

Dear Mr Lingard

To clarify points raised:

A number of references have been made as to why I attended Wrotham School and your terminology used was “lacks all credibility and logic”. In order to address this criticism I will explain fully, why indeed it was the correct procedure to follow, taking into consideration the lack of clarity presented to the 3G Committee as of the 4th March 2016.

For over a week the 3G Committee were trying to establish exactly where over half the funds of the 3G account had gone. Indeed it is a duty of care for the committee to oversee “good accounting practices” as expressly identified in the Football Foundation Report as follows: **“The Management Committee will also be responsible for ensuring that income and expenditure is kept in accordance with good accounting procedures and that the Business Plan and Football Development Plan are monitored and evaluated.”** Therefore this may well explain that as the committee were still lacking clarity over the large expenditure and Mr Wright was unwilling to allow us to carry out our responsibilities then it was clear that a week of requests was more than adequate and that establishing the need for a meeting was now of paramount importance, as emails were having no effect and the only and final option was to speak with Mr Wright personally to impress upon him that we were unable to carry out our responsibilities and resulting duty of care and that we needed to organise an urgent meeting, within a few days, at the very most. I also made this clear in my response letter to the school of 9th March 2016: **“I attended Wrotham School on the sole basis of trying to organise a meeting with the Management Committee so that positive and cohesive dialogue could ensue and also to fulfill our responsibilities, as a Committee to the community.”**

I believe the above fully addresses the criticism of “lacking credibility and logic”.

It would appear that the main thrust of this complaint is due to the parked position of Mr Taylor's vehicle of which I had no involvement. I believe that in reality I have to in some way prove that I was NOT involved in anyway with the positioning of this vehicle and that if deemed this was an act of intimidation I would not support such confrontation. This is now the position I am in, is there enough evidence to suggest I was supporting intimidating actions as stated in your report or is there enough evidence on my part to prove otherwise? I hope the following will support my view that I cannot be held responsible for any possible breach of conduct on the 4th March 2016 due to the parked vehicle.

Firstly, the school's letter of 17th March 2016 to my children, only identifies a single complaint for which an apology was sought as follows: "I have considered your request and have decided to allow your father access to the 3G site provided he apologises to Mr Wright, as his behavior, with that of his two colleagues, meant Mr Wright was unable to pick up his son on that Friday evening."

So in essence the above only identifies one area of behavior for which I was requested to apologise for, which would suggest that my behavior otherwise, was of good conduct, which did NOT necessitate an apology.

It is clear that I can categorically prove I do not own the vehicle in question, which was quoted as "prevented Mr Wright from collecting his son that Friday evening". So I therefore can only try to prove that I am not a person of character, which would support such an action.

It was stated that I should have persuaded Mr Taylor to move his vehicle, but the problem is that the sequence of events did not allow any possibility of interference on my behalf because as soon as Mr Wright returned back into reception he made it clear he was calling the police, I did not have a problem with waiting for the police to arrive as I was happy to give a full statement of my actions and thought it important to wait to do so, (as I knew without doubt I had not conducted myself inappropriately at any time) which I duly did outside of the school, as we were asked to leave the school premises.

There are many aspects of what I do which will support me as person with good character:

I represent both Parish Council and Borough Council, I own a well respected award winning business. I am a father of two young children whom both attended the local primary school. I have a good working relationship with the Headmaster of their school and also I believe I had a good working relationship with Mr Wright. This can be proven by me volunteering to help with a number of issues affecting Wrotham School in my own time and without cost (as identified in previous letters). I am, by definition in average terms, a fairly young and relatively new Borough Councillor which helps to support my character as one who has the desire to help and support our local community. I am from a farming family which has a long history within our local area going back as far as the 1500s.

I took the opportunity to reply to the school (letter dated 9th March 2016) which fully addressed my position and that I do NOT "condone irresponsible or confrontational behavior, to which to date I have NOT received a response.

I believe by the very fact the school have considered a simple apology route for myself, certainly suggests I am NOT guilty in regards of the complaint made against me.

I sought the initiative to contact Darren Lanes to seek advice whilst attending the school and it is important to note that at no time was there any advice not to attend, only that of “tread carefully”.

In regards to the CCTV recording by Wrotham School, it is with great disappointment that the very evidence which would have supported my innocence and given the true facts of the case, was deleted by the complainant themselves, which I find most disconcerting, especially bearing in mind that the School have described this incident as one of the most serious in the history of the School.

I therefore believe that in reality without conclusive evidence to suggest that I was in anyway condoning any confrontational behavior, one should move to the next stage and consider my previous history and conduct, the set of events leading up to and after the event and with that, cast an opinion that actually this outweighs the possibility of myself having had a character on the day in question which may have supported any inappropriate behavior.

Yours sincerely

Mr Robin Betts

Note - additional comment made via email on 18/10/2016

Mr Wright's comment that our children's letter to the school was a "cheap shot" was most disappointing, especially from a person who has a career in working with children. The result is that as the offer of an apology route followed by the issue of a Code of Conduct Complaint the very day after, somewhat "tied my hands", in terms of no communication allowed and the possibility that I would be forced into apologising for something I had no control over.

The end result is that it became to onerous on us as a family in being able to safely drop off and collect our children from the 3G pitch and therefore we had no alternative than to remove our 11yr old son from Borough Green Junior Football Club, which then had the knock on effect of the team folding, as they had lost their goal keeper. Perhaps Mr Wright may now wish to reconsider his wording "cheap shot".