

Nuclear Information Service

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Steve Love QPM MA
Chief Constable
Ministry of Defence Police
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14 December 2013

Dear Chief Constable,

I am writing to you with reference to an article which appeared in the 'Mirror' newspaper on Saturday 15 December regarding policing at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield. The article, which has the title 'MoD security 'took naps' while guarding nuke site', claims that up to 50 Ministry of Defence Police officers from the AWE Burghfield complement are under investigation for failing to conduct key security duties and that the matter has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

I am aware of the high security nature of the AWE Burghfield site and am willing to accept assurances from the Ministry of Defence that nuclear security at the site was not compromised, but I am nevertheless concerned about the nature of the Mirror's allegations, if true. The scale of the problem reported by the Mirror suggests that the issues here go beyond misconduct by individual officers and are underpinned by more systematic flaws with supervisory standards, security culture, and attitudes to work.

I should therefore be grateful if you would inform me what action is being taken to investigate the allegations of misconduct by Ministry of Defence police officers at AWE Burghfield and to request that, if you have not already done so, you undertake an investigation into management standards in the site's police unit. To help ensure confidence in policing standards at Burghfield, may I also request, please, that you publish the conclusions and recommendations of your findings.

Thank you very much for giving this matter your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Burt
Nuclear Information Service