

Statement from Charlotte Stamper and reproduction of email correspondence with the Mail online

As I detailed in my emails to the Leveson inquiry, I have had some correspondence with the Daily Mail online about their reporting of celebrity pregnancies. My interest in corresponding with them stemmed from a blog post I read that made reference to some things the Mail online editor, Martin Clarke, had said at the Leveson inquiry. At Leveson, Martin Clarke said: "...the other month a US website broke the news of Sienna Miller's pregnancy which was swiftly followed by all our American rivals but not by us because we don't report pregnancies unless confirmed by the subject." And: "Similarly, there are things that we can't write, pregnancy stories, for instance. The PCC says that we're not allowed to say somebody's pregnant unless they've confirmed it."

The blog post, including Martin Clarke's quotes, can be found here: <http://tabloid-watch.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/we-dont-report-pregnancies-unless.html>

What Martin Clarke said at Leveson, did not add up with what I have seen on the Mail online where they publish pregnancy stories on a fairly regular basis. Following my email correspondence with the Mail online, I believe Martin Clarke was lying or misleading or spinning the truth to the inquiry. What he said at the inquiry was certainly not an accurate representation of what the Mail online actually do.

When questioned on their editorial policy versus what Martin Clarke told Leveson, the Mail online told me that, they "...are free to speculate... What we cannot do is report it as a fact." As you will see from the emails and the stories that I link to as examples, I do not believe that they stick to simply speculating. For example, on a story about the actress Drew Barrymore, the headline reads: "Keeping Mum: Drew Barrymore still keeping quiet about pregnancy." I do not read this as simply speculation and for the Mail online to pretend it is, is farcical.

As you read through the emails between myself and the Mail online you will see various issues arise, such as the Mail online's ability to assess when a woman has reached 12 weeks of pregnancy. There are some questions I have put to them that they have chosen not to answer.

The emails are reproduced below, with the first email I sent being at the top. They are then reproduced in date order, with the latest email from them to me being at the end.

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: Charlotte Stamper
Date: 6 July 2012

Story on your website yesterday about Gisele - reply requested



Charlotte Stamper

Jun 8

to corrections

Hello,

I've just seen this story about speculation about whether supermodel Gisele is pregnant:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/1/eshowbiz/article-2156624/Something-hide-Gisele-steps-holding-big-bag-tummy-rumours-swirl-gisele-expecting-second-baby.html>

There are lots of other examples of where you speculate on pregnancy.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/1/eshowbiz/article-2128363/Chloe-Kardashian-mis-arrriage-its-NOT-true.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/1/eshowbiz/article-2087600/Skinny-fashion-stylist-Rachel-Zoe-tucks-platter-food-amid-megawatt-rumours.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/1/eshowbiz/article-2138600/Crew-Barrymore-keeping-quiet-pregnancy-hides-mouth-hand-photo-shoot.html>

It seems at odds with what Martin Clarke said to the Leveson inquiry: "...the other month a US website broke the news of Sienna Miller's pregnancy which was swiftly followed by all our American rivals but not by us because we don't report pregnancies unless confirmed by the subject"

And: "Similarly, there are things that we can't write, pregnancy stories, for instance. The PCC says that we're not allowed to say somebody's pregnant unless they've confirmed it."

Could you please clarify your position - do you or do you not speculate on pregnancies? Was Martin Clarke wrong? Or has the PCC changed its rules and regs? Or is it something else?

Please let me know.

Many thanks

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Corrections

Jun 11

to me

Thank you for your email. We are sorry that you have had to wait for a response, it was due to staff leave after the Jubilee celebrations. We are free to speculate - and always have done - about women being pregnant. This is not legally or ethically wrong. What we cannot do is report it as a fact, which was the case with Sienna Miller (until her sister confirmed it). This is what Martin Clarke said in his evidence to the Leveson Inquiry. The PCC guidelines are that journalists should not reveal details of a well-known person's pregnancy before the pregnancy has progressed to 12 weeks without the person's consent. If the pregnancy is confirmed but the person does not consent to its being revealed by the press, any subsequent revelation would be in breach of those guidelines and the person's confidence. Where mere speculation about pregnancy is concerned, a 'rumour' that is very widely reported as just a rumour, as in the case of supermodel Gisele, does not breach the guidelines. We hope this deals with your concerns.

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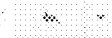
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Charlotte Stamper

to Corrections

Jun 18



Hello,

Thank you for your response.

I have a couple of questions about this.

1. You say you are free to speculate about women being pregnant but can not "report it as a fact". On the Drew Barrymore story, the headline reads: "Keeping Mum: Drew Barrymore still keeping quiet about pregnancy..." Does this count as just speculation? The story then starts, "Even though it appears to be obvious to all that Drew Barrymore is indeed with child, the actress has yet to make it official." Is this also just speculation?

2. You say, "The PCC guidelines are that journalists should not reveal details of a well-known person's pregnancy before the pregnancy has progressed to 12 weeks without the person's consent." So at 12 weeks and one day, you can print what you like? Also, how do you know when a woman is over 12 weeks pregnant? Many women do not have dating scans until later in their pregnancy; I have known some women who have had dating scans at 14 weeks, so how does the Daily Mail know how pregnant someone is?

Many thanks

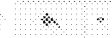
ccc



Charlotte Stamper

to Corrections

Jun 25 (10 days ago)



Hello,

I was just wondering when I should expect a response from you on my points below.

Many thanks

ccc



Corrections

to me

4:47 PM (17 minutes ago)



Thank you for your email and for your continuing interest in articles on Daily Mail online. In making editorial decisions, we take a view on each set of facts and consider legal and ethical rules and what has appeared elsewhere across the internet. We also draw inferences from the way certain well-known people have reacted to articles previously published.

-----Original Message-----

From: Charlotte Stamper [mailto:]

Sent: 25 June 2012 10:16

To: Corrections

Subject: Fwd: Story on your website yesterday about Gisele - reply requested

Hello,

I was just wondering when I should expect a response from you on my points below.

Many thanks

Charlotte