

WATERLOO LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE

Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, London SE1 7AA

Tel: 020 7261 1404

FOR THE URGENT ATTENTION OF

Mr Alexander Baron
c/o Infotext Manuscripts
93c Venner Road
Sydenham
London SE26 5HU

Email: a_baron@BTinternet.com

21 August 2016

Our ref: CEM/Clifford

Dear Mr Baron

Re: URGENT ACTION required in relation to Mr Donald Clifford

We write on behalf of Mr Donald Clifford. Mr Clifford came to see us on 18 August in considerable distress, having received abusive phone calls and hostile messages from individuals who had this week discovered, via an online search, a 'press release' posted on your website www.infotextmanuscripts.org

The press release is visible at the following link:

<https://www.infotextmanuscripts.org/djetc/clifford-press-release.pdf>

The press release, and hence your website, contains sensitive personal data concerning Mr Clifford, not least regarding his mental health and medical history including his former problems with alcohol. We understand you obtained this and other personal information about him and his past directly from Mr Clifford during a series of conversations with him in and around 2005, and that you used the information to write the book to which your press release refers – *“Lord of Lambeth: The Extraordinary Life and Times of Donald A Clifford”*.

It is clear to us, and confirmed by letters from psychiatric professionals shown to us by Mr Clifford (one of whom, Tracey Taylor, has written to you directly this week) that he suffers from severe ongoing mental health conditions and has done so for a very long time. These conditions include severe bi-polar disorder and severe anxiety. This obviously makes him a vulnerable man.

Mr Clifford has explained to us that at the time he shared his personal information with you he was very mentally unwell. This was or should have been clear to you at that time, particularly given the content of your conversations. He insists he did not

enter into any formal agreement with you granting you permission to publish his personal information in the form of a book or otherwise, and – more importantly - he lacked the mental capacity to conclude any agreement in any event, including an agreement to give his consent for you or for any person to use the information. You have therefore published that information (and continue to publish it) without his consent, despite the fact that information about a private citizen's mental health history and alcohol problems is obviously of a private and confidential nature.

We understand from Mr Clifford that a letter was sent to you by lawyers acting on his behalf at the time the book was first published in 2005 confirming that you did not have his consent, and asking you to cease publicising the book and to destroy all copies of it. We also understand that Mr Clifford went to the trouble of obtaining many of the printed copies so that he could stop them from going on sale. As a result, he thought the matter was closed over ten years ago, so one can only imagine his enormous distress at being told that this detailed press release was now online – and that it purports to offer the book itself for sale.

Moreover, we have identified from our own internet searches that the book is being publicised - quoting information taken from your press release - on other websites including for example www.Loot.co.za. This has only compounded Mr Clifford's distress and anxiety.

We therefore ask you to take the following action AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

1. Remove the aforementioned press release from your website immediately so that it cannot appear under any internet searches.
2. Remove all other references to Mr Clifford from your website. We note for example that he and your book are referred to under a page dealing with events of 2005.
3. Confirm that you have destroyed all copies of the aforementioned book/manuscript which are in your possession or control, whether in hard copy or electronic form.
4. Contact the websites which quote from your press release and/or publicise the book (1) informing them that you did not have consent to publish the sensitive personal information – either in the book or the press release - and (2) asking them to remove it from their own webpages as a matter of urgency.
5. Confirm to us in writing that each of the above steps has been taken **NO LATER THAN 7 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER**

We trust that you will take this action voluntarily and promptly in order to minimise Mr Clifford's severe distress and anxiety, which risks impacting on his already poor mental health.

Please note however that if you do not do so, Mr Clifford may be forced to commence legal proceedings against you for the tort of misuse of private information and/or for breach of confidence, in which he will seek to recover damages and costs from you.

Please confirm receipt of this letter by return, quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Waterloo Legal Advice Service

cc Mr D Clifford