

**PE1594/E**

Dr John Hinton Letter of 24 February 2016

**To the Public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE1594: action requests**

I strongly endorse the aim of Petition PE1594, and I refer here to some evidence to support and add to it. Here I bring to your attention an important issue of lying that might otherwise not be raised, i.e. **lying by the SPSO**.

**I ask that the recommendations of the Public Petitions Committee be worded to include that.**

Now I describe a false statement about me made by the SPSO office and sent by them to my MSP. Other examples have been described, but I am not in a position to verify them.

Recently my MSP wrote to the SPSO on my behalf. On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 I had submitted a complaint to the SPSO to the effect that Glasgow City Council had lied to me. I had previously complained much earlier to the SPSO about Glasgow City Council, but that case was closed.

In submitting my more recent complaint I had made very clear that it was a **new** one (although it concerned issues related to the earlier complaint). The SPSO did not respond to, nor even acknowledge, my several emails about the latter case: It is clear that the SPSO did not wish to deal with a matter of lying. **I endorse the view that the SPSO should be obliged to consider deceit by a BUJ as a serious maladministration.**

My MSP, Fiona McLeod, wrote to the SPSO on my behalf asking why this was. The SPSO's response included the following:

I have reviewed our case records for Dr Hinton's complaint and can see that he was notified of our decision on his complaint on 6 December 2013. He contacted us a number of times after this to raise the same concerns and he was advised by email on 5 August 2014 that we had reached a final decision on his complaint and would not enter into any further correspondence with him on that matter. Dr Hinton continued to contact us periodically and this information was passed on to him again on 20 October 2014 and 24 February 2015.

Our position remains unchanged and accordingly we will continue to review any further correspondence from Dr Hinton to ensure that it does not relate to a new complaint but otherwise we will not correspond with him on the subject of his complaint to us about Glasgow City Council.

The first of these paragraphs is only incidental to what I am writing about now; it relates to the fact that I was deemed too persistent in trying to persuade the SPSO to investigate lies by the City Council. I am not making an issue of this now, because I presume that you have already been made aware of many such cases - i.e. lies by public bodies that the SPSO accepts as true despite indisputable evidence.

**It is the second paragraph that is my present concern.** Its clear implication is that I had not raised a **new** complaint last August. I did so – stating emphatically that it

was a new one. The SPSO must know this, as I had written to them on two subsequent occasions to point this out. **This is therefore a case of the SPSO lying.**

I have kept this brief, but can supply further emails in evidence if required.

**I ask that my requests be placed before the Committee and published.**

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. John W Hinton