

DEATH OF SHEKU BAYOU

Kirkcaldy 22/05/2015

**MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY IMPACT AND REASSURANCE GROUP, LAY ADVISORS' SUB
GROUP MEETING**

Kirkcaldy Police Station, 1000 hours, 22th May, 2015

Attendees Maciej Dukurno (Fife Migrant Forum), Azmet Sayed (lay advisor legacy Central Scotland Police), Chief Inspector Shepherd (Local Area Commander), Insp. Alan Seath and PS Jimmy Adamson.

Summary of discussion

Maciej Dukurno (Fife Migrant Forum), Azmet Sayed (lay advisor legacy Central Scotland Police), Chief Inspector Shepherd (Local Area Commander), Insp. Seath and PS Adamson were present during the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Chief Inspector Shepherd and took place within Chief Insp. Shepherd's office.

Chief Inspector Shepherd provided a verbal summary of what had been discussed during the last meeting with the lay advisors (14/5). The officer explained that PS Adamson had recorded the minutes from the meeting and that PS Adamson would forward the minutes, via email, to those who had attended the previous meeting as soon as possible.

When the group had last met the deceased's family had held a press conference. Chief Inspector Shepherd provided the attendees with a brief summary of the response made by the Police Federation after the press conference.

Chief Inspector Shepherd said that the Daily Record had contacted Police Scotland with a series of questions, which the paper were requesting responses to, in relation to the death. The Chief Inspector detailed that Police Scotland were not in a position to make any comments to the request as the matter was being investigated by PIRC.

Dukurno said that making no comment could be viewed with suspicion by the public. He suggested that it may be prudent for Police Scotland to provide an account of the role of the PIRC and the reason why Police Scotland cannot make any comments about the case to the media, rather than having no dialogue with the press whatsoever. Chief Inspector Shepherd said that she would contact Corporate Communications to discuss this matter further and that she would report this back to the group at a later date. Sayed agreed that the public would benefit from more information and asked whether the police were using social media. Chief Inspector Shepherd said that at both a national and local level the police were very good at using social media however were completely restricted in posting using the medium in relation to the death because the investigation was being conducted by the PIRC. Dukurno mentioned that it may be useful if the Police Federation made a further statement covering the role of the PIRC and the reason that Police Scotland could not comment about the investigation. He went onto remark that it was important that the police officers, working in the

community, were briefed in relation to what they could say when asked. Chief Inspector Shepherd said that she would contact PIRC in relation to a form of words that could be used in such situations.

Inspector Seath said that he had recently contacted the elected members, by phone, to provide an update, whilst at the same time assess any concerns that they may have, particularly in relation to community tensions. He said that the elected members had not highlighted any issues in relation to community tensions however there was a general feeling that there was lack of information surrounding the death and that the elected members could not understand why Police Scotland were not commenting about the incident.

Sayed mentioned that the death had featured in a Glasgow newspaper, purchased generally by the muslim community and that the article had criticised the police. He did not go into detail however said that he would email a copy of the article to Chief Inspector Shepherd. He went onto say that he had links to the African community in Glasgow and that certain sections of that community were concerned that the police had done something wrong.

In response to this and other concerns about a lack of communication the Chief Inspector said that she would take a task to prepare and send out a form of words to elected members, explaining why the police cannot make any comment about the death and detailing the role of the PIRC, which would hopefully alleviate concerns in the public domain.

Inspector Seath mentioned to the group that he had spent some time the previous day speaking to corporate communications about a press release being issued by Police Scotland. Whilst Corporate Communications said that they would highlight the work being carried out by officers at a local level, it was made clear to the officer that no statement would be made in relation to the death, at this time.

Chief Inspector Shepherd told the group that there was a car wash event on 23/5/15 and an event at Blue Mondays night club on 31/5 to raise funds for legal costs.

PS Adamson told the attendees that officers from the local community wards policing team had recently visited the mosque at Cumbrae Terrace, Kirkcaldy. The officers had spoken to adults and several children and there was nothing to suggest to the officers that there was any community tension.

It was agreed that the sub group would meet again during the week commencing 25/5/15.