



Failure to Investigate Medical Malpractice and Systemic Oversight in the Case of Noel Azzopardi

1 message

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Police Inspector, Wayne Camilleri,
Police Assistant Commissioner, Keith Arnaud,
Cc:
Police,
Police Commissioner, Angelo Gafa,
Minister for Home Affairs and Security, Glenn Bedingfield,

I am writing to formally request a review of the actions — and the subsequent lack of investigation — concerning the medical and regulatory handling of Noel Azzopardi prior to the tragic incident involving the murder of Eric Borg.

Specifically, this inquiry should investigate the professional misconduct of Psychiatrist Joe Vella Baldacchino (JVB) and the failure of authorities to act upon pre-existing warnings regarding the individual's mental state and firearm access.

The timeline and documented facts of the case raise critical questions that demand accountability:

1. **Prior Notification and Weapon Forfeiture:** Long before the incident occurred, official reports and documentation [were submitted to the authorities](#) regarding Noel Azzopardi's cognitive impairment, establishing that [he possessed an intellectual disability](#) with the mental capacity of a child — a condition possibly resulting or aggravated further [following the removal of a brain tumor](#) at the age of 13. Consequently, directives had been issued to suspend and revoke his firearms license due to these vulnerabilities.
2. **Medical Misconduct and Financial Exploitation:** Despite these clear indicators and prior safety alarms, Psychiatrist Joe Vella Baldacchino actively altered Azzopardi's psychiatric treatment by removing or reducing possibly critical medication essential to stabilizing his condition. Furthermore, Dr. Vella Baldacchino financially exploited Azzopardi by charging him fees ("he [JVB] charged me €80 for each paper") to draft and issue the specific paperwork required to reinstate his firearms license. This raises severe questions about professional responsibility: for financial gain, systemic warnings were ignored, directly resulting in a compromised individual gaining access to lethal weapons.
3. **Contradictory Legal and Medical Determinations:** Following the tragic murder, the investigation, prosecution, and particularly the assessment by Psychiatrist Joe Cassar portrayed Azzopardi as entirely sane at the time of the offense. This determination appears to conflict directly with his long cognitive impairments and the immediate post-arrest decision by authorities to restart his medication while in custody. This creates a strong appearance of a conflict of interest, where medical professionals may be aligning conclusions to shield a colleague and protect the profession from liability and criticism.
4. **Current Status and Institutional Shielding:** Contradictory, Azzopardi is currently deemed insane under his restarted medication regime, yet faces the [prospect of being labeled "sane" again](#) solely for the purposes of facing trial and long-term imprisonment and being held innocently behind bars taking all the blame. The contradiction in this conclusion is striking (particularly when contrasted with the [case of Abner Aquilina](#), who was deemed insane at the time of his offence). This shifting legal and medical designation suggests a framework designed to absorb all blame onto a vulnerable, exploited individual, effectively shielding the medical professionals who cleared his access to firearms and subsequently covered up the systemic failures.

Given these parameters, I urge your office to provide clarification on the following matters:

- Why was no formal criminal investigation launched into the actions of Dr. Joe Vella Baldacchino regarding the medically negligent clearance of firearms paperwork for a cognitively impaired individual?
- How did the police department reconcile the decision to return or permit firearms access to an individual whose license had previously been flagged for suspension due to mental incapacity?
- Will an independent internal affairs review be initiated to examine whether crucial medical history and professional exploitation were overlooked to mitigate institutional liability?

The integrity of both judicial and medical oversight bodies depends on transparency in cases where vulnerable individuals are exploited and innocently ending bearing the full consequences, leading to catastrophic public safety failures. I look forward to your prompt confirmation of receipt and an update on whether this matter will be referred to the appropriate oversight division and those involved prosecuted.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Grech
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