

[Applicant's name and address]

Via email
PCCS/00229/11

20 December 2011

Dear [Applicant],

Complaint about Strathclyde Police

I refer to your application to my office regarding your complaint about Strathclyde Police. I write to inform you of my decision.

On 10 October 2011 the Case Officer responsible for your case wrote to you confirming the following head of complaint:

- You did not receive any medical attention during your time in custody, despite telling custody staff you had lost consciousness.

Enquiry into your complaint was carried out by Inspector A and the records of your time in custody were obtained. These records referred to injuries you had when you were taken into custody but contained no reference to you having been knocked unconscious as a result of the assault you reported.

You thereafter met with Inspector A and gave a signed statement on 28 June 2011 in which you stated the following:

"As a result of the incident where I was assaulted, I lost consciousness and have had ongoing medical problems for which I am being treated. Although I did ask to see a doctor when I was arrested, I appreciate that it cannot be proved that I did and accept that there is no record of this.

... I am happy that the matters have now been addressed. Very much so."

Subsequently, statements were obtained from Constables B and C, the officers who attended the incident and detained and questioned you. Both officers stated that the only time you made reference to being unconscious was following your release from custody when you provided a statement informing them you had suffered a "blackout". According to the officers, on being advised of this they told you to seek medical treatment.

On 21 July 2011 Superintendent D provided the following response to your complaint:

"I am informed that Inspector [A] met with you at [police station] and, whilst you accept that the issue of you asking for further medical attention cannot be resolved, you are now happy that further information obtained from you and your friends will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at [location].

I am disappointed to learn that you had felt let down initially by my officers but I am pleased that you are now happy that the matters have been resolved. If you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Inspector [A]."

In my view, given that in your statement you indicated you were content that this matter had been addressed, the response you received from Superintendent D was reasonable. In any event, it is clear from the contents of the custody record and the statements provided by Constables B and C that there is no support for your complaint.

I therefore consider that your complaint was dealt with in a reasonable manner by Strathclyde Police.

In accordance with my office's procedures, a copy of this letter will be published, in fully anonymised form, on my office's website. This will occur on 22 December 2011.

My involvement in your case is now at an end.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McNeill', written in a cursive style.

JOHN MCNEILL
Commissioner