

Shelley Openshaw
Force Solicitors Unit
Merseyside Police HQ
Canning Place
Liverpool

Your ref : FS/001511/Adv/HM

Dear Ms Openshaw

Thank you for your letter dated 27th September 2005.

Your request to delay the publication of the second edition of Spiders
In The Bath is granted.

I will give the Force Solicitor a fair hearing and look forward to
hearing from her in due course.

Yours sincerely

Paul Breen

Helen Mercer
Force Solicitor
Merseyside Police
Canning Place
Liverpool

Friday 30th September 2005

Dear Ms Mercer

There will be no other mention of the skulduggery in Operation Pirate in the second edition of Spiders In The Bath other than that contained in the updated foreword which I enclose.

I am surprised at your request to delay publication as I would have thought all the matters raised, would have been dealt with in the Merseyside Police report submitted to the full meeting of the Merseyside Police Authority on the 24th April 2004.

If I receive a copy of that report before the 6th October, I will remove the names of the following police officers from the book: SGT BARRAT, PC SPARKS, PC RILEY, PC BYRNE, PC HULSE, PC PARRY, PC MARSDEN, PC BAKER.

Should the Chief Constable wish to contest the accuracy of the reference I have made to the trial judges barristers and police officers named in the foreword, I am willing to consider any legitimate concerns and tailor the foreword accordingly.

My aim is to save lives, not to unjustly drag the names of reputable police officers through the mud.

Yours sincerely

Paul Breen ✓



Helen Mercer LL.B
Force Solicitor

Peter Vernon LL.B
Deputy Force Solicitor

Maria Leslie LL.B
Assistant Force Solicitor

Shelley Openshaw BA Hon
Legal Practice Manager

Date:

4 October 2005

When telephoning
please contact :
Direct line :

Helen Mercer

0151 777 8080

Our Ref :
Your Ref :

FS/001511/Adv/HM

Mr Paul Breen

Dear Mr Breen

YOUR PROPOSED BOOK: SPIDERS IN THE BATH (2ND EDITION)

I refer to your recent correspondence with the force. If you were really serious about seeking the views of the Merseyside Police and the individuals you have named in that correspondence, you would submit a full proof of your proposed book, together with the name of your publisher and your publisher's lawyer, so that the matter could be dealt with properly.

Insofar as I am able to comment at all, I would say this: some of what you say is simply scurrilous abuse; some of what you say will undoubtedly be libellous and the individuals concerned will, of course, take such steps as they feel necessary to protect their reputation.

You must, of course, make contact direct with any trial judge or barrister you suggest may be affected by your publication. I have copied your letters to the Police Federation in respect of individual officers. It will need time to consider the position.

I have also passed copies of your correspondence, including your latest letter of Friday, 30 September to Merseyside Police Authority. While it is a matter for them to consider, I doubt very much that they will release copies of documents that have, quite properly, been dealt with in private session at the Police Authority. In any event, I do not believe they will do any such thing as a trade-off for your suggested removal of names.

Yours sincerely

HELEN MERCER
Force Solicitor

cc The Chief Constable

Helen Mercer
Force Solicitor
Merseyside Police
Canning Place
Liverpool

Saturday 8th October 2005

Your ref: FS/001511/Adv/HM

Dear Ms Mercer

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th October 2005.

Mr Barraclough, a Liverpool barrister who acted in both the Operation Lotus and Operation Pirate trials and forced the police to admit allowing Derek Lilley to peddle heroin on oath at Bolton Crown Court, is an authority on the issues raised in the foreword of my book.

You may find it to your advantage to counsel his opinion on the accuracy of the foreword, before you embarrass yourself and your client, the Chief Constable, any further.

I will be engaging the services of Mr Barraclough should your empty threats materialise.

Unlike Mr Barraclough and me, you are not an authority on the issues raised in the foreword. Although I recognise, that you may have had access to a report that was designed to be considered in secret because the truthfulness of that secret report would not withstand public scrutiny.

There is of course no scurrilous abuse in the foreword of my book.

There is no libel in the foreword of my book.

The Police Federation and the police officers named and shamed will not come forward as you threaten, for fear of being bankrupted by a transcript of the voir dir in question.

Your pathetic attempt to protect the police officers involved in the conspiracy to supply heroin has failed.

Yours sincerely

Paul Breen