond to your letter and provide you with answers to your questions relating to the incident at the Bethlem Hospital on the 1st October 2012.

That evening, police were called to the Norbury Ward of the Bethlem Hospital by staff reporting that they were being attacked by patients, some of whom had armed themselves with weapons.

Local officers deployed to the scene and a decision was quickly made by the Duty Inspector that due to the seriousness of the situation, specialist support was required in order to safely manage the situation. Armed response vehicles responded to this incident as they were the nearest available unit with a Taser capability. You will recall that at this time, only firearms officers and TSG were the only units equipped with Taser.

The Commissioner's reserve of TSG was deployed to resolve this incident and when they arrived they effectively took over from the ARV's. I would stress that they ARV's never left the rendezvous point. As you may be aware the Commissioners reserve operate as a single unit of 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 21 PCs. This of course would contribute to the seemingly large number of officers on scene at the incident. However, only officers from the TSG entered the ward and although 4 officers had their Taser drawn, through effective use verbal commands they safely resolved the situation without any further use of force. I can also confirm that the Dog support units did not deploy on to the ward.

As is usual in such operations, the matter was debriefed but has not been the subject of any further review. Given all the circumstances I do not feel it appropriate to make any documents relating to this publically available.

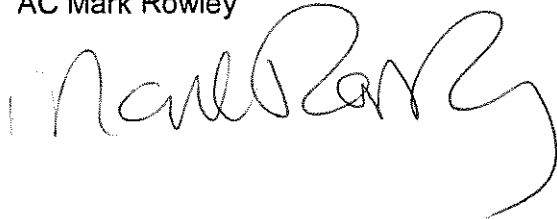
I am sorry that you have heard that this incident has damaged the confidence of black Londoners in relation to policing and mental health. This scale of incident is quite rare, in fact the MPS has reduced the number of calls that it attends at health based places of safety by

70%, but I remain concerned that police officers are being asked to carry out restraint in mental health facilities. To try to resolve this, protocols between health service managers and police Duty Officers are currently being developed. This work is being taken forward by Commander Christine Jones who would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further. Unfortunately there is no current time frame for this work to be completed.

I hope this answers the points you have raised in your letter and provides some reassurance as to the professional way in which this difficult situation was resolved.

Yours sincerely,

AC Mark Rowley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rowley', written in a cursive style.