

Statement of Witness

Statement of Andrew Carey

Age of Witness: Over 18

This statement (consisting of 3 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

1. I work as an Officer of the Christian charity, [REDACTED] and am a journalist, formerly Deputy Editor and currently regular columnist of the Church of England Newspaper.

2. I am an immediate and close professional colleague of [REDACTED] with whom I work extensively and deeply in scholarly research, writing and publishing on issues to do with religion in society. Absolutely integral to [REDACTED] professional work for [REDACTED] is also the parallel study and hermeneutical engagement with the sacred texts of Islam, Christianity, Judaism and other religions [REDACTED]

3. I have throughout known [REDACTED] to be a man of utmost truthfulness and honesty in all respects, who has demonstrated a singular bravery in speaking and writing publicly on abuses of religious power, notwithstanding the personal cost to himself, and over time we have become firm and supportive friends as well as close work colleagues. He has worked with me on matters to do with the Church of England, its Clergy Discipline Measure, safeguarding and related processes, of which he has a deep knowledge and understanding, and we have assisted other Christian clergy colleagues in challenging victimisation and bullying by religious hierarchy. He also holds an important role as a Core Participant Witness in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in relation to churches and other faith communities, and as an accredited rep of [REDACTED] its clergy union, in which context he has rightly spoken out about similar abuses.

4. [REDACTED] discussed and shared with me at an early stage the extensive and unpleasant history with Mr William Campbell-Taylor, and expressed great distress and alarm about this man. He warned me in advance to be alert to the significant risk that Mr Campbell-Taylor would directly or indirectly attempt to make unsolicited contact with me concerning [REDACTED] following a prior and ongoing pattern of harassment by Mr Campbell-Taylor of interfering in different areas of [REDACTED] life, and making contact with other professional and personal colleagues of [REDACTED]

5. I am aware that earlier this year, Mr Campbell-Taylor had made unsolicited contact with Trustees of the [REDACTED] charity and directly referenced [REDACTED] in his adverse communications, and our respected work colleague, [REDACTED] Chair of the Board of Trustees, has already expressed his anger at this behaviour. I am also aware of the alleged role in this incident of Mr Campbell-Taylor's then Acting Bishop of Stepney.

6. On 25 June 2019, I discussed with [REDACTED] and thereafter contacted the Editor of the Church of England Newspaper to commission two articles by him on matters to do with institutional bullying and abuse in the Church of England, [REDACTED] and failures of the Clergy Discipline Measure and safeguarding processes, drawing upon his expertise in these areas. [REDACTED]

7. Both of the articles were well received by readers of the newspaper and, in addition, I exhibit as AC/3 a letter published by other clergy on the letters page of the Church of England Newspaper [REDACTED] which corroborated the experiences [REDACTED] had described of victimisation of whistleblowers of bullying and abuse by church and other religious leaders.

8. However, [REDACTED] I advised [REDACTED] how I had seen an adverse post on social media concerning him and his article which had been published by Bishop Peter Broadbent, who had been the Acting Bishop of Stepney for Mr William Campbell-Taylor.

9. On [REDACTED] the Church of England Newspaper received an unsolicited telephone call from Canon Guy Wilkinson, who then proceeded to pass on partly incorrect information about [REDACTED] I am aware that Canon Wilkinson is a close associate and supporter of Mr William Campbell-Taylor.

10. [REDACTED]

11. However, over subsequent weeks I became aware and saw documentary evidence of the escalating victimisation of [REDACTED] and also his Jewish and Christian clergy friends on account of the serious issues he had raised, including in the context of the Clergy Union. [REDACTED]

12. On 13 September 2019 at 13:45, Mr William Campbell-Taylor sent an unsolicited e-mail directly addressed to me which I exhibit as AC/6. Despite the fact that nowhere in [REDACTED] articles was there any reference to Mr Campbell-Taylor, nor in mine, Mr Campbell-Taylor contacted me in order to attack and discredit [REDACTED] to me despite it being absolutely clear to him and others from my published articles that [REDACTED] and I know each other. The content of the e-mail clearly demonstrates Mr Campbell-Taylor's motive to malign and undermine [REDACTED] to a colleague who knows him.

13. It has since been brought to my attention that Mr Campbell-Taylor apparently similarly intervened via an accomplice of his, Revd Steven Saxby, who was also an Executive Committee Member of the Clergy Union, in order to undermine [REDACTED] in that organisation, in a course of conduct that was described by the then, Chair of the Clergy Union, Revd Canon Stephen Trott, a highly-respected and senior clergyman, as Mr Campbell-Taylor “agitating” via Revd Saxby in a “vendetta against [REDACTED]”. It is a matter of public record that Revd Saxby subsequently resigned from the Executive Committee and was suspended as a Labour Party Parliamentary candidate for the City of London and Westminster, due to allegations of sexual harassment. Both Revd Saxby and Mr Campbell-Taylor are known associates involved together in the City of London Branch of the Labour Party.

14. As I survey the course of conduct pursued by Mr William Campbell-Taylor, of repeated unsolicited direct and indirect contact with multiple professional colleagues of [REDACTED] and intrusion into multiple areas of his work and life, I believe the harassment and stalking behaviour by Mr Campbell-Taylor, whether acting directly or acting by proxy through his known accomplices, should be absolutely clear to any reasonable person.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

(witness)

Date:

10/12/19