

From: Richard Bullick Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry 
Subject: Fwd:
Date: 17 December 2016 at 16:54
To: Timothy Johnston timothyjohnston@dup.org.uk, John Robinson johnrobinson@dup.org.uk



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Timothy Cairns Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry
Date: 17 December 2016 at 16:52:18 GMT
To: Richard Bullick Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

attached are two statements

The longer one identifies me, I'd be more content with the shorter one. Come back to me before anything is used.

T



jb shorter
statement.docx



statement
JB.docx

I have worked closely with Jonathan Bell over many years. The Jonathan Bell I know is exceptionally unpredictable. He would change personas in an instant, one minute he could be quoting the Bible, the next he would lose his temper, often in an explosive and intimidatory way. I observed him behave in this way with civil servants, party employees and advisers.

I can recall many times in which I felt intimidated by Jonathan Bell. His favourite phrase was "if you (or indeed anyone) hits me, just remember I will hit back ten times harder." This was certainly my experience of his behaviour when I would disagree with him. I recall a specific incident when Jonathan experienced some gentle banter at his expense from a group of party employees and elected representatives. When he and I were on our own he went into a rage. He felt that I should have defended him. I suggested it was just gentle banter. He stood up and walked towards me in an aggressive way. I felt physically under threat. He was in a rage with fists clenched. I stepped back to the door. He kept walking. I told him that if he took a further step forward that it would have consequences. He stood, using his bulk, and proceeded to shout aggressively at me for some time. I felt physically threatened.

On another occasion in a restaurant Jonathan was unhappy about advice I had given him. We disagreed on a specific point. Jonathan was clearly agitated and angry, from experience of knowing his temper, I decided to leave the table. I was informed by a civil servant that Jonathan would not leave the table at the restaurant until I went back in. I sat at the table and we continued our discussion, which was heated. Several other tables looked round as Jonathan shouted at me. When I was talking he grabbed for my finger (I pulled it back) and he shouted "if you wag your finger at me one more time I will break it" at that point I felt physically intimidated. Again Jonathan stood up and used his bulk to stand over me in an aggressive manner and continued to shout. At that point I left the table as I not only felt physically intimidated but also it was publically embarrassing for a minister to act in that way. This incident was directly reported to the party leader, who at that was Peter Robinson. To date I am still waiting to hear what action Peter took against Jonathan.

There are many other times I can recall and recount very similar stories to these incidents direct towards myself and others. These are simply examples of what I experienced, I have many more, very similar stories to recount. Towards the end of his time in office, these incidents happened on almost a daily basis. His behaviour in the early part of 2016, was erratic, unpredictable and unbecoming of ministerial office. I know from talking to others that they have similar experiences and stories to tell.

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There are many stories I can recount of Jonathan Bell using his physical bulk in an attempt to intimidate me. Arlene's story and experience recounted on Thursday evening is very similar to what I experienced many times. Towards the end of his time in office, these incidents happened on almost a daily basis. His behaviour in the early part of 2016, was erratic, unpredictable and unbecoming of ministerial office. On several occasions in that period he aggressively shouted, lost his temper, stood over me in an intimidatory manner, put me in fear of my personal safety and made threats against me.

I know from talking to others that they have similar experiences and stories to tell.