Our Ref: HC/CO/17/18

Your ref:

Date:3/02/2018

## PRIVATE

Dear Mr. Wild,

Re: **COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE**

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the complaint you recently made against the conduct of PC Blight and PS Stanbridge members of Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

You were contacted by Inspector Norman of the **Local Policing Area**  who advised you they would look into the complaint and respond direct to you.

Inspector Norman, has now investigated the circumstances which led to your dissatisfaction being expressed. This has included obtaining accounts from the person(s) who are subject of your complaint. I also examined relevant police records. A copy of this report is enclosed.

**Nature of complaint**

PC Blight -  failed to act in line with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1984,

the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and DEFRA codes of practice, when dealing with a report of

a decomposing fox found in a snare.

PC Blight -  in finding no evidence failed to contact you to get more detail

of the location and instead contacted the landowner, resulting in evidence being

missed/disposed of and no possibiity of a prosecution.

PS Stanbridge, Wildlife Officer gave incorrect advice to a colleague on how to deal with a

report of a decomposing fox found in a snare.

**Details of Local Resolution Action Plan outlined by Investigating Officer**

I have investigated the fact that PC Blight failed to act in line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1984 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and DEFRA Codes of practice. I have examined the crime report 5217289035 which records his actions and spoken to him about the incident. He was unaware of the DEFRA Codes of practice and did not discuss these with the landowner. I have asked him to re-attend and do so.

Unfortunately, due to his actions at the time we have no evidence to proceed with a prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Animal Welfare Act 2006. I have arranged for him to receive further training on these to Acts to avoid this happening again. Along with the rest of the team so that the knowledge gap in this area is filled.

In relation, to PC Blight, not contacting you to obtain further information at the time. I have spoken to PC Blight and he admits he did not do this and this was a failing on his part for which he apologises.

In relation to the advice provided by PS Stanbridge the Wildlife Officer who reviewed the complaint when it was first reported I have reviewed his entries on the call card and he does give detailed information about the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Animal Welfare Act 2006. I am satisfied he gave the correct advice.

I hope that you are satisfied with how we resolved your complaint, and that any future contact you may have with us will be straightforward. I apologise that you had to complain initially and hope that I have addressed all of your concerns.

If you remain dissatisfied you have a right to appeal my investigation or my decisions. Your right of appeal is to the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset. Please note if you do wish to appeal, you need to notify the Avon and Somerset Professional Standards Department, within 28 days following the date of this letter, as an appeal received after that date may not be considered.

Should you wish to appeal, you can submit your appeal via our website at [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/complaints/appeal-against-the-outcome-of-your-complaint/](https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/complaints/appeal-against-the-outcome-of-your-complaint/). Alternatively, you can Phone the Professional Standards Department’s Administration office on 01278 646600 and ask us to send you the forms. Please note that you must return the completed appeal forms within the 28 days deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Inspector Kevan Rowlands

**Response Team 3**

**Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

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