

Seminar 6 :

Q2 :

The IOPC launched an investigation following A. Ruggles's murder ; since she had reported her ex-boyfriend Trimaan Dhillon – her murderer - had been stalking her and complained about him several times, the IOPC needed to understand why she had ended up being killed, her throat cut. They needed to check whether the police had done their job properly.

Q3 :

5 policemen were involved :

- A first police constable (Officer B), who heard her first and failed to investigate the report of Dhillon's stalking properly.
- His immediate line manager, the police sergeant, who should have supervised him better during the investigation.
- A second constable, who visited her home and took a statement from her, and failed to understand he was facing a case of stalking rather than harassment
- His immediate manager, another police sergeant, who failed to supervise him properly (there again)
- A third constable, who contacted A Ruggles later on, after she had rung the police, reporting Dhillon's doings again (for his misconduct, see Q9)

Q4 :

The policemen were given some advice and went on training to understand how to cope with stalking and harassment in a better, more appropriated manner.

Q5 :

Victim-led means the case builds up with the domestic incidents the victim reports, complains about and so on. The police do not investigate that much, they wait for the victim to make statements hence lead the way. Victim-focused means they are more pro-active ; they don't wait for the victim's further statements, they investigate, focusing on what the victim goes through.

Q6 :

1/ 30/09/2016 : A Ruggles' growing fear following Dhillon's gifts and voicemail

2/ 01/10/2016 – 12 :40 : First call to the police, reporting a number of incidents of unwanted contact from Dhillon

3/ 02/10/2016 : Visit at home of the PC and further statement by A Ruggles

4/ 07/10/2016 : New call to the police, further to the letter and photos sent by Dhillon

5/ Later on : Call back by a new PC, asking if Dhillon should be arrested, an option refused by Ruggles

6/ 12/10/2016 : Murder of A Ruggles by Dhillon

Q7 :

<https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sh/stalking-harassment/what-is-stalking-harassment/>

Q8 :

The policeman could not see any reason why they should take action against Dhillon, since there had been no violence between the parties, Dhillon lived 120 miles away and had made no direct threats.

Q9 :

The policeman should not have asked her whether she wanted Dhillon to be arrested : a victim is in no condition and has no power to make a decision ; it is the police's call.

Q10 :

They have helped the police to improve their training in dealing with stalking issues.

Q11 :

A charity is when people associate in order to defend , communicate or/and help out with a cause. The charity the Ruggles created was named after Alice, and aims at raising awareness of stalking issues.

Q12 :

It shows the law is ill-suited for tackling problems of psychological pressure or violence ; the law punishes those who commit a crime (being reactive), but do not prevent crimes from happening, even if strong hints of what is likely to happen is given to the police (it does not act proactively). You can't arrest somebody for something he/she has not done yet, however the law should give the police more means of protecting people targeted by stalkers.

Same with domestic violence (especially when it is more psychological than physical violence).