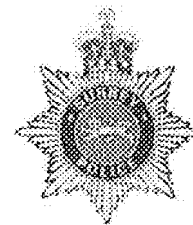


Our Ref: ACC/sh
Your Ref:

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson,
The Leveson Inquiry,
The Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand,
London
WC2A 2LL



**SURREY
POLICE**
*With you, making
Surrey safer*

JERRY KIRKBY
Assistant Chief Constable

27th April 2012

Dear Judge,

Further to my statement dated 2 March 2012 and my evidence to the Inquiry on 27 March 2012 I wish to add the following either as clarification or to address questions I was unable to answer when giving evidence.

Maria Woodall's evidence to my Investigation

In my statement (paragraph 20) I referred to a comment made by T/Detective Superintendent Maria Woodall. She explained how she had provided a journalist with '*...a different angle to concentrate on...*', which she believed related to an arrest plan, in order to divert them from running a line that could have been extremely damaging to the investigation.

I wish to clarify my response to the question: "*Is there not a need to ensure SIOs are given the confidence simply to say no where necessary, and to rely upon the press, if they're told that something is going to be damaging, not to report it?*" (Day 56 AM, page 18, lines 16-19).

My answer to this question is yes. When the police inform the press that information or a suspicion that they intend to print may be damaging to an on-going investigation the press should respect that. Indeed, in my view the press have a public duty to do so.

What I was attempting to get across in my oral answer was that in reality journalists on occasion do not respect a police officer's statement to this effect. As a result officers are put in the position where they have no choice but to release some (harmless) information to the journalist to prevent him or her printing information that could be damaging to an investigation. I would not criticise an officer who reasonably concluded that releasing information was the best or the only way to achieve their primary objective of protecting and promoting an on-going investigation.

Cont./d...

(2)

27th April 2012

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

That is what T/Detective Superintendent Woodall did here (following advice from the Head of Communications) and I think her decision was the correct one.

The key point is that officers should not be put in the position that T/Detective Superintendent Woodall was on this occasion by the press.

Operation Orb: response to complaint to the Daily Mail

In my statement (paragraph 24) I referred to the Operation Orb investigation and a letter written by the Chief Constable to the Editor of the *Daily Mail* on 22 November 2002 to complain about an irresponsible and inaccurate report. For the sake of clarity, I attach a copy of the letter (which was actually signed by the Deputy Chief Constable, Peter Fahy) together with the response received from the *Daily Mail* dated 28 November 2002 [**Documents 1 and 2**].

I was asked whether the letter "*was effective as a mechanism for preventing future transgressions*" (Day 56 AM, page 22, lines 17-18). I was unable to answer at the time but I can now confirm that there is no record of similar concerns being raised by the Operation Orb investigation team about reporting by the *Daily Mail* on this case after this correspondence. However I should point out that in January 2003 it was an approach by the *Daily Mail* (together with *London Tonight*) that was responsible for Surrey Police arresting Matthew Kelly sooner than was planned. I emphasise again that Matthew Kelly was never charged with any offence.

Operation Ruby: resistance to a media reward?

When I was giving evidence on 27 March 2002 I was shown an article in the *Sun* carrying endorsements from Surrey Police of the reward that the paper offered for information about Milly's disappearance. I was then asked "*...given how supportive the police were publically to the reward, are you really sure that there were serious reservations about the reward being offered*" (Day 56 AM, page 15, lines 21-24). My answer to that question was, and remains, yes. I attach documents to substantiate that answer.

Research I have caused to be undertaken shows that the subject of a reward from the media was discussed at Gold meetings on 28 March, 2 April, 9 April, 23 April, 30 April. The notes of these meetings do not provide details of the discussions.

On **31 March 2002** a media briefing document prepared by the Press Office (the content of which would have been subject to approval by the SIO) included the following scripted answer:

Cont.d/...

MOD200020273

(3)

27th April 2012

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

“Q. Has a reward been put up for information?”

- *We have received requests from the media and even from individuals – appreciate these offer*
- *Rewards do generate hoax calls - as people are more concerned about gaining the reward than helping the police*
- *At this stage did not feel this would be helpful to the investigation”***[Document 3]**

On **2 April 2002** the Operation Ruby SIO recorded a decision in relation to rewards being offered by the media which stated:

“CIRCUMSTANCES/ INFORMATION

Various offers have been made by media companies and individuals to supply a reward to assist with the investigation

DECISION

These offers will be declined at this stage

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME

The primary benefits provided by a reward is (sic) to stimulate public interest. At this stage of the enquiry there is a high level of media interest therefore no requirement to offer a reward. Those offering rewards have been thanked and advised [that] Police are likely to revisit + consider accepting at a later stage.”

[Document 4]

Surrey Police’s concerns about the reward were certainly known to the *Sun*. Mike Darvill (News Reporter) emailed a Surrey Police Press Officer on **8 April 2002** stating: *“You have stressed that at the moment, you feel it would lead to a flood of hoax calls.”* **[Document 5]**

On **9 April 2002** the Operation Ruby SIO recorded a decision in relation to rewards being offered by the media which stated:

“CIRCUMSTANCES/ INFORMATION

Rewards are still being offered by media / other agencies

Cont.d/...

MOD200020274

(4)

27th April 2012

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

DECISION

To maintain stance that the police do not encourage such action [as it] would not be helpful at this time

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME

Use of rewards in recent cases (Damilola Taylor) has presented evidential difficulties in terms of witness motivation

No requirement to further stimulate media interest at present."

[Document 6]

On **23 April 2002** a media briefing document prepared by the Press Office (the content of which would have been subject to approval by the SIO) included the following scripted answer:

"Q. You have been offered a number of rewards from the media. Why have you not taken these up?"

- The high profile publicity on Amanda Dowler has generated more than 3000 calls to our incident room.*
- We believe if someone was planning to come forward with relevant information, they would have done so by now*
- As with the Damiola Taylor case – rewards can result in witnesses fabricating the truth in order to gain the reward*
- We are constantly reviewing the benefit of putting up a reward – and it may be something that we want to utilize in the future once all lines of enquiry have been exhausted."*

[Document 7]

On **2 May 2002** the SIO recorded the following decision:

"CIRCUMSTANCES/ INFORMATION

The Sun and the News of the World have both continued to offer rewards. ACPO [ranked officers] advise that the N.O.W in particular are highly likely to publish said offer this weekend with or without our blessing

Cont.d/...

MOD200020275

(5)

27th April 2012

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

DECISION

To co-operate with both papers and apply necessary resources to cope with increased workload

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME

Should N.O.W. go ahead without our having appropriate resources in place, it is probable that we would alienate the public by virtue of not being able to respond to any demand”

[Document 8]

Once the *Sun* and the *News of the World* had decided that they were going to make reward offers “with or without” Surrey Police’s “blessing”, it would have been imprudent for Surrey Police not to have co-operated with those papers and endorsed their offers for obvious reasons, including those given by the SIO.

I understand that the *Sun* published the reward on 4 May 2002 and the *News of the World* published the reward on 5 May 2002. Surrey Police released a press statement endorsing the reward on **3 May 2002** containing a quote from Chief Constable Denis O’Connor which I believe was published in the *Sun* article that I was shown when I was giving evidence.

[Document 9]

I wish to make it clear that I am not criticising the press for offering rewards. When police officers judge that a reward would be of operational value, the assistance from the press both in terms of publicity and large sums of reward money can be incredibly useful. This is an example of very positive relations between the press and the police.

In the case of Milly Dowler, reward offers by the *Sun* and the *News of the World* were made very early in the investigation at a time when the SIO judged that a reward would not be of operational value. Those papers’ insistence on running a reward led to Surrey Police effectively having to support the reward and to allocate staff to deal with the resultant calls from the public.

In 2003 (on the first anniversary of Milly’s disappearance) Surrey Police *did* judge that a reward would be of operational value. Surrey Police offered a £50,000 reward (including £10,000 from Crimestoppers) on 21 March 2003 **[Document 10]**.

Cont.d/...

(6)

27th April 2012

The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

Operation Ruby: consequences of reward

I was asked whether I was able to help the Inquiry "*with what the consequence of the reward offer was? Were the SIO's initial fears realised?*" (Day 56 AM, page 16, lines 18-20).

I have been able to ascertain that as at 27 May 2002 (just over 3 weeks after the reward was offered) over 600 calls had been made to the dedicated reward hotline. It is impossible to ascertain how many of the hundreds of calls received by Operation Ruby using numbers other than the reward hotline were prompted by the reward or how many calls were received directly by the *Sun* or the *News of the World*.

Calls received on the reward hotline varied from unconfirmed sightings of Milly across the country and abroad to those from people simply wishing to help the enquiry.

None of the calls to the reward hotline led to the development of any major lines of enquiry.

To the best of my knowledge, no one has received any reward money in connection with Operation Ruby.

Rachel Cowles: Contempt of Court proceedings

I made reference in my statement and briefly in my oral evidence to events at the Levi Bellfield trial. I wish to add the following, which I have been advised I am able to without risking any prejudice to on-going proceedings.

On 24 June 2011 Levi Bellfield was convicted of the kidnap and murder of Milly Dowler at the Old Bailey. At the time the jury reached their verdict in relation to the Milly Dowler charges, they had yet to reach a verdict on Bellfield's charge for the attempted kidnap of Rachel Cowles. There was very significant amount of press coverage of Bellfield's conviction on 24 June 2011. On 25 June 2011 Bellfield's defence team argued that some information in that coverage was highly prejudicial. Mr Justice Wilkie accepted this submission and discharged the jury. He said that he would be making a referral to the Attorney General.

I have confirmed with the Attorney General's office that contempt proceedings have commenced against the *Daily Mail* and the *Mirror* for material published overnight on 24 June 2011. Consent to commence proceedings under s.1 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 was granted in November 2011 and the next hearing is at the High Court on 13 June 2012.

Cont.d/...

(7)

27th April 2012

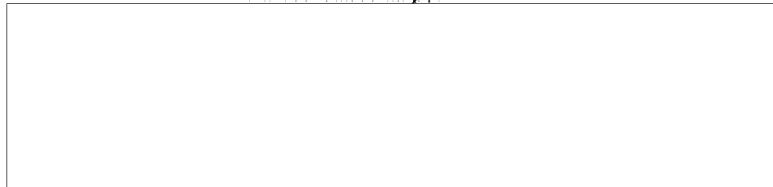
The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Leveson

The Surrey Police Operation Ruby team were devastated that the jury had to be discharged before they had the opportunity to reach a verdict on the Rachel Cowles matter. I was at the Old Bailey on 25 June and I saw the impact this decision had on Rachel Cowles after she went through the ordeal of giving evidence. In my view the actions of some sections of the media were highly irresponsible and there was no acceptable reason not to delay writing about Bellfield in detail until after the jury had reached its verdict.

I attach (without any comment or endorsement) a copy of a report from the *Telegraph* website which provides further background [Document 11].

If I can assist the Inquiry by providing any further clarity on these matters then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of Jerry Kirby.

JERRY KIRKBY
Assistant Chief Constable

136

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Paul Dacre
The Editor
Daily Mail
Northcliffe House
2 Derry Street.
London, W8 5TT



SURREY
POLICE

Peter Fahy MA
Deputy Chief Constable

22nd November 2002

Dear Mr Dacre

I feel that I must write to express my disappointment that you chose to run the story "Has the Trophy Rapist Claimed his 11th Victim" in today's Daily Mail".

Your reporter was given a very clear statement early yesterday evening that the alleged attack on a 15-year-old girl in Horsell yesterday, on the evidence available, was NOT linked to the Operation Orb series of attacks on women in the South East. You nevertheless chose to ignore this advice and printed the story regardless.

This inaccurate reporting has caused the Operation Orb incident rooms to be flooded with calls concerning this unrelated incident, which is hindering our search for the rapist and taking valuable resources away from our work.

It has also caused much distress to the victims and their families' who were not told of the attack in Horsell, because it was not linked to the series, but have now read about it in your newspaper.

Surrey Police has previously enjoyed a good relationship with the Daily Mail, and its reporters, and I would like your assurance that, when reporters are given a clear line on an operational matter in future, they will respect and act upon it.

Yours sincerely

Peter Fahy

Police Headquarters, Mount Browne, Sandy Lane, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1HG
Tel 01483 482007 Fax 01483 454294 Email 7410@surrey.police.uk Website www.surrey.police.uk

With you, making Surrey safer

Document ①

MOD200020279

B30 PU CC

1461

THE DAILY MAIL

Telephone: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

Northcliffe House,
2 Derry Street,
Kensington,
London, W8 5TT

14/12 COPIES: CC 2
- THE MAIL

Mr Peter Fahy MA
Deputy Chief Constable
Surrey Police
Police Headquarters
Mount Browne
Sandy Lane
Guildford
Surrey GU3 1HG

RECEIVED IN
- 2 DEC 2002
DCC's/ACC's OFFICE

28 November, 2002

Dear Mr Fahy,

Thank you for your letter of November 22 to the editor who has asked me to reply in his absence. I am sorry you have felt it necessary to write to the Mail in these terms and must take this opportunity to apologise to you if you consider our reporting of this incident was unhelpful.

The Mail has always had an excellent working relationship with the police and particularly with your own force. This is something I am anxious to continue and to build on for the future.

I have discussed this matter with our chief crime correspondent Stephen Wright who was away from the office that day and who is equally concerned about this matter. I have also discussed your letter with the Newsdesk so that everyone is aware of your concerns.

Stephen Wright will be making contact with you shortly to discuss this more fully with you. If you have any problems at any time please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature area]

SURREY POLICE
REGISTRY
RECEIVED 03 DEC 2002
1552-4
GUILDFORD

Lawrence H Sear
Managing Editor

31 March briefing 11.45am

REDACTED

Document ③

MOD200020281

REDACTED

Q. Has a reward been put up for information?

- We have received requests from the media and even from individuals – appreciate these offer
- Rewards do generate hoax calls - as people are more concerned about gaining the reward than helping the police
- At this stage did not feel this would be helpful to the investigation

REDACTED

CR 0138

Forensic Strategy		Arrest Strategy		Main Line of Enquiry		Family Liaison	
Media Strategy	✓	Search Strategy		Sensitive Issues		Other	

CIRCUMSTANCES / INFORMATION

Various offers have been made by media companies and individuals to supply a reward to assist with the investigation.

DECISION:

These offers will be declined at this stage.

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME:

The primary benefits provided by a reward is to stimulate public interest. At this stage of an enquiry there is a high level of media interest therefore no requirement to offer a reward. Those offering rewards have been thanked and advised police are likely to revisit & consider accepting at a later stage.

Officer Making Entry		Date / Time	2/02 2100 hrs
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Officer Making Decision (if Different)	Sign / Print Date / Time	Supervised Review	Sign / Print Date / Time
--	-----------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------------

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0366-95.1.

McGregor, Sarah 9006

From: Francis, Melenie 9427
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2002 5:05 PM
To: Taylor, Ruth 9426; McGregor, Sarah 9006
Subject: FW: for attention of Sarah McGregor...

Melenie Francis
Press Officer

press.office@

-----Original Message-----

From: Darvill, Mike [SMTP:mike.darvill@]
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2002 16:47
To: 'press.office@'
Subject: for attention of Sarah McGregor...

Sarah,

As you know, we have been pursuing the idea of The Sun putting up a reward to help in the hunt for Milly Dowler.

We feel that it would be of great benefit as the search for Milly goes on.

We would like to put up a £10,000 reward and of course would be happy to work together with Surrey Police on the exact wording of the appeal.

You have stressed that at the moment, you feel it would lead to a flood of hoax calls.

However, we believe that - with the search now three weeks on - it would be of great help and if there is a vital call that results from it, then surely that would outweigh the drawback of the odd hoax call.

Last year a man was charged with the murder of Kevin Jackson, who was killed chasing suspected car thieves last December in Halifax. The charge followed a £10,000 Sun reward.

We would also like to point out that a front page in The Sun reaches many more millions than programmes such as Crimewatch, which carry appeals.

And as the Milly story heads toward a fourth week, and coverage inevitably gets smaller, a reward story would put it firmly back at the top of the agenda.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Darvill (News Reporter).

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Document (5)

MOD200020285

V

Forensic Strategy		Arrest Strategy	✓ Main Line of Enquiry	Family Liaison	
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Media Strategy		Search Strategy	Sensitive Issues	Other	✓
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CIRCUMSTANCES / INFORMATION


Rewards are still being offered by media / other agencies.

DECISION: To maintain stance that for Police to encourage such action would not be helpful at this time

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME:

Use of rewards in recent cases (Daniela TAYLOR) has presented evidential difficulties in terms of witness motivation
 No opinion to judge stimulate media interest at present

	GIBSON	1310 9/4/02
Officer Making Entry	Sign / Print	Date / Time

	26/02/02
Officer Making Decision (If Different)	Supervised Review
Sign / Print	Sign / Print
Date / Time	Date / Time

Q & A

23 April

Questions not approved on Operation Magenta and approved

REDACTED

Document ⑦

MOD200020287

REDACTED

Q. You have been offered a number of rewards from the media. Why have you not taken these up?

- The high profile publicity on Amanda Dowler has generated more than 3000 calls to our incident room.
- We believe if someone was planning to come forward with relevant information, they would have done so by now
- As with the Damiola Taylor case – rewards can result in witnesses fabricating the truth in order to gain the reward
- We are constantly reviewing the benefit of putting up a reward – and it may be something that we want to utilize in the future once all lines of enquiry have been exhausted

Forensic Strategy		Arrest Strategy		Main Line of Enquiry		Family Liaison	
Media Strategy	✓	Search Strategy		Sensitive Issues		Other	


CIRCUMSTANCES / INFORMATION


The Sun and News of the World have both continued to offer rewards. ACPD advise that the N.O.W. in particular are highly likely to publish said offer this weekend with or without an blessing.

DECISION: To cooperate with both papers and apply necessary resources to cope with increased workload.

REASON / INTENDED OUTCOME:

Should NOW go ahead without our having appropriate resources in place, it is probable that we would alienate the public by virtue of not being able to respond to any demand.

	CrBlen	2/5/02 1500
Officer Making Entry	Sign / Print	Date / Time

		30/02
Officer Making Decision (if Different)	Sign / Print	Date / Time
	Supervised Review	Sign / Print
		Date / Time

News and Information

Surrey Police Press Office, Kingston Road, Staines, Surrey TW18 4LQ
Telephone 01784 446932
Website www.surrey.police.uk



■ SURREY ■
POLICE

*With you, making
Surrey safer*

3 May 2002

£100,000 reward for information to find Milly

A £100,000 reward is being offered for information, which results in finding missing schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

Surrey Police is hoping that this significant reward, put up by The Sun, will provide the vital clue to finding out why and how Milly disappeared and encourage people to continue divulging important information.

During the course of this enquiry Surrey Police has spoken to and interviewed many people including Amanda's family, friends, local businesses and residents. There has been a significant level of co-operation and a vast amount of information has been obtained to establish who Amanda is, what she is like and how she relates to her family, friends and people she knows. However Surrey Police is confident that there is more information about Milly which has not yet been offered, and we hope this reward will encourage people to speak freely.

Superintendent Alan Sharp said: 'This reward should encourage those people that have not already spoken to Surrey Police to come forward. We have spoken to many people but we believe they may be holding something back about Milly. There may be secrets about Milly or her life – we need to know what these secrets are.

No matter how small or insignificant you think that piece of information is, we need genuine callers to contact us. Please don't hesitate to pick up the phone.'

Document 9

MOD200020290

Chief Constable Denis O'Connor commented about the reward: 'We are grateful for the practical support at this critical point in time. We think that there is someone out there who knows something that they are not telling us. We sincerely hope that this fresh approach will spark someone to tell us any secrets about Milly that they know.'

Both Surrey Police and Milly's parents greatly appreciate The Sun newspaper offering this significant amount of money and really hope that it will result in providing us with a break through in the investigation.

Surrey Police is continuing to follow all lines of enquiries and is keeping options open as to the reasons for Amanda's disappearance.

Ends

For further information contact Surrey Police press office on 01784 446932 or email: press.office@surrey.police.uk

For up-to-date news see our website at www.surrey.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS 

News and Information



Surrey Police Press & Publicity, Mount Browne, Sandy Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HG
Telephone 01483 482322 Fax 01483 482371
Website www.surrey.police.uk

■ SURREY ■
POLICE

20 March 2003

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01 FRIDAY 21ST MARCH

£50,000 reward for information leading to Milly's killer

Surrey Police and the Crimestoppers charity are offering a £50,000 reward for information which helps them find whoever is responsible for the murder of 13-year-old Amanda ('Milly') Dowler, who went missing from Walton-on-Thames one year ago.

Officers believe that a key piece of information they are looking for could be the clothes and possessions Milly had with her when she disappeared. None of Milly's school uniform nor her school bag and its contents have ever been found.

Detective Chief Superintendent Craig Denholm, leading the enquiry, said: "Finding Milly's clothes and the other items she had with her at the time of her disappearance would be one of our best opportunities for a breakthrough on this case.

"They may provide crucial evidence to help us find Milly's killer and we are again appealing for the public's help to locate them. If anyone has come across any of these items, whether in the possession of someone they know or discarded, I would urge them to call and let us know.

"We are offering a £50,000 reward for any information which leads us to Milly's killer. Anyone who would rather give information anonymously can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

The size of the reward, which is funded by £10,000 from Crimestoppers and £40,000 from Surrey Police, is quite exceptional and demonstrates the huge commitment to this case.

Document (10)

When Milly went missing, she was wearing her school uniform of navy blue blazer, light blue V-neck jumper, white blouse, short grey skirt and a navy and light blue striped tie. She also wore a pair of black 'Pod' shoes. She had the following items with her: A Nokia 3210 mobile phone with a silver front and blue back which was marked "Milly"; a beige and black Jansport rucksack; a small pink glittery 'Barbie' case; a rimlock and a mortice lock key on a bottle opener keyring and a white plastic purse with a red heart motif.

Surrey Police still has a team of 30 to 40 officers on the enquiry, working from the Major Incident Room at Staines police station. The investigating team has been contacted by almost 9,000 people offering information, has taken more than 3,300 statements and checked more than 2,700 vehicles as part of the enquiry. More than 500 items have been submitted for forensic testing and experts are still in the process of painstakingly examining more than 40 sacks of leaf matter which were taken from the site where Milly's body was found.

Commenting on the investigation, Detective Chief Superintendent Denholm said: "We have committed huge resources to this investigation and have gone to extraordinary lengths to crack the case. This is why, despite being 12 months on, we still have a number of open lines of inquiry. We remain optimistic that we will find whoever is responsible for Milly's murder."

Ends

Note to editors:

The £50,000 reward is offered for information which leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the abduction and murder of Amanda Dowler.

For further information contact Surrey Police press office on 01483 482322 or email: press.office@surrey.police.uk

For up-to-date news see our website at www.surrey.police.uk

 **CRIMESTOPPERS** 0800 555 111

Levi Bellfield trial: Rachel Cowles angry over trial collapse after 'media coverage'

A woman Levi Bellfield allegedly tried to abduct the day before kidnapping Milly Dowler is devastated at being "robbed" of justice after his trial was aborted following a barrage of prejudicial publicity.



Rachel Cowles, flanked by her parents, reads a statement to the media outside The Old Bailey. Photo: REUTERS



By [Andrew Hough](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/andrew-hough/)

7:45AM BST 25 Jun 2011

[Follow](#) (2,906 followers)

Rachel Cowles, 21, admitted being "extremely hurt and angry" after an Old Bailey jury was discharged on Friday without reaching a verdict that Bellfield had tried to snatch her in broad daylight.

During his trial, the schoolgirl told how two weeks short of her 12th birthday she was accosted by a "chubby skinhead" as she walked home from school in March 2002.

Prosecutors claimed it was Bellfield who tried to lure her into his car the day before he abducted and killed Milly as she walked home from Bishop Wand Church of England school in Sunbury to her home in nearby Shepperton.

Milly, who lived just three miles away, was abducted and murdered in March 2002. Her body was found six months later.

On Thursday the former nightclub doorman and wheelclamber, 43, was found guilty of kidnapping and murdering 13-year-old Milly but jurors had yet to reach a verdict on attempted kidnapping charges that he abducted her.

[Rachel Cowles: 'I have been robbed of justice'](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8587017/Rachel-Cowles-I-have-been-robbed-of-justice.html)

[Bellfield 'tried to abduct girl before taking Milly'](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8512236/Levi-Bellfield-tried-to-abduct-schoolgirl-the-day-before-kidnapping-Milly-Dowler.html)

[Jury discharged in final Bellfield case](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8596712/Milly-Dowler-jury-discharged-in-final-Levi-Bellfield-)

[case.html](#))

[Police apologise for blunders in hunt for Milly Dowler's killer \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8586753/Levi-Bellfield-trial-police-apologise-for-Milly-Dowler-blunders.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8586753/Levi-Bellfield-trial-police-apologise-for-Milly-Dowler-blunders.html)

[Milly Dowler police investigation criticised \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8595496/Families-of-women-murdered-by-Milly-Dowler-killer-Levi-Bellfield-criticise-police-errors.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8595496/Families-of-women-murdered-by-Milly-Dowler-killer-Levi-Bellfield-criticise-police-errors.html)

[Levi Bellfield guilty of abduction and murder of Milly Dowler \(http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8594367/Levi-Bellfield-found-guilty-of-abducting-and-murdering-Milly-Dowler.html\)](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8594367/Levi-Bellfield-found-guilty-of-abducting-and-murdering-Milly-Dowler.html)

But tabloid newspapers and television news programmes subsequently published "hugely prejudicial" material about the "predatory and violent" convicted murderer, which the jury had not been made aware of.

The "avalanche" of adverse publicity included interviews with former partners, airing police interviews, linking him to other high-profile murders and publishing comments about defence tactics.

On Friday Mr Justice Wilkie admitted he had been forced into the "deplorable" position of discharging jurors before they returned verdict in the case. The charges will now "lie on the file".

The judge said the "the trigger had been pulled too soon," by the media and the "huge volume of publicity" made it impossible for the jury to give fair consideration to its verdicts.

After the judge said he would refer the case to the Attorney General to consider bringing contempt of court charges against media organisations, the Crown Prosecution Service announced they would not seek a retrial.

Speaking outside court, Miss Cowles, flanked by her mother Diana, said: "I am extremely hurt and angry that some of the media reporting of this case has now robbed me of the chance for justice for what happened in 2002.

"Giving evidence in court brought back many memories and I hope now that I can put this ordeal behind me and move on with my life."

"I would like to thank all my family and friends for the love and support they have shown me not only during this trial but also over the last nine years."

Earlier, the judge paid tribute to her family and her for their handling of the distressing news before acknowledging that "Rachel Cowles will be denied closure".

"The only person who is going to be affected by what has happened and most affected adversely has been Rachel Cowles and her family," he said.

"She has had to live for nine years with what happened to her and she has given evidence in court which has no doubt been an ordeal for her."

Surrey Police also apologised to the family for their "poor initial response" to the case.

The court heard that Diana Cowles rang police when a man in a red car offered her daughter a lift but it was three years until officers interviewed her.

After Bellfield's arrest, Scotland Yard investigated a further 20 offences including allegations of rape, assaults and druggings.

Many of those cases insufficient evidence to prosecute but some rape charges lie on the file.

In 2008, Bellfield stood trial for attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm for an attack on Irma Dragoshi, 33, in West Drayton in December 2003.

Bellfield was charged over an attack on Anna-Marie Rennie, who was thought to be his first victim.

She identified him as the man who tried to bundle her into a car in Twickenham, west London, in 2001 as the 17 year-old was walking to a bus stop but managed to escape.

A jury failed to reach a verdict on both cases. On Friday it was claimed the convicted murderer assaulted, raped and "terrorised" his former partners.

A spokesman for the Attorney General, Dominic Grieve QC, said he will consider whether there has been "possible contempt of court".

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