

Statement made to the Metropolitan Police at Colindale Police Station
by George Rooker on 27th June 2019
in response to allegations of harassment made by Marie Van der Zyl
the President of the Board of Deputies
with respect to 'multiple letters' which were sent to her.

I George Rooker DOB 22/08/1940 say as follows:

It is alleged that I have harassed Marie Van der Zyl by sending her 34 letters in her capacity as President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews between May 2018 and May 2019.

I deny targeting Marie in a way calculated to cause her any alarm or distress. My letters are commentaries and reflections on the news events pertaining to the Jewish community as reported in the Jewish press. They deal with recurring themes such as faith and values, morality and family relationships. Any reference to her personal circumstances was to highlight ambiguities with her public stance on matters pertaining to comments she has made on the matters raised in her role as President. A lively exchange of view points is part of the cut and thrust of discussion in the Jewish community.

As a trained litigator Marie is able to respond in a robust manner, as she often does on Twitter and in the press when her leadership or the Board comes under criticism. When she appeared on the TV show/series "Desert Darlings" in 2003 the national press noted her claim to "like a fight".

Marie has at no time contacted me to say that my letters caused her alarm or distress. The Board of Deputies have never contacted me and asked me to stop writing. My letters have never been acknowledged.

I believe that this complaint has originated because I wrote to the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the SRA - complaining that her firm's website incorrectly recorded that she attended a university when she actually attended a Liverpool Polytechnic. My complaint was upheld and I have correspondence from the SRA confirming this. I did not write directly to the law firm Ince Gordon Dadds. The SRA required her firm Ince Gordon Dadds LLP to amend their website to record her alma mater as Liverpool Polytechnic. I believe this caused her embarrassment and that this accusation is vexatious.

Marie Van der Zyl is my daughter in law, through her second marriage to my step son, Darrell Van der Zyl, in 1998. My wife Nikki, is a Holocaust survivor. We have no relationship with Marie, Darrell or our two grand children.

I certainly did not intend to cause any alarm or distress, I do not believe any was caused and ~~that~~ this allegation is vexatious. However, I will not write to Marie directly again and I am saddened she did not reply to my letters constructively.

Signed: G.A.Rooker 27/6/2019

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This text has been transcribed from the hand written document prepared by a solicitor with law firm Lewis Nedas.

The statement by Mrs Van der Zyl is not available.