



## CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER DECISION

Re: Pardeep Singh – Complaint of intimidation, coercion, and perversion of an investigation

This decision is in response to a complaint received concerning an alleged attempt by Pardeep Singh to pressure the complainant, who is also a candidate, into withdrawing a separate complaint he made against another candidate. The details of the complaint also suggest that Pardeep Singh was engaged in an apparent slate with the other candidate.

### Complaint

The complainant alleges that, on 1 March 2023, as he was exiting the Birch building on the Surrey campus, Pardeep Singh approached the complainant and threatened that if he did not withdraw his complaint against Guruamrith Singh, then Guruamrith Singh would physically assault the complainant. The complainant alleges that Pardeep Singh grabbed his hand when he would not stop to speak with him, and also followed him to the library as he continued to attempt to engage with the complainant.

### KPU Security Incident Report

Kevin Biln, Manager of Campus Security Operations for KPU, provided me with a report created by KPU security in connection with this incident. The report consists of a brief introduction, a summary of the complainant's discussion with KPU security personnel following the incident, a summary of Pardeep Singh's discussion with KPU security personnel following the incident, and copies of e-mails from the complainant and from Pardeep Singh in connection with the incident.

The summary of the complainant's discussion with KPU security personnel generally aligns with his complaint. The complainant's e-mail attached to the report is the same e-mail as the complainant's complaint to me.

The summary of Pardeep Singh's discussion with KPU security personnel indicates that he denied all of the allegations of threatening behaviour.

Pardeep Singh's e-mail to KPU security that is attached to the incident report states that three mutual friends of himself and the complainant approached Pardeep Singh and told him that the complainant had sent them to speak with him to sort out the issue of the complainant's complaint against Guruamrith Singh. He claims that these three individuals called him to the entrance to the bookstore where he encountered the complainant. He claims that he asked them what the issue was and stated that he did not want any part of it, and that he did not say anything else. He denies

making any sort of threat against the complainant and alleges that the complainant has made a false accusation against him.

### CCTV Footage

On 3 March 2023, at approximately 14:30h Biln allowed me to view CCTV footage of the interaction between the complainant and Pardeep Singh. The footage shows that Pardeep Singh, Guruamrit Singh, and at least one other student, were standing outside of the bookstore for several minutes. The complainant can be seen entering the bookstore during this period. After a few minutes, the complainant can be seen exiting the bookstore, and it is apparent from the footage that Pardeep Singh then engages the interaction with the complainant. Guruamrit Singh can then be seen walking away. Pardeep Singh can then be seen walking away from the bookstore with the complainant in the other direction, along the path toward the library. They both stop for a period of time and the camera's view is significantly obstructed by other people. Footage from another camera shows that Pardeep Singh then continued to walk with the complainant to the library.

Due to the obstructed view, it is not entirely clear whether Pardeep Singh grabbed the complainant's hand as the complaint alleges. However, the footage is generally consistent with the complainant's account of the incident, and is not consistent with Pardeep Singh's account.

### Complaint Process

I provided Pardeep Singh with a copy of the complaint and the KPU Security Incident Report. I advised Singh that he was at risk of being disqualified, and I invited him to provide a response, which he did.

In his response, Pardeep Singh denied the allegations and provided substantially the same account of the incident that he had provided to KPU security, specifically, that mutual friends of himself and the complainant had approached him on the complainant's behalf to ask him to help resolve the issue between the complainant and Guruamrit Singh.

The complainant was provided a copy of Pardeep Singh's response and was invited to comment on the response. The complainant restated that Pardeep Singh had threatened him and noted that there was no reason for him to have any interest in asking anyone to help resolve the issue between himself and Guruamrit Singh since it him, not Guruamrit Singh, who had filed a complaint.

### Conclusion

Based on the totality of the evidence, I have formed the opinion that Pardeep Singh engaged in intimidation and coercion of the complainant to pressure him to withdraw his complaint against Guruamrit Singh, and that this conduct constitutes an attempt to pervert my investigation into the complaint against Guruamrit Singh. Furthermore, I have also formed the opinion that Pardeep Singh's attempt to have the complainant withdraw his complaint against Guruamrit Singh gives

rise to an apparent slate between Pardeep Singh and Guruamrit Singh. These are all serious offences, each of which warrants disqualification.

**Therefore, Pardeep Singh is disqualified from this election.**

6 March 2023

  
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JARED NASH  
Chief Returning Officer