

PNFS 14 Letter From Noel Scanlon 22 June 2021.

**From:** Noel Scanlon

**Sent:** 22 June 2021 13:36

**To:** andy leader

**Subject:** Re: Peak&Northern Footpaths Society - Holmfirth Footpath 60

Dear Mr. Leader

I shall stress from the outset that it is anecdotal and without confirmation, but information has come to light that we must take up with you, as it may have the effect of compromising your position with regard to matters relating to Footpath 60.

The anecdotal information is that on termination of your previous employment with Kirklees Council, you signed a Compromise Agreement (what we would now know as a NDA) which amongst other things included that the Council paid to you a significant six-figure sum of the taxpayers' money, or you were otherwise (i.e without any such agreement) paid a significant six-figure sum of the taxpayers' money.

The Council has confirmed that it is not yet in a position to 'confirm or deny' this and a formal Freedom of Information request has been made. Where denied by the Council that will be sent to the Information Commissioners Office.

We need to understand whether you are in some way beholden to the Council by such an arrangement, or conversely the Council is beholden to you in some way by any term of any Compromise Agreement or similar. I would therefore be grateful if you could please confirm the content of the compromise agreement by sharing it (if indeed applicable; I stress again the information received is anecdotal and without confirmation), as well as confirming precisely how much money you were paid on termination of your employment with the Council. You are obviously not in any way obliged to answer this question, but in the interests of disclosure it would assist for reasons of propriety. We may have to bring this to the attention of your colleagues at the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society as well as the Secretary of State and include this in cross-examination of you in any future Public Inquiry, where you may be under oath. This is because it obviously raises questions of partiality and propriety in your personal capacity, but more pertinently for these purposes also raises issues in your capacity as representative of the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society. We thought it fair to approach you first and allow you the opportunity to answer prior to inevitable eventual disclosure by the Council or others. Presumably you can answer this quickly. Where you have any issues as to how this information has come to light, that is something that you should take up with the Council if there was a confidential agreement with it. Should we not receive a response from you by the end of this week, we shall work on the basis that you do not wish to respond, which again is of course your right.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely

**Noel Scanlon** *Solicitor, BA(Hons), MSc, MCIWM*

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