

Our ref RB/RB/007689/00010

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26 July 2006

By Email: don-mcgovern@cathud.com

Dear Sirs

Ms Catherine Pepinster

We act for Catherine Pepinster, the Editor of The Tablet newspaper, who has consulted us in connection with a website page http://www.cathud.com/LINKS/pages_AF/catholic_press.htm. This is part of the website of the Catholic Unattached Directory.

The page contains a highly unpleasant personal attack on our client and her integrity. It accuses her of hypocrisy in relation to her Catholic faith, by saying that she "returned" to the faith less than a year before running for Editor. By putting the word "returned" in quotes the page clearly implies that her return to the faith was not genuine. This is both deeply hurtful and highly damaging to her in her position as Editor of a leading Catholic newspaper. It is also wholly untrue, and indeed 7 years in fact elapsed before she became Editor.

It contains numerous highly hurtful inaccuracies, including an allegation that she had been "shacked up with her lover" and that she "has only the vaguest grasp of Catholic doctrine (if she has any at all)" — an allegation which is again damaging to her in her position as Editor of The Tablet, and wholly untrue, not least because she has an MA from Heythrop College, London University, in philosophy and religion.

Finally, there is the suggestion that she holds "heretical opinions on all serious issues of faith", which again is calculated to offend and damage her reputation which is similarly untrue.

We have advised our client that the page is very seriously defamatory of her. The allegations are clearly calculated to damage her reputation and expose her to contempt. They naturally cause her immense distress.

You are legally responsible for the content of the website. We must ask you forthwith to withdraw the offending page and any references to it.

May we please receive your confirmation that this has been done, so that any further damage is thereby minimised. Meanwhile we must of course reserve all our client's legal rights which include the right to

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compensation, and the right to apply for an injunction restraining any further publication.

Yours faithfully

Charles Russell LLP