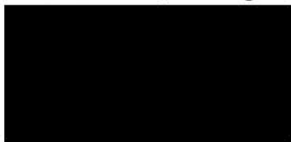




Our reference: 062299

13 September 2006

Michael Ryan Esq


Dear Mr Ryan

I write further to my letter of 8 September.

I have now received a response from the newspaper, a copy of which is enclosed.

As you will see, Jon Simcock has responded on behalf of the Editor, who is out of the office at the moment. He has explained that the newspaper was unable to publish your letter of 8 August unedited due to fears of libel action. However, he has apologised that you were not given the chance to redraft your letter, and has explained that the letter from Mr Conolly was published for a second time in error.

As a means of resolving the matter, Mr Simcock has offered to publish a slightly edited version of your letter of 10 September, submitted directly to the newspaper.

In light of Mr Simcock's letter, I would be very interested to hear your thoughts, and any further comments you may wish to make. In particular, I would be grateful if you would indicate to me whether you would be willing to accept the offer of the publication of your letter of 10 September as a means of resolving your complaint, which is of course our primary aim.

As you may be aware, one additional benefit of a complaint being resolved is that we would publish a summary of the case – with a wording to be agreed by you – on our website and in our biannual report. This will, importantly, act as a further public record of the concerns you have raised and the action required of the newspaper.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts, within the next seven days or sooner if at all possible. Please feel free to give me a call if you wish to talk the matter over.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Beveridge
hannah.beveridge@pcc.org.uk

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Tim Toulmin

Ketley, Telford, Shropshire TF1 5HU

Telephone: (01952) 242424 Fax: 01952 222451 (Advertising) 01952 254605 (Editorial)

www.shropshirestar.com

September 11, 2006

Ms Hannah Beveridge
Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
20/23 Holborn
London
EC1N 2JD



Dear Ms Beveridge

Thank you for your letter of September 8 regarding the complaint you have received from Mr M Ryan.

I am afraid I am unable to answer all aspects of Mr Ryan's complaint, largely because the editor, who dealt with the correspondence, is at present out of the country, but hope I can suggest a way forward.

In a nutshell Mr Ryan's complaint appears to be that the Shropshire Star has refused to publish a letter from him in which he counters claims made in a published letter by Mr Simon Conolly of the local Primary Care Trust.

Having read Mr Ryan's submitted letter it contains statements which we could not have published without a substantial fear of facing a serious libel action. Specifically, he accuses several public bodies (and by clear inference individuals) of a systematic cover-up of the adverse health effects of certain emissions from a power station. The Shropshire Star cannot possibly know the truth of this statement.

He also describes a meeting as a deliberate attempt to discredit research he had been involved with, another statement we could not possibly legally justify.

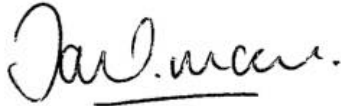
However, he should have been offered the chance to redraft his letter. If this has not been done (as seems to be the case) then that is a matter for regret.

It also appears that the Star published the letter from Mr Conolly a second time in error. It was faxed to us afresh, but we cannot trace the new source. Mr Conolly says it was not from him and there is nothing on the copy of the new submission to give a clue as to where it came from.

I am perfectly happy to give Mr Ryan a swift right of reply in the letters page, but any submission would have to be legally sound. Interestingly a fresh letter arrived this morning from him on the very same subject which I would be happy to print with minor amendments. I have enclosed a copy with the suggested alterations.

Perhaps this would be an appropriate way to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Simcock', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jon Simcock
Deputy Editor

Fax to Shropshire Star Letters, 01952 254605

Sheet 1 of 5

From Michael Ryan, [REDACTED]

Letters to the Editor

Shropshire Star

Ketley,

Telford,

TF1 5HU

10 September 2006

Dear Sir,

Simon Conolly & Telford & Wrekin PCT

I'd like Simon Conolly, Chief Executive of Telford & Wrekin PCT, to retract his letter to the Shropshire Star about me which was printed on 21 September 2005 and again on 8 August 2006.

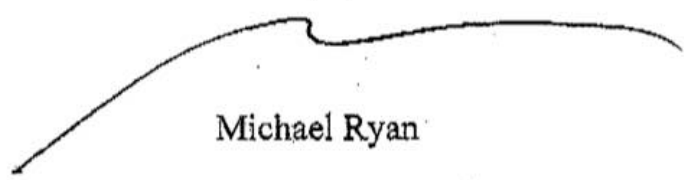
(He is a fool to try and bluster away scientific facts as) ^{remove within brackets} He needs only to look at the mortality data for electoral wards for the three-year period 2003 to 2005 to see that Dr Dick van Steenis and I are correct.

The infant mortality rate for the whole of Telford & Wrekin was close to the average rate for England & Wales for the above three years at 5.2, 5.2 and 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively, but those average rates hide the fact that more than half of the wards had zero infant deaths in each of those years.

The electoral ward with the highest infant mortality rate in Telford & Wrekin during 2003 to 2005 is the one that is closest to the power station (that Simon Conolly and others are so keen to protect.) ^{remove within brackets}

The 2005 mortality data has only recently been released by the Office of National Statistics and I trust that Mr Conolly will act swiftly with his retraction.

Yours faithfully,


Michael Ryan

I've copied a summary table of infant deaths for electoral wards in Telford & Wrekin and also an enlarged ward map with some of the rates shown. I've also copied a ward map for whole of Telford plus the covering letter from ONS to me dated 5 September 2006 confirming that I hold the data quoted.