

To Mr C. C. Pettigrew
Director General

23/9/88
Fred Leige
Youth Worker
John Oxley Youth Centre

Dear Mr Pettigrew.

In response to the meeting on the 28th September 1988 at John Oxley Youth Centre.

I understand from yourself and Mr Rice that there have been allegations made against the Management (Mr Coyne) of John Oxley Youth Centre.

While I feel that I have been subjected to some differential treatment which has lead to some inequity in the manner in which I am perceived. I feel, Mr Coyne is far too professional to resort to such measures as victimization. However, I feel, he has been the victim of what is called "Flattery for advancement." where those seeking advancement present information which is not overly honest, but is perceived to please Mr Coyne. This is causing discord between Youth Workers and management as it is Mr Coyne who is perceived as responsible. I am sure Mr Coyne is now fully aware of this, but is placed in a "catch 22" situation where he has to act on the information, no matter how jaundiced. If required I am sure Mr Coyne and myself could present information to support this concept.

At the meeting, I enquired if other subjects could be included if an inquiry was held. The subjects were the safety of both young people and staff as well as the use of handcuffs.

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Date: 3.12.2012

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In recent weeks, we have been forced to use handcuffs to contain the behaviour of a number of young people. I was involved in most of these instances, while I did not like what was done, I felt there was no other option. We were forced into this action as the facilities at John Orley are not designed to control such behaviours from more than one young person. I feel it is time we collectively sort answers to these problems. In discussion with Mr Coyne, a range of options were investigated, however there seems to be only one option. This would involve capital works, eg the building of a facility for young people with special needs. If needed I would express some thoughts on this subject.

The safety of both the young people and staff is of particular concern to me. I feel the building of the above facility would help but is not the whole answer. The alarm system which was to be installed seems to be experiencing problems, would go a long way in providing increased safety. Increasing staffing levels would provide a real alternative. I know Mr Coyne is addressing this aspect but the constraints limits his efforts to a juggling act. If we are to provide a productive and positive service the above need addressing.

In conclusion Mr Pothigrew I wish to state that I have offered Mr Coyne my total support in providing a consistent and caring environment at John Orley Youth Centre.

Yours faithfully
Ard Feige