

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS REGULATION TRUST

9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QN
(registered charity number 1162737)

24th October 2016

Dr. David Wolfe QC
Chair
Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
London W1W 8HF

(and by email to contact@pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk)

Dear Dr. Wolf

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Press Recognition Panel, and following an offensive article in the Daily Mail on 21st October.

The Daily Mail has published untruths about the Independent Press Regulation Trust (IPRT) in the following article on Friday:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3857502/The-disturbing-links-anti-Semitic-sect-S-M-orgy-sinister-bid-muzzle-press.html#comments>

I set out the facts below, for your clear understanding.

There is absolutely no connection between my trusteeship of the charity the Society of St Pius X (SSPX) and of the Catholic Charitable Trust on the one hand, and of the IPRT on the other. To suggest otherwise is simply untrue.

Neither is there any connection whatsoever between myself, or any member of the Vernor-Miles family, and Mr Mosley or his family.

The Catholic Charitable Trust is a grant making charity established to advance the Roman Catholic Religion. In accordance with the wishes of its founder, the Countess of Kinnoull, it promotes the traditional teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church before the Second Vatican Council, including the preservation of the Latin Liturgy and traditional Liturgical services. The Countess of Kinnoull was also instrumental in the establishment of the SSPX and she wanted the Catholic Charitable Trust to be used to support the SSPX. The SSPX is a Catholic Religious Order which practices Catholicism in accordance with the traditional teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church prior to the Second Vatican Council. The application of funds from the Catholic Charitable Trust to the SSPX is entirely in-keeping with the objects of the Catholic Charitable Trust, and of the wishes of the settlor.

The SSPX is an international Order. I have been a trustee of the UK charity SSPX, which is registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales as well as with the Office of the

Scottish Charity Regulator, since August 2015. It is wrong to say I am the head of the board of the trustees. The UK charity owns 16 Churches and Chapels and 8 residences, to provide accommodation for Priests. 11 Priests, 3 Brothers and 6 Sisters work for the charity across the UK. The charity also operates a school for approximately 135 pupils, providing an excellent private education at heavily subsidised rates.

The SSPX absolutely refutes it is at all anti-Semitic. A former bishop of the SSPX is well known for his extreme and unacceptable views which do not in the slightest reflect those of the UK charity or the important work it undertakes. He was expelled from the SSPX in October 2012.

I have no connections whatsoever with the Catholic Herald and have no comment to make on any articles which it may have published about 80 years ago, whether or not at a time when the newspaper was owned by my grandfather. I do not believe he was ever a journalist for the newspaper, nor its editor. I believe he bought the newspaper in about 1937 and the family sold all interest in it in mid 1960s – some 10 years before I was born.

It is untrue to say that "*The Independent Press Regulation Trust was established to present a cordon sanitaire between the tycoon's naked desire for revenge and the 'independent' press regulator, Impress,*". Whilst it is a matter of public record that the IPRT receives substantial funding from the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust ("the AMCT"), the IPRT is a wholly independent charity to the AMCT and neither it nor Mr Mosley exercise any control over the funding arrangements between the trustees of the IPRT and IMPRESS.

Our discretion as to the application of the funds received from the AMCT is entirely unfettered. This is clearly reflected in the terms of our funding agreement with the AMCT, which in the interests of openness and transparency, has previously been the subject of public disclosure by IMPRESS (in addition to our funding agreement with them) with the full approval and support of the trustees of the IPRT.

It is also untrue to say "*the wealthy and influential Mosley and Vernor-Miles families are working side by side*". I am merely acting as a trustee of a charity to advance its objects, which are recognised in law as charitable. I do not know Mr Mosley or any of his family. To my knowledge neither I nor any member of my family has ever spoken to him or any member of his family.

I would respectfully invite you and the members of your committee to draw your own inferences in relation to the real intended purpose and timing of this misguided article. I trust this entirely clarifies matters but would be pleased to speak with you, if you require any further information regarding my true statements above.

Yours sincerely,



Winifred Vernor-Miles
Trustee of the IPRT