

Annex B to Kit Malthouse's Witness Statement

Details of Published Articles

1. I originally began writing articles when I was a relatively unknown Conservative candidate. I had been developing an idea to propose moving Heathrow Airport to an island in the Thames Estuary and I wanted to write an article about it. I wrote the article and first offered it to the Evening Standard, who declined it. However, I spoke to a friend, Robbie Miller, the Deputy Editor for the Columnist at The Times, and he was keen to run it. The article was published on 23 November 2007. Shortly following publication, I received payment for the article, without having agreed or expected to do so. The article was very successful and the story developed.
2. Following this, I continued to write and submit articles whenever there was a particular topic or issue that I was interested in and which I wanted publicised. The majority of my articles appeared in The Times, mainly because I had a contact there, and there seemed to be a willingness to publish my pieces. I received a fee for publication in each case, but this was not a motivating factor in writing. I would have written them for free.
3. I have set out below a list of what I believe are all of the other articles that I have written over the last three or four years:
 - 3.1 15 December 2007 – Article in The Times Columnists section relating to homelessness in London;
 - 3.2 2 January 2008 - Article in The Times Columnists section relating to Sir Ian Blair;
 - 3.3 26 February 2008 – Article in The Times Columnists section relating to building underground in London;
 - 3.4 17 February 2009 – Article in the Guardian relating to the effectiveness of stop and search;
 - 3.5 2 November 2009 – Article in The Times relating to tackling dangerous dogs;
 - 3.6 6 April 2010 – Article in The Times relating to Corporation Tax and VAT;
 - 3.7 2 August 2010 – Article in The Times relating to drinking problems in the UK, compulsory sobriety projects and tackling drink-related crime; and
 - 3.8 3 September 2010 – Article in The Times relating to hydrogen cars.
4. I also gave an interview to Sean O'Neill, the Crime Editor from The Times, over a cup of coffee, and this resulted in an article being published on 5 August 2010 entitled "Chief Constable's 'extreme power' should be curbed, says Tory".

5. I did not have time to write a large number of articles and few topics in these articles were police-related. I did write the occasional column in the Evening Standard and these would be on police-related topics and they were written on behalf of the MPA. I was not paid for these articles and they were placed by the MPA's press office and City Hall.
6. The articles I have written have all been my own work, my research and containing my opinion, usually on political positioning. As a politician it is imperative to be engaged in matters of public interest. My relationship is predominantly with The Times, who are part of News International Group. This was an incidental relationship that occurred by virtue of my friendship with a reporter, Robbie Miller, at The Times, which was fostered when I was a struggling Conservative candidate trying to get attention, and bolstered by publication of my pieces as described. It was a historical relationship that existed before my involvement as Chair of MPA. I was not beholden to this or any newspaper in any way. These were articles written of my own accord and then offered to them for publication; the newspaper would not approach me and commission an article.
7. On occasion, I have also spoken to journalists when I have deemed a particular article or interview to be completely inaccurate. These approaches were made after the event and therefore they were not made with the intention of trying to dissuade a story from being published or broadcast. For example, I recall speaking to Sean O'Neill from The Times in relation to an article he had written which purported to report verbatim a conversation between The Mayor and an unnamed police officer. I knew that such a conversation had never taken place and I wanted to inform Sean O'Neill that his 'source' was unreliable.
8. I have also called up Mark Thompson from the BBC with a more formal complaint about an interview that they had done on BBC London. BBC London had conducted a sit down interview with The Mayor, but in my view, it was aggressive, biased and unfocussed. I wrote and made a formal complaint.