



PRESS INFORMATION

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Statement from Bedfordshire Police Authority regarding the decision of the Court of Appeal announced today. This relates to Group 4 and their insurer's right to claim for damages arising from the disturbance at Yarls Wood Detention Centre in February 2002. Previously, the High Court had ruled that Group 4 did not have the right to make a claim, this decision reverses that outcome.

Peter Conniff, Chairman of Bedfordshire Police Authority, said: "Obviously the Authority is disappointed to learn of the Appeal Court's decision, which rules that Group 4 and their insurers are entitled to make a claim against the Authority and our insurers under the Riot Damages Act 1886.

"This decision reverses that of the High Court last year and there are obviously a number of legal issues that still need to be considered. However, I would like to reassure local taxpayers that any successful claim against the Authority will be met by our insurance and not from the taxpayers' pocket.

"It is likely that there will now be a further hearing in the High Court in due course to consider the merits of Group 4's claim, but we cannot say more at this stage as the Authority and its insurers need to take stock of the position in the light of this latest twist in the Yarls Wood saga."

Ends

Editor Note: No further statement will be made at this time and no-one is available for interview.

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