

Mrs Anne Main MP
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Evan Harris
Hacked Off
Southbank House
Black Prince Road
London

SE1 7SJ

AM/CM

12 March 2018

Dear Dr Harris,

Thank you for your letter dated March 5th 2018. I appreciate your response, however, I believe that it does raise further questions. Indeed, my attempts were certainly not to smear Hacked Off, but simply to ask reasonable questions about how your organisation is funded.

Given the recent news that one of Hacked Off's founders, Professor Brian Cathcart, received a large donation from Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust, incidentally the same trust which funds Impress, I do believe that it begs further questions about funding that I would be grateful if you could answer.

Are you aware of any other employees or key members of Hacked Off who have been in receipt of payment, either directly or indirectly, from Max Mosley or one of his trusts?

You have said in your letter to me that:

"To our knowledge, Mr Mosley has never made a donation to Hacked Off", and that you, "have no way of checking every anonymous donation made on line."

However, your website clearly states that you:

"have a board of directors who... conduct *due diligence over all donations.*" [My emphasis.]

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I think it is clear from what you have said that these two statements conflict. Therefore I would ask, do you check all donations, or only some? And, if you only conduct due diligence on some donations, what is your criteria?

If "due diligence over all donations" has not actually been made historically, will you now commit to asking Mr Mosley if he has made donations to your organisation?

I note your previous response, and I am grateful for the swiftness of it. However, given that the issue of press freedom is one of the most profound issues of our day, it would be very helpful to understand how Hacked Off and members of its team are funded.

Moreover, given the huge public interest, I believe that answering reasonable questions of funding and due diligence would give everyone the confidence that those who lobby for state regulation of the free press are transparent about their cause and their aims.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Main".

Anne Main MP

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