

CS02 – Councillor Cleo Lake

Young mother restrained by police

Towards the end of a December when many people were already finding difficulties entering into a very different type of festive season, I along with many others was distressed to receive footage of an incident on a bus that saw a young mother restrained by police and allegedly pepper sprayed in front of her toddler. I understand that this was reported to have been sparked by the attitude of the bus driver who refused to let the young mother take the journey and things escalated.

I saw the statement put out by our Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Facebook on December 21st. However I have since received links to a petition as well as a phone call by a citizen deeply angered by the incident.

I am therefore requesting that all councillors are updated as soon as possible and if possible, on the outcome made by those who have watched the body-worn police footage, and the conclusions drawn by First Bus who conducted their own investigation. I think it's important that both the young mother and the people who may have been traumatised by this incident feel supported by the people who they think should be representing them, which is why I make this statement. Thank you.