

30th May 2024.

Letter of Change and my concerns.

To Whom it May Concern.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to regarding a matter that I consider to be very serious.

I was the victim of an assault on the [REDACTED]. This matter was reported to the Police soon after and the perpetrator was charged with this assault. The matter was referred to [REDACTED] the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) where it was managed by [REDACTED].

I received little communication from the Police and the DPP regarding the progress of this matter and, as the legal officer was also changed partway through the matter, I was also confused about who I could contact for progress in my matter. I understand that I should have been informed regularly about this matter as it progressed. This did not happen.

I was very unhappy that a plea deal was made that removed the charges for assault occasioning actual bodily harm and Intentionally choke person without consent.

As a result of this, my own account, laid out in my Victim Impact Statement was redacted and the complete impact of his crime on me has not been represented.

I believe that the choking and burning that he did to my body to be a demonstration of deep depravity and have significant concerns that he will repeat this behaviour on others.

I feel dishonoured in the justice process as my experience was used as a tool for negotiation by legal officers. I have become not just a victim of violence from this offender, but also a victim of the legal system who would ignore my suffering in the haste to make a deal.

Releasing this man into the community puts me in a great deal of danger .

I have no doubt that, at the time he detained and tortured me, he was going to kill me and had I not escaped from him, I would be dead. I fear for my life and have lost faith in the system that was supposed to protect me.

I am seeking to have this matter reviewed by the relevant authority as I would like answers as to why I was not informed about the processes that were taking place and why facts about the violence that happened to me were shuffled and deleted, silencing me in my Victim Impact Statement and reducing the seriousness of his crimes.

According to Chapter 5 of the DPP's prosecution guidelines, and the Charter of Victim's Rights, a victim is to be treated by the DPP with courtesy, cultural sensitivity, compassion and respect.

There is also an ongoing obligation to keep the victim informed.

A victim must also be consulted prior to substantially changing the charges, not proceeding with charges, or resolving the matter by accepting a plea.

This requires a full explanation and summary of why this is being considered, including an explanation of the impact on the agreed facts and victim statement.

The victim must be given adequate time to form their views, and the views of the victim must be taken into account.

I do not believe I was given adequate explanation as to what was happening, why, and how it would impact my statement.

I do not feel as though I was treated with courtesy, compassion, and respect throughout the process.

I have found the system, and the conduct of the DPP to be a dissatisfying system for the victims to go through. This is a travesty and the justice system to fail the victims. The criminals seem to have more rights such as legal aid, lesser jail sentencing which makes the victims more vulnerable to be open for the perpetrators to attack the victims again.

There is not enough funding in the system to protect and help women in domestic violence situations.

[REDACTED]