

Statement

- MRS NORMA ATLAY

1. My name is Mrs Norma Atlay and I am a Strategic Director at NHDC.
2. I have known Cllr Leal-Bennett since he became a Councillor 4 years ago.
3. On 4th July 2014 I was walking down the corridor to the Council Chamber with other members of the Churchgate Project Team to attend a Churchgate Project Board meeting in the Council Chamber.
4. As I neared the Council Chamber doors, I noticed Cllr Leal-Bennett entering the corridor from Committee Room 1, close to the double doors of the Council Chamber entrance. I said to him "Should you be here?" and he responded "Yes".
5. I opened the Council Chamber door, entered the room through the right hand door and then turned to face Cllr Leal-Bennett who appeared agitated and explained that the meeting was a private meeting of the Churchgate Project Board and that as he was not a member of the project board, he should not enter the room.
6. Katie White was standing in front of the closed Council chamber door (left hand door from corridor side) with her back to the door and between me and Cllr Leal-Bennett and facing me. (See diagram)
7. Cllr Leal-Bennett pushed through the gap between us and I believe he bumped into Mrs White who had her back to him. I was facing him and could see that he was clearly intent on entering the room and stepped out of the way. He moved quickly into the council chamber and sat down.
8. At the meeting Cllr Leal-Bennett was advised by Cllr Needham, the leader of the council, that it was not a public meeting and he should leave.
9. Cllr Leal-Bennett ignored this and started to make a statement during which the leader instructed everyone to leave the room which we did.

N Atlay

21 December 2015

COUNCIL
CHANGE

NA
KW
L...

Critical-Service

COMMITTEE
Room 1

