

Ben Milloy

From: Stephen Pritchard [redacted]
Sent: 12 January 2012 12:11
To: Ben Milloy
Subject: Re: Our Ref: 115618

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Dear Ben,

Apologies for my slow response [redacted]
[redacted]

To criticise someone's writing does not mean you are just criticising their style or expression. Writing is about approach, structure, insight, coherence, as well as felicity of expression. It is clear that throughout the summer Mr Assange was dissatisfied with the book. We believe that this dissatisfaction was an implicit criticism of Mr O'Hagan's work.

Accordingly, we do not agree with Mr Assange's assertion that this was a "significant and misleading inaccuracy".

Although Mr Assange states in his press release of 27 September that he admires Mr O'Hagan's writing, he also says: "The draft is published under the title "Julian Assange: The Unauthorised Autobiography" - a contradiction in terms. It is a narrative and literary interpretation of a conversation between the writer and me.... This draft was a work in progress. It is entirely uncorrected or fact-checked by me."

He is obviously unhappy with the approach and structure of the book.

We feel the best way to resolve this is to invite Mr Assange to submit a letter for publication, putting his point of view, which will also be appended to the review online, allowing him a right of

●eply. We would signal at the top of the article that Mr Assange's letter appeared below.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Stephen Pritchard
The Observer

THE DAILY MAIL



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Ben Milloy
Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
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London
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RECEIVED
09 JAN 2012

6 January 2012

Your ref: 115620

Dear Mr Milloy,

Thank you for your letter regarding the complaint from Julian Assange and please accept my apologies for the delay in this response.

Richard Littlejohn is a prominent columnist who expresses his views – as he is entitled to - in a typically trenchant fashion.

Not every reader will agree with his opinions. What they will understand however is that these are opinions not facts.

In this context, his claim that Julian Assange has been 'lionised' for 'hacking into the security services' would not be taken to mean that he has personally hacked into FBI computers.

Mr Assange claims that his site does not 'solicit anonymous sources of information'. Is that right? Why then does his site provide an 'electronic drop box for anonymous sources'. Should he not remove the drop box if he doesn't want anyone to put anything in it?

With regard to the second point, the substantive claim is that the Wikileaks publications have put people's lives at risk. This is an uncontroversial claim which has been widely made. Whether people have actually been killed is a moot point, but it is entirely possible that they have been and I don't agree that it is a 'basic matter of fact-checking' to establish that they have not.

Notwithstanding the above, we have no wish to enter into a lengthy correspondence on this matter and, for that reason, I have asked for the phrases 'hacked into the security services' and 'got people killed' to be amended as attached in order to resolve this complaint.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Alex Bannister
Group Managing Editor

Ben Milloy

From: Tal Gottesman [redacted]
Sent: 12 December 2011 17:47
To: Ben Milloy
Subject: PCC Julian Assange

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed complaint from Julian Assange. As I explained on the phone, the reporter who worked on the story unfortunately misattributed the source in our system and I am still in the process of tracing the original material. However in the interests of a swift resolution, I have already amended the two points Mr Assange contests – the fact that he is facing extradition over allegations of sexual assault rather than charges, and his assertion that he was not cautioned at the London protest.

In addition, we would be willing to append a clarification to the article on both of these points in order to resolve the matter.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Tal Gottesman
Deputy Managing Editor
MailOnline

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