

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]
ON 25.06.2008

[REDACTED] Today is the 25th June and it's about 7.50 and I am speaking to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] surname of [REDACTED], is that correct.

[REDACTED] Correct

[REDACTED] And [REDACTED] my name is [REDACTED] I work for [REDACTED] and as we
discussed earlier I am up here investigating possible allegations of inappropriateness
by [REDACTED] who I believe you do know and you have got no worries that I am taping
the conversation here.

[REDACTED] Absolutely not.

[REDACTED] Your home address please.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And your home telephone

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And the office number for the SPCA here in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And the office cell phone

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And I believe that at the moment you do hold a position here and what is this.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OK and that's on what sort of basis, a paid basis or.

[REDACTED] Recently paid.

[REDACTED] OK

RELEASED UNDER THE ACT

And I have got mint here.

Right how long have you actually been associated with the branch here in [REDACTED]

3½ years.

OK. [REDACTED] how do you know [REDACTED]

In [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with the Branch until this year.

Right and what dealings personally do you have with [REDACTED] yourself.

In [REDACTED] day to day role as [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] attachment with the branch.

And, and how would you describe [REDACTED]

As a tired person

Yes

Unethical may be because [REDACTED] was burnt out and not professional in the role of [REDACTED]

Right now you have made mention: unethical and unprofessional have you got any examples of that

Daily usage of swearing language at callers requesting help.

Yes

An incident at the farm of [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] made allegations and issued a warrant without doing [REDACTED] homework and was abusive to [REDACTED] the owner of the property.

When did this happen.

That was a few years ago, I couldn't be exact.

OK and can you give us some details about that.

[REDACTED] farm was leased out to [REDACTED]

Yes

accused him, himself of not grazing his cows properly and welfare issues and went in with some sort of Court warrant against and hadn't done home work as to who was really managing that land and the fact that it was leased out and was abusive with verbal language at

Mm

And had Court Orders for it now in the wrong names and made a rather big scene about it at with lots of threats at

OK now did anything ever eventuate as a result of that action,

action. No was running the branch

Yes

And never got an apology or anything it was found that it was all unfounded. There was no apology or anything and said would never help the branch again and it was swept under the carpet.

So there was, was there any official complaint made by about that or not.

I am not sure how I think thought – my understanding from is that never got an apology, his lawyer followed it up and it was just – walked away with not feeling impressed by the branch or with

OK, so that was and any others that you can think of.

Oh recently

Tell us about that one.

She had contacted late in the evening, it was dark; on the SPCA landline number seeking help for a dog that she had found on the She believed at the time that it was possibly injured and she wanted to know what she could do with it or could the SPCA come and collect it. She was worried for its welfare.

told her that couldn't it was late at night and that she could take it home and would get Animal Control to collect it the next morning.

She explained she couldn't, she had a child, she was in a rental property, her landlord lived next door, wouldn't be impressed, she had no food to feed it, she just wanted help with it and [REDACTED] said "Well I'm not coming out" and she said "You're joking" to [REDACTED] - or words to the effect that you are joking.

"I want to do something with this dog, and get it help" and [REDACTED] said words to the abusive effect of "Take the fucken dog back to where you got it from Lady" and she couldn't believe it and the conversation ended.

Through word of mouth she phoned around and got my contact number and my cell phone, phoned me at home because of my known association with helping dogs and working for the SPCA, left me a couple of messages that I didn't get 'til late. I didn't return that call that night because it was late - after ten o'clock when I cleared my message. I phoned her first thing the next morning. She explained the situation and I got a description of the dog, I phoned around to see if the owner had reported it lost, checked with our [REDACTED] the dog was recorded lost and put her in touch with the owner of the dog who had, was upset their old dog was missing. The dog turned out not to have been injured but it was dazed because it was actually cross-eyed and very old.

Right

And the dog was returned to the owner. I advised [REDACTED] to come in and see us, the SPCA in the office. I would take her details and pass them on to the Chairperson who was dealing with the situation and [REDACTED] would be in contact which [REDACTED] did contact her, apologised and asked her to put a complaint in writing to the branch which she did.

Do you know what has happened with that or not.

There was a muck up in paper work. She has followed it up three times to find out what is happening with it and it is being dealt with by the committee. Complaints are dealt with at a committee level if they then request that it needs to go to [REDACTED] or if the complainant isn't happy they can go to [REDACTED] and further complain.

Has [REDACTED] been asked about this as far as you know or not.

Not that I know of, well the past chairman, up until when [REDACTED] stood in, may have spoken to [REDACTED] but I haven't spoken to [REDACTED] since a good couple of months since [REDACTED]

OK so I mean when you say it's been dealt with in committee.

They review, read the complaint and they make the decision on what to do with it. There's a committee meeting next week because they have been dealing with lots of other issues. At a committee meeting next week its probably going to be dealt with there.

OK.

How often are the committee meetings held

Oh once a fortnight at the moment.

Right.

Depending on the issues because a lot of our issues are damage control issues or new branding issues.

Right.

And I think probably now it is appropriate to just explain what you mean about new branding issues.

The Branch for the last 8 approximately 8 years has been solely run and operated from [REDACTED] home. The admin side they were solely responsible for. The phone number of [REDACTED] was in their [REDACTED] The vehicles and all operational gear was held in [REDACTED] and no other volunteer or staff knew how the operation exactly worked [REDACTED] property.

Everything was very much an unknown void until this May the 5th when the office opened in the new building to give the public a point of admin and to offer transparency and accountability. The office is now run on a system where most phone calls, 95% of them come through the office and are recorded and referred to the correct person.

In the past [REDACTED] were the only ones that operated the phones and answered the phones and all work flowed then through [REDACTED] and no one else in the organisation was aware of how the branch operated at all until recently. In my role where I'm contacting [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] role as the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] to assist me on how I should be running the branch.

As [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] February said that [REDACTED] would work in a transition period and then decided the first week that the office opened that [REDACTED] didn't want to be associated at all and would not assist in any transition with the branch and would not assist with office admin transition training stuff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have been asked a couple of times to return it. I believe that [REDACTED] has been asked to return things next Wednesday to [REDACTED] at the Chairperson's home and clothing, computers, all manuals, all past documentation and anything else that belongs to the branch. [REDACTED] has returned the guns that belong to the branch three weeks ago.

[REDACTED] Right.

[REDACTED] There was a resistance to return all the vehicles and fuel cards, took over a month to have them returned to the branch. They have now been returned and the guns are held by the auxiliary officer who is our licensed firearms officer.

[REDACTED] Right. When did [REDACTED] cease being [REDACTED] for the branch.

[REDACTED] May of this year when the office opened [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] agreed with the committee to stay on a, and inspect on a month to month basis to supervise [REDACTED], our [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] and they agreed in February when [REDACTED] first put [REDACTED] resignation in writing that [REDACTED] would hang around for the transitional period which was a month to month agreement as [REDACTED] were being paid for it on a monthly basis.

[REDACTED] And so [REDACTED] were paid right up until May.

[REDACTED] Yes, yes that's my understanding.

I think when we were speaking with [REDACTED] before [REDACTED] did say that [REDACTED] were paid last month and [REDACTED] I do remember [REDACTED] saying

And to that end how many times do you know that [REDACTED] have gone out to call outs or whatever, I don't know what term you use here, in May or up until May.

It's probably recorded in our diary. Off the top of my head I know that as [REDACTED] acts also for [REDACTED] I have referred some jobs in [REDACTED] because the public get an answer phone in [REDACTED] so they were locked in to phone this branch.

Yes

In the first two weeks of this office operating I agreed that I would field any calls for [REDACTED] for the [REDACTED]

Sure.

So probably in the May period maybe half a dozen.

Half a dozen.

OK and [REDACTED] is now, [REDACTED] the [REDACTED]

And how long ago was that.

Three years ago.

Three years ago, oh so [REDACTED] has been in that position for a long time.

Yes [REDACTED]

Right

But [REDACTED] been given [REDACTED]

Do you want a, I will pause that.

Back running again. No problems that the tapes running here.

Right so you are just telling me that [REDACTED] was in this administrator's role for about three years and

And an [REDACTED] also.

Yeah

I'm not, I assume [REDACTED] was paid for that role as well as being employed and paid for this role – the [REDACTED]

Yeah and [REDACTED] also has a [REDACTED] now somewhere.

I, [REDACTED] has been on the [REDACTED] since I have been involved with this branch which I know of is 3½ years. Recently given a role as a [REDACTED] administrator which [REDACTED] has some sort of file from branches [REDACTED] which I would assume would be [REDACTED]

Right and you don't know anything about that. You are the [REDACTED] here.

No [REDACTED] doesn't speak with me, [REDACTED] hasn't spoken to me. I first think of the branch operating I would phone to check to see if there were messages that may have gone directly to [REDACTED] and to let [REDACTED] know if there were messages for the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] refuses to speak to me and would only communicate by text and then [REDACTED] decided that week that [REDACTED] wasn't going to speak to the office and [REDACTED] was gone and wanted no association.

All right OK if we just go a step back again – we were talking about things that you consider were unethical or unprofessional. The first one you told us about was [REDACTED]

Yeah.

What other ones do we know about.

A dog from the vet [REDACTED]. She had phoned the office the first week the office opened here and it seems that she was concerned on two issues. One, both issues are issues that [REDACTED] had been asked to attend.

One was a dog they were following up that had welfare issues were identified by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was do follow up. The dog had been under-nourished and had also recently been neutered and she was concerned that she hadn't heard from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yes

[REDACTED] And hadn't seen the dog for the removal of his stitches and hadn't been able to contact its owners and wanted to know where the branch was at with it.

The second one was a follow-up call regarding a dog that they had been called out to that, (excuse me) had welfare issues regarding, and housing issues and the neighbour had gone yet again to the vet clinic to report it to us and no one from the branch had visited and the dog was now pregnant, abandoned under the house as the tenants had moved out priorly.

It was first brought to her [REDACTED] notice in January, three weeks prior to her conversation with me. She had spoken to [REDACTED] and still their neighbours had not seen the SPCA visit the property. They were struggling to feed the dog, in her role as a vet nurse she had had no communication from [REDACTED] regarding the situation and felt that it was now urgent as the dog was heavily pregnant.

The dog was collected the next day by our [REDACTED], was taken to our kennels. It was under-nourished. [REDACTED] was considering a prosecution on the owner but as he had abandoned the property as a tenant to track him down could become an issue

[REDACTED] Well certainly from what you are saying if it was first noticed in January.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

[REDACTED] So are we talking five months at least.

[REDACTED] Yeah a five month period and her second follow up call was three weeks before I dealt with her in a call to this office in May so she was trying to communicate and get help. To the best of her knowledge she said the tenant, [REDACTED] was definitely trying to assist the dog, the neighbours were, but couldn't cope.

So [REDACTED] is the neighbour not the tenant.

No he's not the tenant sorry, he is the neighbour of the dog that was abandoned at the property.

Yeah.

He had three weeks prior been back down to the vet clinic to say and tell her that he hadn't seen the SPCA, no one had been in contact and they were worried about the dog and he couldn't cope with feeding it.

OK.

And [REDACTED] I think you said her name was, the [REDACTED] had contacted the [REDACTED] when.

Originally in January 2008 and then followed up three weeks prior to when the call came through to this office in May and was concerned about it. She may have had other contact with them because we use that regarding that that's the only ones I know because we use that vet for all in-coming cats in [REDACTED]

Sure.

And did she say when she did that three weeks before you, the office actually opened up here, had she contacted the [REDACTED] then too.

Yes three weeks and I documented it in my phone log.

So it would have been April then would it.

Yeah the office opened I think it was approximately the, no the 5th May and it was that first week of calls that it became apparent.

[REDACTED] So any others that you can think of or that you know about.

There was a call from [REDACTED] that came through this office. A lady's third call regarding a dog and she was, she had said that it was her third call and she had had no action on the dog.

Yes

And she wanted some action, it was a welfare issue with the dog. And I had instructed to give [REDACTED] cell phone number out to [REDACTED] calls. She wasn't getting and I had left [REDACTED]

a message on [REDACTED] cell phone and also spoken to [REDACTED] directly to give [REDACTED] that call, contact details and I believed [REDACTED] was following it up because [REDACTED] took the message, [REDACTED] took the message from me regarding that call.

[REDACTED] And how long ago was that.

[REDACTED] Thursday, 13th of May. It is noted in my diary.

[REDACTED] Right and that lady's name is.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And have we got a contact number for her.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] -oh it may be a [REDACTED] actually.

[REDACTED] Mm OK and what was the problem with this.

[REDACTED] No attendance and welfare issues. Her third call was seriously concerned.

[REDACTED] Over what period.

[REDACTED] She had said over a few weeks but I know that it was her third call to the SPCA for help for the dog and I explained that to [REDACTED] that she was saying that in my call with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was aware of the urgency.

[REDACTED] Sure.

[REDACTED] Had [REDACTED] well did the lady say she had spoken to [REDACTED] herself at all or not.

[REDACTED] She said the first time she spoke to [REDACTED], the second time she spoke to [REDACTED] was passing it on and [REDACTED] answered the phone to [REDACTED] who is responsible for that area.

[REDACTED] OK where, what is the address for that.

[REDACTED] We didn't note it because it was a [REDACTED] one and I was just acting as [REDACTED] secretary following up out of courtesy while [REDACTED] was going through [REDACTED] transition of being organised [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OK any other ones that you can think of.

[REDACTED] There is an issue over a dead dog that was found on the end of a chain.

Yes

And I am not sure of the exact contact details of that – that by the time my understanding is, by the time our [REDACTED] got there was after [REDACTED] had left this branch, the dog was then found dead.

The Complainant who called it in had called a couple of times to this branch and I believe had had spoken to [REDACTED] herself, our [REDACTED] but I'm not sure who exactly who was dealing with her. I do know that when [REDACTED] got there to inspect the dog was found dead on the end of the chain.

And that was under, after all and part of [REDACTED] involvement in that call out. But the details I don't have it's because that's documentation is still in the [REDACTED] home.

How long ago would that have been.

That would have been in, that came to light in the first month of May probably in the first two weeks of this office opening but no one was sure exactly of all the details because [REDACTED]

Well when did [REDACTED] go out to actually find the dog dead.

The first week, the first or second week of this branch operating.

So she will have details of all of that.

Yeah

And the issue there is that we think that the [REDACTED] had been informed about this dog.

And chosen not to act and by the time we did get there the dog was found dead on the end of the chain.

And do we know what sort of period of time we are talking between the call and [REDACTED] going and finding the dog dead.

My understanding and I could be wrong was over, well over a week period.

OK and [REDACTED] would have some details.

Yeah. She was the attending officer and she would have had to organise the removal of the body itself, where it was taken to. We use [REDACTED] vets – they have a pit to put dead animals in.

Sure

OK. Any others that you can think of or that you know - should I say rather than think of because you know what other people have said, others that you can actually, that you actually have some knowledge of.

Oh one that stands out, was a caller on the 17th July 2007 where the caller couldn't have tried phone contact on the SPCA landline number and cell phone contact and got voice mail message. Her dog had been in a dog fight. She was seeking assistance to remove the dog to get vet care.

Yes

Her messages weren't returned, through word of mouth she contacted me. I was unable to assist her. I tried phoning the [REDACTED] myself on [REDACTED] number because the office number was in [REDACTED] I got voice mail messages. I left a message to say please return my call, I had concerns, I was trying to assist this woman and I wasn't in the area.

She had no follow up calls from the [REDACTED] that weekend. Her dog she managed through other assistance to get the dog to the vet and unfortunately the dog had to be put to sleep and it had severe blood loss because of the dog fight and the vet noted that it was the worse dog fight and blood loss he had seen in his eight years of being a vet in New Zealand.

She, the owner of the dog, was upset. I talked with her later that night and she has not had any follow up calls from the [REDACTED] to date.

And that is over a year ago.

Over a year ago. No one followed up to apologise or to see how it went that weekend the next weekend or the next month.

OK. All right.

The horse issues, Do you know anything about those at all.

There were call outs to a [REDACTED] property who has been prosecuted by this branch in the past by [REDACTED]

My understanding is that [REDACTED] was not to, [REDACTED] was limited to the number of horses [REDACTED] may have in [REDACTED] care or on [REDACTED] property.

Yes

And later [REDACTED] was, [REDACTED] went to prison for domestic violence issues – our local prison and that there was a call out to, went to our [REDACTED], because the person couldn't get hold of the [REDACTED] and she phoned it through to [REDACTED], our [REDACTED].

Yes

And there was no action taken by [REDACTED] and the horse was hanging up. [REDACTED] didn't physically attend. [REDACTED] the story I was told, was that [REDACTED] dealt with it over the phone with [REDACTED].

So [REDACTED] wasn't in prison at that stage

No [REDACTED] has since gone to prison.

Right

At the time of the call he wasn't. There is concern, I have been told, there is concern in that [REDACTED] has visited [REDACTED] in Prison to – no one is sure what [REDACTED] discussed but there is, my understanding there is issues of prosecution over that dead horse left hanging up and that [REDACTED] was considering prosecuting him. But I am not sure where that whole situation is at with the prosecution.

Sure

Now I believe that your branch actually became involved in that and I know that you weren't actually part of the management as such at that stage, because this happened a while back didn't it.

Yeah it did and I wasn't part of management.

How long ago was that, that this happened. It was this year wasn't it.

It was this year and I think maybe April.

Yeah.

Yeah possibly April because I had just got to know our [REDACTED] as she got the job and so having, we had introduced ourselves to each other and so that we could better communicate with dog issues and fostering of dogs.

Yes and I think from what I have been told about this and you can confirm it is that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] actually went to that...

[REDACTED] Later attended that call out and the horse was dead, had suffered and was dead. Then that [REDACTED] had made no physical attendance. To that [REDACTED] reference was that it was dealt with on the phone as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the area where the horse crowd was they went to see and assess it and found that the horse was dead.

Right.

OK. Anything else that you can help us with.

We covered the dog dead on the chain.

Yes

Yeah. Not that everything that I reported is factual.

Sure

I appreciate that you, you are being honest and you are thinking about it like that because really there is a lot of speculation out there, we

But the factual stuff it sticks to mind. There was a case, a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] which is now in [REDACTED] in that road phoning [REDACTED] several times about not attending dogs that appeared not to be fed and no shelter.

That was two years ago and on a neighbouring property to her. That in the end she gave up and took one dog to her property and was trying to look after it but as she got no response from [REDACTED] and/or [REDACTED] she started dealing with our kennel manager over it and she was made aware that she couldn't go onto the property and legally remove them.

Right

But she tried for several weeks to contact him and to attend and access the situation and they never did.

Right

So in the end she removed the dog

Yes

And has one dog on her property but couldn't take the other two and I

You don't know what happened.

At the time when I resigned as far as I know she still lives in the same house and was very disgruntled at the unprofessionalism that happened.

Mm

That there was no attendance to assess it, she felt fobbed off all the time and in the meantime knew the dogs were on the property not attended by the SPCA, didn't have food, shelter or water. And were left.

OK.

All right I appreciate your time. It has been quite some time because we have been talking for about two and half hours now, I don't know if you realise that.

But if I needed to get back to you would there be no problems.

No problems at all, no problems with affidavits or anything like that.

Again no worries with the tape having been

No worries it being recorded.

OK. It's coming up to about twenty past eight and I am stopping the tape. *