

A STATEMENT

Dr Rob John OBE, Chair of the ShelterBox Board of Trustees, says:

'The Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to pursue a re-trial.

It is important to remind everyone that it was the CPS that activated this legal process back in 2013, not ShelterBox, and everyone should be aware that at no point has ShelterBox, as a highly-regarded charity, been suspected or accused of any impropriety.

ShelterBox is so much more than the actions of a few individuals. I can reassure you that the charity and its supporters continue to be completely focused, united and motivated by our common cause - helping people to rebuild their shattered lives, giving families what they need to recover from disasters.

I'd like to be very clear about one thing. Despite the indecision of the court process regarding alleged fraud, the facts that remain are that Tom Henderson was dismissed from ShelterBox in 2012 for lack of capability and gross misconduct in failing to follow, or recognise, the legitimate instructions of the ShelterBox Board of Trustees. In short, he was dismissed for continuing to oversee related party transactions which had been forbidden by the Board. Whatever you call it, disregarding the Board in this way is wholly and completely unacceptable in a UK registered charity.

If steps are then actively taken to conceal a family connection, that cannot be tolerated in any properly run charity. This ought to be obvious to anyone. It applies to all employees, including founders and Chief Executives.

The decision to dismiss was then investigated by an independent Barrister who conducted an in-depth enquiry, and concluded that Tom Henderson had no understanding of his responsibilities as the Chief Executive of a UK registered charity and was lacking in competence to carry out his duties.

Later, in early 2013, the charity's senior managers discovered evidence that suggested a fraud might have been committed, and brought that concern to my attention as the newly appointed Chair of Trustees. The Police then conducted an extended enquiry using powers of investigation not open to the Board. This led to the subsequent arrests, the High Court trial, and most recently a patient wait to see whether justice would eventually be done.

ShelterBox is a remarkable and respected charity that people have taken to their hearts, and it is increasingly a major force in humanitarian aid.

Since the events of 2012 and the preceding years that were discussed in court, ShelterBox has gone on to deliver aid to almost a quarter of a million individuals worldwide. This year alone we have already helped refugees in Iraq and Greece, flood victims in Malawi and Malaysia, ebola orphans in Sierra Leone, Pacific islanders after a cyclone, displaced families in Syria, and we are still reaching out to mountain villagers after Nepal's two huge earthquakes.

This all happens because our generous donors, fundraisers and volunteers have stood by us unswervingly, keeping us ready to respond to any humanitarian disaster, anywhere.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, colleagues and those who work closely with ShelterBox for their dignity and professionalism. This has been a painful and protracted process, and particularly so for those who were there at the time. Many will no doubt find this outcome quite upsetting. But throughout they have kept their own counsel, been discreet, and stayed focused on the most important thing - the work ShelterBox does, helping families worldwide.'

NOTE TO EDITORS: Please be aware that this is ShelterBox's definitive statement on these matters, and we will not respond to any supplementary questions. Thank you.