

Mr A Baron
93c Venner Road
Sydenham
London
SE26 5HU

Your reference

Our reference

CG/LJC

Date

20 October 2006

Dear Sir

MICHAEL STONE

I am in receipt of your letter dated 16 October 2006 regarding issues with Michael Stone, a very high profile prisoner, who is being held in high security conditions, having been found guilty in two trials now for very serious crimes.

Our duty of care is to protect the public. This requires us to keep Mr Stone in prison custody as the trial judge stated and also to prevent Mr Stone glorifying his case publicly.

Having personally read several of the exchanges of communication between yourself and Mr Stone over the past months I would have to say that, whilst it may well be part of a website, the question is what is the real difference between public access to a book and access to a website? The story is still being made public. I also have to say that the way the information was laid out in chapters convinced not only prison managers but also our legal adviser at Headquarters that a book was the clear opinion of us all.

To add to this, I personally witnessed your written comments in various passages which you endorsed prior to returning to Mr Stone for amendment. One example was where Mr Stone relates to the story of Megan Russell's views and memories. You actually request Mr Stone to make the passage a bit more gory and to add more detail ...

This was found to be disturbing and, as such, it was forwarded to our legal adviser. The view was that this type of material, regardless of its needs, would not be permitted.

Mr Stone has misused his computer within a prison workshop. The workshop transcribes Braille material. Mr Stone used it to compile what we believe to be chapters of a book including index. This was unauthorised usage. The shop manager was also disciplined for allowing it to take place and supporting it to some degree by printing it for him.

Following on from this, Mr Stone attempted to send out some 40 plus pages of his transcript to you via his solicitor. Following receipt of a letter from you, attached to which was a letter for Mr Stone to you which you were returning to him, and in which Mr Stone stated he would make the changes as soon as he could access his word processor. Thank you for alerting us to this Mr Baron.

The Rule 39 solicitor's letter was stopped on grounds of suspicion and opened in Mr Stone's presence to check its content. It contained a hand written letter to the solicitor which ended in Mr Stone requesting that the solicitor ensured that he passed on to yourself the 40 plus pages of transcript. This was clear abuse of Rule 39 privilege, hence the letter was stopped and Mr Stone placed on report for breaching prison rules.

In conclusion, based on the perception that Mr Stone is arguably penning the script of a book, coupled with our duty of care to the public and to prevent prisoners sensationalising their cases, the current position will remain unchanged.

I trust this clears up our position in this matter.

Yours faithfully



GOVERNOR COLIN GODBER
Head of Business Support Unit