

ACCELERATED MISCONDUCT HEARING

14 OCTOBER 2021

PC 8567 ANKRETT

Finding

In relation to the finding of fact, in this particular case, I have found that the conduct in relation to this matter is proven and is a breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour in relation to Discreditable Conduct. The breach is so serious that it amounts to Gross Misconduct in this particular case.

Outcome

I have reviewed this case following the College of Policing's Guidance on Outcomes in Police Misconduct Hearings.

The Police Conduct Regime exists to maintain the confidence in and the reputation of the police service, to uphold high standards in policing and deter misconduct and protect the public.

In assessing sanction the guidance asks panels:

To assess the seriousness of the misconduct, keep in mind the purpose of imposing sanctions, choose the sanction which fulfils that purpose for the seriousness of the conduct in question.

In assessing seriousness I have looked first at the officer's culpability.

The officer is convicted of a very serious criminal offence concerning the corrupt and improper use of police powers and privileges. The College of Policing Guidelines are very clear it is unacceptable for police officers to break the law that they are asked to uphold. I whole heartedly support this. This is an extremely serious breach.

There is considerable harm in this case. The victim has placed considerable trust in an officer at a very difficult moment in her life. There is no doubt that the officer was exploiting this vulnerability in order to create an opportunity to for a sexual

relationship with her. This is totally unacceptable and directly harms public confidence.

Many people come into contact with the police at a vulnerable time in their lives and they are entitled to be treated professionally. Victims are entitled to feel that the support, help and friendship offered by officers is unconditional. It is the hand of friendship of society and our service and is never be motivated by ulterior motives. This was clearly not what happened in this case.

This behaviour is a matter of deep public concern at this time. The issue of Violence Against Women and Girls requires the police to act as champions for the fair treatment of women. Public trust is undermined when officers behave as this officer has.

In this case there are clear aggravating factors. There was a malign intent in how this relationship was developed. The clear abuse of trust of a victim, regular repeated behaviour, the fact the victim was vulnerable and the impact this has had on her. There are no mitigating factors.

Officers like this have no place in West Midlands Police. They are abhorrence to the men and women who make up this organisation who go out day in day out to protect the most vulnerable. They damage our standing and professional reputation. We will route them out and not only dismiss them but actively seek prosecutions when criminal laws have been broken as in this case.

There can only be one outcome suitable in this case. The officer is dismissed without notice.