

April 4, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into injury to suspect following impaired driving arrest

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an allegation by a member of the Dakota Ojibway Police Service that an RCMP officer assaulted and injured her during her arrest for impaired driving. The IIU has concluded no charge should be laid against the officer.

In June 2017, the woman made a formal complaint to the RCMP regarding an incident that occurred three months earlier, on April 21, on Highway 3 near Pilot Mound. She stated that after being involved in a motor vehicle collision and arrested, a member of the Manitou RCMP detachment grabbed her arm and forcibly threw her head-first into the side of a police cruiser, resulting in swelling and bruising to her cheek and eye.

Although her injuries were not serious as defined by IIU regulations, the civilian director determined it was in the public interest for the IIU to investigate the woman's complaint.

In addition to interviewing the woman and the subject officer, IIU investigators also interviewed firefighters, paramedics, a civilian witness and other officers, all of whom were present at the scene. None of the witnesses saw the subject officer use excessive force on the woman. As well, her medical reports proved to be inconsistent with her recollections of the incident.

IIU civilian director Zane Tessler found that the woman was combative and resisted all reasonable attempts to be handcuffed and searched, and that the means used to restrain her were reasonable in the circumstances.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on June 20, 2017.

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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iiumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IIUManitoba