

PLACE: Liverpool City Council, 33 Moore Street, Liverpool
DATE: 28 May 2015
NAME: Frank Bono
OCCUPATION: Ranger

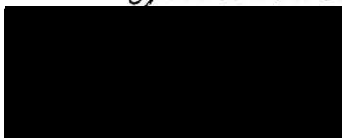
1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court/Inquiry as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. I am a Ranger employed by Liverpool City Council and have been so for 5 years.
3. Of late a large part of my duties involves investigation of illegal land fill matters.
4. Recently, I have been involved with investigating several matters that Council had to take jurisdiction back from the RID squad.
5. Over the past year and a half I began to notice a trend with matters that had previously been investigated by one RID squad officer in particular namely; Craig Izzard.
6. The nature of these concerns were that jobs were Craig had been previously investigating and had indicated that they had been dealt with kept coming back to Council with fresh complaints from members of the public.
7. I would phone him and ask him what was going on with particular matters and he would say things like;
 - "I've issued a clean-up notice.";
 - "I've issued fines.";
 - "the owner has complied and removed the fill."
8. Because Council had received fresh complaints I would ask him to provide copies of things including clean up notices that he had issued so that I could respond back to complainants.
9. In response to my enquires, Craig never refused to provide me with information but instead said things like he'd go back out and deal with the issue.
10. Craig would also ask me to provide him with the details of the persons who had made the fresh complaints to Council.
11. I would also routinely send Craig requests for information and updates on matters and he would respond with very generic responses saying things like that he had holidays, he'd look for it and get back to me etc but he never really provided me with any information that I had requested.



12. Regarding ^{the} matter were Craig told me that owner had complied (and provided tipping receipts etc) I started to do my own investigations including checking Council's 'Nearmaps' and would see that the fill had not been removed and that it was actually often worse (more fill had been brought.)
13. I brought the matter to my Manager's attention and she had a meeting with the RID squad in which Council indicated that it was taking back all of the land fill matters in the Liverpool area.
14. Council did take back control of all land fill investigations and I have personally taken carriage of several of them.
15. On one occasion I went to interview a land owner and, I understand that, as soon as I walked out of the property a colleague of mine received a text from Craig asking for my phone number.
16. Craig phoned me the next day and we had a conversation with words to the effect of;
- He said "I bumped into and he told me that you were asking questions about what I have done in relation to the property."
 - I said "I wasn't asking questions directly about you, I was trying to get information of what action had been taken."
 - He said "you know what they're like Frank, they talk shit. What you hear from is only half true."
17. I recorded this conversation in more detail in my contemporaneous notebook 062585 pages 80 – 84.
18. On 18 May 2015 my partner and I were investigating a land fill complaint a particular property.
19. We were preparing to interview the owner and I had a conversation with him with words to the effect of;
- He said "you guys aren't from that bloody RID squad are you?"
 - I said "no we are from the Council. Why what's your issue with the RID squad?"
 - He said "not with RID, with that cunt Craig."
 - I said "why, what's he done? Whatever you tell us stays here with us."
 - He said "I met Craig out the front of my property and he said; "I know you're bringing land fill in, if you give me ten grand, I can make it go away."
 - I said "hang on, are we talking about the same Craig?"
 - He said "yeah, Craig Izzard. He was a shit football player and he was corrupt when he was a copper as well."
 - I said "what, he came right out and asked you for ten grand?"
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- He said "yeah."
- I said "have you had any dealing with Craig before (at other properties)?"
- He said "yeah, out at my other property before I sold it. And I know that my neighbour paid him between fifty to sixty grand."
- I said "are you willing to give us a formal statement?"
- He said "if I can remain anonymous I will."
- I said "I will speak to Council and if they can guarantee your confidentiality, would you be prepared to put it writing?"
- He said "yes."

20. On my return to Council I discussed this with my Manager and Team Leader and Council's Solicitor and I understand that the decision was made to take these statements obtain guidance from Council's Internal Audit Unit.



Frank Bono
Ranger