

**Report for South Ribble Borough Council into the leaking of confidential information Addendum****Introduction**

- 1 This addendum report follows from my final report which was sent to the Monitoring Officer for South Ribble Borough Council, "the Council" on 7 June 2017. Following the issuing of the report David Rose, a journalist with the Mail on Sunday contacted the Council, regarding paragraph 36 of my report. For ease of reference this stated:

*After I also queried with Councillor Foster a report in the Mail on Sunday on 14 May 2017 which had referred to an email which he had allegedly sent to Councillor Hamilton regarding a press release shortly before the interim report had been leaked to the press. Councillor Moon had made a similar suggestion to me. Councillor Foster stating that he knew nothing about any such email.*

- 2 Mr Rose provided the Council with two emails. The first was an email from Grace Macaskill to Councillor Claire Hamilton dated 12 April 2016 with a draft news report on the interim report. The second was an email from Councillor Paul Foster to Councillor Claire Hamilton dated 15 April 2016 with a draft press statement attached to it.
- 3 I contacted Councillor Foster and sought his comments on the email of 15 April 2016 in the light of his comments to me which were referred to in paragraph 36 of my report. Councillor Foster pointed out that the press had contacted him and the Council several days before they actually published the story (on 17 April 2016) and sought comments. He pointed out that this clearly showed that the interim report had been leaked to the press before he sent his email to Councillor Hamilton and he was merely responding to requests for comments.

**Conclusion**

- 4 Paragraph 36 of my report was merely citing the evidence which I was given on this point for the sake of completeness. I did not draw any conclusions or findings based upon it. It had no impact on my recommendations.
- 5 On the basis of the information provided the evidence supports the assertion of Councillor Foster that the report had been leaked to Ms Macaskill before he sent his email to Councillor Hamilton on 15 April 2016, indeed Ms Macaskill had already written her draft story which quoted from the interim report on or before 12 April 2016.

6 I have produced this purely to advise the committee of contact which has been made about the report but the comments made by Mr Rose and the response by Councillor Foster do not affect my findings or my recommendations.

**Simon Goacher, Partner**

**Weightmans LLP**

**26 June 2017**