

Ministry of the
Solicitor General and
Correctional Services

Office of the
Deputy Minister

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Ministère du
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Services correctionnels

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MAY 18 1999

Rec'd May 25

Mr. David Price
309/ 4451 Wellington Road
Nanaimo BC V9T 2H2

Dear Mr. Price:

Thank you for your letter dated March 15, 1999 which was addressed to the Honourable Robert Runciman, Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services, regarding the Cornwall Police Service. I am pleased to respond.

The Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services is responsible for the delivery of police services in Ontario. Ministry staff monitor the activities of all police services in Ontario and, where appropriate, recommend improvements to relevant legislation, policies and procedures.

The Minister must not become directly involved in operational policing matters, attempt to influence a police investigation nor take any action which could be perceived as jeopardizing the integrity of the justice system. For these reasons, he is unable to comment on any matter that may be related to a police investigation or may be before the courts.

The *Police Services Act* establishes a public complaints system in which any member of the public, who is directly affected, may complain in writing about the policies or services provided by a police agency, or the conduct of a police officer, including the chief of police or the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Initial investigations of complaints about policies, services or officer conduct will ordinarily be conducted by the police agency involved. Complaints about the chief or deputy chief of police will be dealt with by the police services board. If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Chief of Police, the OPP Commissioner or the Police Services Board, you may ask the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services (OCCPS) to review the decision.

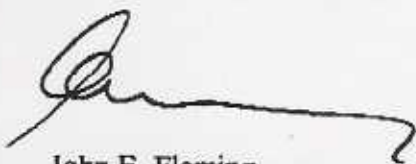
Mr. David Price
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If you have concerns regarding the conduct of a police officer or about the policies or services provided by the Cornwall Police Service, I would strongly urge you to make your concerns known to the Chief of Police, as these allegations properly fall within the jurisdiction of the local police service. I notice from your correspondence that you have already been in contact with Chief Anthony Repa. I suggest that you continue your discussions with him. You may likewise forward a written complaint to the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services, 25 Grosvenor Street, 1st Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1Y6. The toll-free number is 1-888-515-5005.

I have enclosed a copy of a brochure entitled Resolving Complaints published by the OCCPS.

I trust that this is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



John E. Fleming
Deputy Solicitor General and
Deputy Minister of Correctional Services

Enclosure