

Combined E-mails sent between PRYCE and OAKESHOTT

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

From: isabel oakeshott <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, 1 Mar 2011 20:08:15

To: <vickypryce@[REDACTED]>

Subject: my grand plan

I've spent most of the afternoon thinking about your situation from every angle and have come to some conclusions, which I hope you'll have a think about.

First of all, i think your reputation would be really damaged by a 'tell all' book with Angela Levin/ the Mail on Sunday. The Mail on Sunday is -at the end of the day- a fairly downmarket publication and a lot of people would think it a bit tawdry for you to be co-operating with them. I know it's got a big readership, but so has the News of the World! If you are seen to be helping the Mail on Sunday, it will look bad - no two ways about it. There will also be an assumption that you've made money from it, - because everyone rightly assumes that papers like that use their cheque books to get their stories. That would be bad for your reputation.

At the moment it sounds like you have a really good chance of joining the MPC in the nearish future, and in the longer term, perhaps even the House of Lords. It is not worth jeopardising that if it can be avoided.

Given that you clearly want to tell your story, (and at the same time see that Chris gets what he deserves) that leaves two options:

1) do the book, but give serialisation rights to a more respectable paper, ie, the Sunday Times. This is an okay option, but the downside is it would be a lot of time and effort, over a period of months, and you would have to provide an awful lot of material. 30,000 words- the minimum for a book that doesn't look like a leaflet! -is a huge amount of material. It would also most likely be a struggle to find a publisher; nobody would make any money from it; but still, people would think you'd made money from it- and that would be damaging.

or

2) the best option: tell your story in a major two part series in the Sunday Times. (ghost written by me.) i am confident this would make two very big pieces in News Review, plus two news stories, both front page of the news section - inflicting maximum and perhaps fatal damage on Chris, if you are prepared to talk openly about the license points [REDACTED]

This is what I strongly recommend you do, since it achieves your dual objective of bringing Chris down (if we can); without seriously damaging your own reputation in the process. We could publish it quite soon- certainly in a matter of weeks if you wanted. Clearly no money would be involved, which would leave you untarnished by that aspect of things; and the Sunday Times is a serious publication, taken seriously; it cant just be dismissed as tabloid muck raking. Furthermore it would enable you to

(1)

draw a line under things, media wise - and you could make it clear that this is your last word on the subject. that sounds dignified!

You know we could have quite a lot of fun doing it....We could perhaps go away somewhere nice for a few days, to work on it in complete privacy and in relaxed surroundings. It wouldn't have to be anywhere fancy (though it could be!) and I'm sure the Sunday Times would help foot the bill. You look like you need a break, and i certainly do. in a few days we could have it all done and dusted.

The only remaining issue would be holding off on the driving license story with the Mail on Sunday. I think you would have to tell them that you'd changed your mind on the story for now because your divorce proceedings are at a sensitive stage. (quite true.) You said that they won't believe you, but they can't do the story without your cooperation, so they won't have any choice in the matter.

In any case i think it's perfectly believable. journalists are quite used to contacts changing their mind...

Ok, that's it for now. Let me know what you think. But if you go with my advice, i don't think you can really lose. While I do have an interest (in getting good material for my paper) I also feel we have built up a relationship of trust, and I wouldn't advise you to do something that i knew was clearly bad for you.

All the best  
Isabel

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

From: "vickypryce [REDACTED]"  
To: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tue, 1 March, 2011 21:40:08  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

Timewise I need to think whether we publish after my settlement or before. Also emphasis will need to be on political wife, glass ceiling etc as we said with the revelations coming out as snippets rather than main focus if you vsee what I mean. Also would need some. reassurance that it would indeed bring CH down. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lets talk a bit more but generally like it. To Levin I say no publisher interested so no book and close it there. To SM see what other ideas they have and tell them I will let them know as soon as he rings. No point in upsetting them as there may be other things they can write about.

By the way we won!!!

v  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 19:13:41  
To: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

Any more thoughts?

There are never any guarantees about politicians resigning...some get away with the most extraordinary behaviour; while others have to stand down over more minor things. a lot depends on no10 and in this case Clegg. my feeling is that if we can nail the license points story so that he can't deny it, (ie we have him on tape, or by text; or the assistant on tape or text) then he'd absolutely have to go. Clegg would probably secretly be gleeful, so wouldn't rescue him; and Cameron fairly indifferent. His only defence would be that it was ages ago, which is no defence; and furthermore he could well find himself being prosecuted. My sense is that you are still very undecided as to what you want to. For my part i'm still very up for the grand plan, which i think is the best compromise for you given your various objectives; but i won't push you either way. however if you do want to do it, we should at the least fix some dates for our little trip, as it will take a bit of advance organisation. plus, i'm desperate to go somewhere warmer and less grey than London [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

love Isabel

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

From: "vickypryce" [REDACTED]  
To: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thu, 3 March, 2011 20:50:10  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

I have no doubt as I definitely want to nail him. More than ever actually and would love to do it soon. Also particularly pissed off as I have had to cancel going to a founder's feast at Nuffield tmr night as despite attempts by the Warden to put him off he insists on going ..(We are both Visiting Fellows). The Greek option still sounds good to me. I have inevitably had lots of thoughts. Some random ones: Would whoever took the points having been bullied to do so also be prosecuted? And what if a journalist asked the question at some open event, ie did you ever make others take your points for you? He would find it difficult to deny it but the paper would then have to disclose source?

I have started putting Angela L off and have not had call from MoS yet this week-but they had told me that this was definitely a resignable offence.

Have you talked to your lawyers?..

Writing this from a Trade and Industry dinner at Mansion house with Vince and Rachel...

And yes, I want to do it. Lets book dates but also pursue the points above.

Love

Vicky

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2011 21:25:34  
To: <vickypryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

excellent, i'm really up for it and think we can have some fun.

I am having lunch with my boss on Tuesday so i will have a confidential chat with him about the project. i will get the answers we need from our media lawyers (probably next week as it's friday tomorrow and they'll be snowed under with legal issues relating to stories for this sunday.)

interesting and clever thought about a journalist asking the question at an open event. however, from a journalists' point of view this would be a last resort, because they wouldn't be able to do the story as an exclusive, ie, everybody would be on to it. it's an entertaining thought, cornering him at a press conference - his expression would be a picture- but i think it's only an avenue to go down if all else has failed. I doubt he would deny it if he knows it to be true - he would probably bluster about it being irrelevant to whatever the event was -so the story would definitely get out there, but it could be a legally risky thing to do for the journalist concerned (might be a case for slander...?)

In any case I shall ask our lawyers. Important point about the possibility of prosecution for other parties- again, we will need to seek solid legal advice. Enjoy the dinner- i expect Vince needs a glass of wine or two...!

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

From: "vickypryce [REDACTED]"  
To: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Fri, 4 March, 2011 1:42:14  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

It wouldn't be slander if the other party then had to tell truth after pressed by journalist, who got initial info from another source and once in public domain difficult to lie...so journalist covered.. no risk.. what do you think?

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 09:25:03

To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

actually it was my husband's idea that we should go away to do it, so hopefully he'll be up for doing a bit of extra childcare while i'm away!  
April would be fine. Weekdays would be easier because we have childcare in place, but if that makes it a lot more difficult for you then I can make arrangements for a long weekend. I think four days would be about right to gel everything down; but if you're tight on time we could probably manage it in three days.  
It would definitely best to do it before I go back to work -which will be very end of april at the absolute earliest.  
best not to go down the 'challenging him in public' route at this stage though it's definitely an option if all else fails. are you loathe to try the text message + telephone conversation option?

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

From: "vickypryce [REDACTED]"  
Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 23:42:47  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

I will check April diaries and we can go to Greece for four days although we must avoid Easter at the end of April of course – and the royal wedding.... Could always of course do something in the UK instead in some nice spa (are there such things?) if easier re baby for you.

Have not given up at all on the telephone/text option but here must be a realistic chance of a paper ringing him if he is to try and shut me up. I am annoyed tnt as I had to pull out of the

Nuffield event I told you about because of him so feel I may want the open question option too and soon- and we need to work out if/how/when in relation to a piece and ensure maximum damage. As I said before I am completely determined (and not only because of the BAD economics he used yesterday to scare people re the oil price to put pressure on Osborne to give him what he wants in the budget and beyond.. really shocked by that crap).

Have good weekend x V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 5 Mar 2011 05:32:49  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

5

i'm pretty keen on the greece idea too, as i've never been there and it would be a very welcome change of scene. [REDACTED] and i've had some pretty bad nights lately, though got lots of help during the day on weekdays. (weekends are another matter - usually lots of bickering with husband about who's more tired/overworked!) I will continue thinking about the open question but don't think it's the be idea -the trouble is it's very unpredictable how it would evolve; and you wouldn't have complete control. he would most likely either deny it point blank (as a former journalist he will have given quite a bit of thought to the difficulties the media will have in reporting the story if he denies it outright, so may feel he can get away with lying) or respond that he had no idea what the journalist was talking about. i think the allegation would be reported but without further back up it in the form of the text/phone recording evidence, the story could just run out of steam. So my feeling is that is still very much a last resort after other things have failed.

one further thought: it would not be hard to get a freelance journalist, who doesn't have to state any connection with any paper, to ring Chris or his "people" and ask about the license points allegation. This could rattle him and provide the context you need to say you've been contacted by the press again about it. I could arrange this at low risk by asking Nigel (my husband) who is a freelance working for the Mail, Mail on Sunday and the Sun, to do it. We use different surnames and i doubt anyone in Chris' camp would make the connection...

This could be worth doing if it set the scene for you trying to get something from him on text message or telephone recording.

ok, that's it for now. it's 5.30am. been up most of the night. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

From: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]  
To: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 5 March, 2011 15:33:21  
Subject: Re:my grand plan

Greece it is then....

Hope you got some sleep after all!

Your husband being involved is great idea. Forgot he does freelance! I wonder whether you/he see merit in also investigating and exposing CT if indeed it was her (sick) who alerted press to Eastleigh - [REDACTED]. Even if we don't use any of this to expose them we can use evidence in article we will be writing. Also re the public question, would it not get a lot of coverage if whoever does it can then follow it up in the paper(after his denial) writing that they had been told by a source close to CH (which will remain undisclosed) that indeed it was me/someone in the family. Then they come to me after the denial and of course at that stage as it is public all i need to say is that I can't cover it up for him any longer as that would be lying now it is out in the public arena. It would stand up to srutiny- especially with me not being the original source. Also he knows it to be true ie that I have covered for him before when MoS pressurised me and also rang him and I told him when he rang me in a panic that I had said 'no comment' which was indeed exactly what had

happened and I can refer to it. As I told you he then used the fact I had not spilled the beans to categorically deny it which must surely now put him in a worse position if found to have lied to No 10 and the press- I have seen e-mail sent on his behalf to MoS from press office at No 10 or Cowley Street, can't remember (it was Lib Dem press office I think, I can find it) threatening that they should be aware that these are serious allegations against a Minister! What do you think?

Wonder whether in fact ringing him now if we go down the various routes we discussed might alert him and he will have answer prepared already should he be asked something publicly. The element of surprise is important but we also of course need the evidence. . Important though not to piss off MoS as we discussed.

What is your reaction to all that? It seems to me we need another longer chat to explore all this after you speak to your editor on Tuesday ?

Must also explain (by way of giving you advance material for the pieces we will be doing although it may merit a separate ST story?..) that my current anger is also around what I am discovering looking at the financial disclosures which has come as a bit of a surprise to me and makes me feel a bit of a fool as I clearly didn't give our financial arrangements a second thought basically because I was feeling secure in the longevity of my marriage. Basically the reason he was able to build property portfolio and fund his political ambitions has very little to do with him "making millions in the City" which he didn't and a lot to do with me (possible story? : how did CH make his money and manage to build a property portfolio on mainly a journalistic and MP salary???) Facts, from public sources should be easy to come by, dodgy investments in mining companies etc, Private Eye had been looking at his financial transactions for a while, particularly some dodge fx deals when he was an MEP). In fact except for a brief period when he worked for Fitch and was earning 6 figure sums and then got a leaving bonus of a few hundred thousand he was just a journalist or an MEP or MP whilst I was earning consistently considerably more and spending it all on the family. His supposed wealth owes a certain amount to his final bonus but was built mainly because for most of our marriage he could rely on me to earn what I did, and partly on an injection of funds from his father through gifts and also cheap shares which were then sold for a huge multiple when his father's company was floated. He used all this mainly to pursue his political ambitions and develop a property cushion from which he was earning some rental income. So basically if it hadn't been for me v hard to run the life style we had, buy house outright in Eastleigh and spend what he needed to nurse the seat while building what he called "his pension" which really should have been "ours".

Sorry, enough of a rant. Lets talk soon. Get rest x V

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, 5 Mar 2011 20:00:04

To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: my grand plan

7

hmmm, i wonder how no10/Cowley St got involved, and when did that happen? when did the MoS approach Chris and ask him about the license points? was it recently, or was it when they first got hold of the story back in December?

it would be helpful to know this as i continue thinking about the strategy. normally papers only approach someone about a story like this at the last minute in the case of a Sunday paper, usually the approach is made on the Friday afternoon before the paper intends to publish the story.

It sounds to me as if the Mail on Sunday was 'ready to go' with the story but their legal team got cold feet at the 11th hour following a categoric denial from Chris. I assume you have firmly refused to go on the record with the Mail on Sunday, though I imagine they have asked you to?

I totally understand what you are trying to do- get the story out, without being identified as the source - but with Jo White (I think you said that was her name?) denying it point blank; and Chris denying it point black, i'm pretty sure it won't really work unless you fully 'go for it' and even then, there may be further legal issues. My feeling is that you could get the story out there whilst maintaining your dignity, within a much wider piece for Sunday Times News Review as we have discussed - that way, it's us, the newspaper, that's making a really big deal of it; not you. You kind of mention it 'in passing' in the big article in News Review, (perhaps in the context of talking about his character, and saying he's not whiter than white. We could come up with a form of words.....) To offset it, and make it look even less like you are making a big deal of it, you could say some nice things about him and your marriage as well...? I'm just 'thinking aloud' ...

We would then do the story as a big splash in the main paper, with a cross reference to the wider piece in News Review, and write the splash if you've been reluctant to go into any detail, etc etc.

Re. the other issues -the Sunday Times takes the moral highground when it comes to 'outing' people and even the Mail on Sunday would struggle with it; but again, it would work respectably in a wider piece about your marriage, and what it's like for a high flying woman to be married to a politician etc. it would have to be handled very carefully and again, would work best coming from you.

As for the money story, again, would work best in the context of a wider piece it could be a news story linked to the big article by you, but it would be difficult for a paper (either us or the MoS) to justify a story that set out to deconstruct his reputation for having made a fortune in the City without having good reason to do so (eg, he would have to be publicly boasting about how much money he made, to provide a justification for a paper looking into it otherwise its not really in the public interest. After all, he's not the chancellor, so whether he made his own fortune or not is arguably neither her nor there.)

Ok, that's all for now.

Let me know about how/when the MoS came to approach Chris if you can, as it helps me figure out what their game plan is.

Whereabouts in Greece is your place? i've always liked the idea of Greece but never known quite where to begin. My uncle is a diplomat who was posted in Athens for a few years but i never went to see them. i waited till he was ambassador in Syria which

was an amazing place for a holiday and somewhere I'd never been if he hadn't been based there...

Isabel

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

From: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]

Date: Sun, 6 Mar 2011 01:53:22

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Reply-To: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]

Subject: Re:my grand plan

Hope you are getting some sleep. Just got back from dinner party myself...ok, the MoS approached Jo W first and got her flustered, was original source as i remembered him tellig me I, she said no connennt but was really flustered, CH then told me she was crying eyes out. He did no deny it to me but implied he knew it was me ass he complained about how it had upset her. However there was then a twist. MoS rang me in erly sept to say that a source close to CH had said that in fact they were barkig up wrong tree as person who had taken ponits was me (!). Could I confirm Jxv

I said no comment and he dnives through denial. He thinks he is safe.

Then they ran CH at airoport to say they were abut to ru story that I had said that I took his pointd. He rang me, i. (Stupidly) told him truth, ile no ida where stoiry had come from( i now undertstand it was porobably her talking tio a 'trusted' jperson who ended upo being the source, he then issued s(ement cateorigally denyinh it. So wht we are talking about hre is nbit the JiWhie one but whether I ior ither mwmbrr iof family tooil K points udre dures. He ghas thiugh tild ne at the time that Jo had done so ut i now remen€ber there wa anther jo in hi oafter contacted him in early December as he was boarding plane to Cancoun to say tbecause thgge were told  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sun, 6 March, 2011 2:22:54  
Subject: Re: my grand plan

Isabel

I sent earlier note by mistake as i fell asleep before editing and must have pressed button! - please ignore!!. The MoS attempt to get him to confess was in December but they have been trying to nail story ever since. The original attempt was with Jo who I am sure took points but she said no comment(did not deny but was flustered according to the MoS and then in tears according to CH). Then they rang me to say source mear Ch had said that in fact it was me who took points for him. I said no comment. Then they rang CH at airport on Sat morning to say they wete running story on Sunday saying that II told them I had taken his points!. He rang me from airport to check amd I stupidly told him truth, ile no idea where story came from, not from me

(even though we both knew it to be true) and that I had said no comment to MoS. I now regret it but it emboldened him to categorically deny it. I saw e-mail to that effect delivered to my door by MoS. So, if it came out it was me/member of family, I am not the source. That I think is crucial point. I was original source for Jo White, not second story and surprised it surfaced.

Hope this is clear. It alters the concerns you have in your earlier e-mail I think. But agree the ST route probably best. Let's talk tmr as e-mail proving unreliable.

Good night (?!) V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 6 Mar 2011 08:38:15  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: my grand plan

well a categorical denial puts him in a very very difficult position if you go on the record saying you did take the points; and also, if we are able to get any evidence on text message or telephone recording.  
Anyway, happy to talk over phone. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Re: my grand plan  
Hide Details  
From: Isabel oakeshott

To: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]

Tuesday, 8 March 2011, 8:14

**Message Body**

well i'm sure he's never got over the fact that he was only very marginally defeated by Clegg, and it was partly because Clegg is better looking...! i do think there will be very choppy waters ahead for Clegg if the local government elections are a disaster and if the AV referendum is lost, but i'm not sure the conditions will be there for a coup, so CH will probably be disappointed. Anyway, the license points story will definitely put a stop to all that.

I'm having lunch with my boss today and we'll discuss it. i wanted to talk to him before i talk to our lawyers, which i can also do this week. I am still strongly of the view that an 'open question' strategy is too dangerous. can you imagine the flak you would get if other papers discover that you set it up? It would make a sensational

story to say that you ambushed him, but i'm not sure it's the kind of publicity you want!

I'm keen that we pin down dates for our trip, if you still want to go ahead with it, as i need to plan when i'm returning to work, family holidays etc. I'm pretty flexible about when we go.

Is your sense that the divorce negotiations will drag on till at least 23rd june or do you think you'll reach agreement earlier?

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2011 16:38:10

To: <vlcky.pryce [REDACTED]>

I had a useful lunch with my boss today and we discussed the points story from all angles, he was excited about it and is certain it is a resignation issue for Chris. He likes the idea of two really big pieces about your life and relationship with Chris.

As I was explaining it all to him, I realised there are a few things i'm a bit confused about, which would be helpful if you could clarify. And I have some further thoughts/questions for you, as we continue to think about how/when to do the story. My boss is taking some legal advice on it this afternoon.

1) Re. Jo White (have i got the name right?) do you KNOW she took points for Chris; or do you just suspect it? If you know she took them, how do you know?

2) Have i understood correctly, that you were not the original source of the story for the Mail on Sunday, ie, someone else told them about it? Do you know or suspect who it was?

3) Just to be clear, and this is very important, you have told me the Mail on Sunday still don't know that it was you who took the points. Is that still the case - you haven't told them?

4) Do you have a clear memory of when it all happened? (i think you said 2003?) Do the points still appear on your license? (you may have got a new license since then. . .)

5) What is your feeling about timing of the story? My boss feels we should do it as soon as possible, but i said there were quite a few factors to consider from your point of view, and that i'd ask you when you would ideally like it to run.

Other important points that came up in our discussion

-my boss says that we would not need any extra evidence if you talk about what happened on the record. Chris could dismiss it as you being a bitter ex wife, talking rubbish, but i don't think many people would believe that. it would be a pretty random thing for you to make up. In other words, your word against his, is enough for us.

All the same, it would obviously be helpful to have extra evidence (text message or phone recording) if we can get it. But it's not essential from the point of view of whether we could run the story or not.

-my boss is checking out what legal position you would be in and i'll get back to you when he's got more information. in theory, It's likely there is a minor risk of you being prosecuted, but we think in practise it is highly unlikely, especially if we handle it right. I think you could make yourself out to be very much the honourable one, saying it's been on your conscience ever since; that you knew it was wrong but felt bullied into it; and that you want to be honest about what happened, even if it's a risk to yourself. that would make you sound pretty good!

This is a bit rushed because as usual the clock is ticking and I wanted to email you asap. The bottom line is that this story WILL bring Chris down, IF you are prepared to go on the record about what happened - with the minor risk that this carries. It goes without saying that it is far safer for you in every way, to do it through a respectable paper like the Sunday Times.. .

Ok, that's all for now. let me know your thoughts  
Isabel

Sent from my BlackBerry@wireless device

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

From: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2011 13:24:06

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Reply-To: Vicky.pryce [REDACTED]

Subject: Re:

Quck points: i remember distinctly him telling me that Jo White took points too for him. No other proof except her crying and CH referring only to her crying and being uoset rather than asking me what do you think you are doing lying to the press, he he did not try to deny it had happened. When MoS contacted her she said no comment but also I think ckained that she only had a provisional licence in 1983. Provisional licences still get booked of course

Date is early 2003. He was already running on 9 points and another conviction would have taken him to 12 and losing licence. The points I took appeared on my old licence which I have still got somewhere but which right now cannot find(!} In March 2003. He then proceeded to lose his licence as he was on mobile and on laptop in a traffic jam in South London on his way to some talk or to Eastleigh, can't remember, and still afer being told twice to stop talking on phone he did it again.how he lost his licence has been writen up, also in Private Eye I think. So despite two people taking his points he still lost licence and I had to drive him around for at least three, maybe six months?

I gave MoS original story re Jo White. They were told through a source who is close to someone close to Chris that they were barking up the wrong tree as it was me. MoS

then rang me and I was surprised but said no comment and then they rang Chris who did what I told you before, is ring me and then deny it. MoS know that someone in the family took points as well as Jo but that I don't want to expose that for the moment or be seen as source which I am not at present but might be perceive I am if I go public myself. They hope that the book etc may draw him out.

More later x V

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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Re:

Hide Details

FROM: vickypryce [REDACTED]

TO: Isabel Oakeshott

Wednesday, 9 March 2011, 16:24

**Message Body**

Rereading it some mistakes in the early bit of e-mail where I was falling asleep stayed there! For 1983 read 2003...

I think the source about me supposedly taking points was CT who has many newspaper friends- that is her job, and said it to someone she(sic) trusted.

Re legal implications for me, especially as I was civil servant at the time, I would like to check that. Could I get away with saying in article that to my knowledge he bullied and pressurised at least 1 if not two people in his close circle take his points? I could then reinforce and say who it was later 'under pressure'? I am sure you will say no to me but frankly, this is the only stumbling block as far as I am concerned- ie repercussions for me. You have thought of ways round it which is great but danger remains.. in any case if I said that without saying who he would have to comment and he will know that if he lied I would come out with the truth???

By the way, have decided to go to Sheffield on Sat. Who is covering the event from your side? Vicky

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: Isabel Oakeshott

To: Vicky Pryce

Subject: update

13

Sent: 9 Mar 2011 19:30

We have asked our lawyers and the bottom line is that however the story is done, there is some risk to you. (It would be dishonest of me to pretend otherwise.) If we wrote it as you suggest, quoting you saying you know at least one person who took points for him, without saying who it was, there would almost immediately be pressure on you (from other media and maybe even the police) to reveal who it was - and you'd end up having to reveal it anyway. At the end of the day it's a question of whether you're prepared to take the risk or not, but one thing you can be sure of is that once this story is out, CH would be forced to resign and his career would be in tatters. His political enemies will also want him prosecuted. We can minimise the risk and any damage to you by handling it all very carefully. My own view is that you would come out of it fine, if we chose the right words, but of course there would be a storm.

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2011 19:51:38  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

let's talk tonight if possible. i'll be up till 10pm - any good?  
i'm also continuing to think how we can do it with minimal risk to you. emailing  
the boss again this evening.

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2011 10:27:24  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

two quick points:

1) the boss rang this morning to say we probably would be prepared to run a story with no names, but we would need an affidavit from you - not so much to protect us, as to ensure the story actually worked; if he knows we have a statement from you, then he's less likely to deny it. my guess is that he would still deny it because he'll have nothing to lose (he has everything to lose from admitting it) and that could create a problem.

2) i could still get my husband to ring CH or his people at some point, probably not now - posing as a freelance - and say that he's working on a possible story about the license points? then you can text chris and say you've also had a call from a freelance, and that you and he need to talk to work out a strategy for dealing with the issue? (tape recorder at the ready, of course....)

Probably better not to do it this week though.

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

From: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2011 10:50:27  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Reply-To: Vicky.pryce [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: update

Second suggestion sounds great. Many thanks. Lets work it up carefully. First point is as we thought which we need to discuss further.

Diary story re p ambitions in Richard Key column on page 35 in Mail today

Talk later  
X V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 11 Mar 2011 09:39:00  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

[REDACTED]

very frustrated/disappointed re. the story- can't see a way of doing it really...no responsible paper will run it without you either going on the record or signing an affidavit; or some independent evidence (taped admission or whatever.) or a confession, which isn't going to happen unless he knows the game is up. so for now he is safe and can still dream of being party leader!

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15

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

From: vicky.pryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 12 March, 2011 9:21:20  
Subject: Re: update

Dear Isabel

[REDACTED]

I see the problems with the story at present but hope you haven't given up on our overall course of action. I think we'll find a way as I am sure an opportunity will present itself soon and we could be ready with a 'story' at that stage? Also of course would love to have someone link CT with leaking Eastleigh/Liverpool/licence points info for the press. But in the meantime should we still plan to go ahead with texting etc after your husband rings as per earlier e-mail which we can plan next week? And have a go at the pieces we discussed and see how they shape up re minimum damage (unless you have given up on Greece and all this given the illnesses which would be perfectly understandable - happy to be guided by you here) while I also check on the legal implications for me? However if we did them it would be as you suggested, ie a throw away line re his points which you could reproduce as having been said by me as I think you had intended. But can I check again if I said it in print ie on the record that he pressurised people close to him I thought your editor said he would have to go anyway. Even if he disputed it? And if he does not go by himself would it not be a good excuse for NC to shuffle him out

Other possibility would be to tell NC or his close associates (having coffee with Miriam this pm) that papers are on to him as CT seems to have leaked it and pressure mounting as I know it is true. He will deny it of course if challenged and will ring me/get in touch and would get evidence that way (that also might have the added benefit of NC not wanting any more scandals and ease him out anyway..) Don't know, do you think that is too dangerous??

Anyway we've gone round din circles for a bit and the health of your family most important. Get back in touch when you can and I will update you on the conference which I am dreading. I am sure I will be told off about everything by Matthew.

Lots of love

Vicky

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 12 Mar 2011 10:50:29  
To: <vicky.pryce> [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: update

hi there

All is well here. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And the sun is shining!

Interesting idea about letting Nick Clegg know the media has something on Chris, but i don't advise it. Definitely don't mention anything to Miriam today! You can always do that later, if all else has failed, but i think it's too dangerous. We do not want this story getting out of hand. The more people that know about it, the greater the danger that you will lose control of it, and while CH might still end up having to resign, you could be more damaged in the process. As long as you (and I, and the Mail on Sunday) are the only people who know what happened, you remain in charge of how this knowledge is used. once it gets into the wrong hands it could backfire.

I am not sure whether it is better that my husband rings, posing as a freelance; or if it's better that I get someone else on the Sunday Times to ring, but that is just a detail at the moment.

I am still up for Greece and keen to fix a date, the sooner the better.

But it would be a big investment, (i dont mean of a financial kind - i mean of time and energy, yours included!) and I would want to be confident I wasnt wasting my time.

So we would need to have a clear agreement about what we were going to talk about, and how I could use it, and i'd need to be happy that you weren't going to change your mind once we got home! If you are prepared to do it soon (and i think that would be best) then i'm happy to do it over a long weekend, as i know that's easier for you I still think it would work brilliantly if you just mentioned the points as part of a much bigger narrative - a throwaway line -and then it would be up to us, and other media to make a big deal of it. And yes, it would definitely work if you were just to say, on the record, that he pressurised people close to him (without admitting it was you) to take the points. That would be enough for us to run the story. (We might need an affidavit from you all the same, to ensure CH couldn't deny it and sue us, but i could check this.)

Obviously you would subsequently come under a lot of pressure from other papers to give more information about who, but you could refuse to do so, and he would still be in a very difficult, if not untenable position. After all, he knows you took the points; so if he publicly denies it; and then you subsequently go on the record to say it was you at some risk to yourself- then he is doubly screwed, as he emerges as a liar too. So let me know what you want to do. (I recognise that we would also need to work out how to handle the Mail on Sunday.)

love

Isabel

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Re: update  
Hide Details

FROM: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
TO: Isabel Oakeshott

Saturday, 12 March 2011, 12:40

Message Body

Glad everyone better!

All sounds good advice re the other issue.. Will not say anything to anyone. I think ST ringing would rattle him more. Will look at Greek dates and we will agree things in advance. And agree that we need to sort MoS out and I have some thoughts. It would also be good if we could get away without an affidavit which you said you will be checking x

v

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: vickypryc [REDACTED]

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Sent: Thu, 17 March, 2011 20:06:01

Subject: Re: update

Also the story should be that he made OTHERS take his points, not me specifically and that you heard it from another source, not me..

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, 17Mar2011 21:15:10

To: <vicky.pryc [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: update

my editor points out that the trouble with our latest plan (you informing NC etc) is that CH could still try to brazen it out - and he might succeed. He would have nothing to lose in trying.

In other words, when confronted about the story (ie, when we ring him up to see what he has to say) he responds that it is 'totally untrue'. He would probably add something along the lines of 'i know where this is coming from; it's my ex wife, and she's making it all up. she's bitter and gone a bit crazy' etc. it is then a case of his word against yours.

So i do think we still need to try to catch him on tape or by text.

The Sunday Times could ring him and scare him a bit; then you ring him and say that you need to talk to him because "the Sunday Times is onto this; i don't know where they got it from, but we need to talk about how to handle it" etc. If necessary could you not say to him that you're worried about it too, because you know you did wrong in accepting the points; and that the pair of you need to agree a joint strategy for dealing with the media on it??

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
Date: Thu, 17 Mar 2011 23:23:55  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Reply-To: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: update

Can't do that. No way am I going to be involved in a story that came from me. The source is CT. Unless that is clear then I can't do it. Am prepared to have the story say that someone took his points and that CT is pointing finger at various people but not that I have taken points or that it came from me. That way he cannot deny it and blame me- interestingly he knows that last time round I (stupidly) effectively killed the story by refusing to comment when confronted by MoS. What could work is if you ring him and he gets rattled and rings me. Then I can ensure I get tape. But better still if he gets no time to react and it is done as a fait accompli, ie we are publishing story given to our source by CT, do you have anything to say- and I have spoken in a coordinated way to NC just a few minutes before...

By the way, remember you wrote story about claiming no cohabitation? Or intending to co-habit or marry? Just had dinner with Lib Dem Lord who received X-mas card jointly from C&C. I intend to use this as evidence for my divorce settlement since he is (not only shameless but..) clearly lying to get better settlement. They are looking for the car which they think they have kept. It may make interesting story linked with other things I am uncovering on the financials and we can talk about this if you want some time.

Lets talk tomorrow also about the budget.

V

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thu, 17 March, 2011 23:40:55  
Subject: Re: update

Would you be able to use CT as source or would she sue??? MoS thought they could which is surprising. In the meantime I am getting frustrated that I may be going round in circles a bit and not that helpful to you frankly but hopeful that the combined brains of you and your managing director will find a solution...x V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott <ioakeshott [REDACTED]>  
Date: Fri, 18 Mar 2011 09:11:06  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

i couldn't possibly use CT as a source as i've never spoken to her about it; so it would be untrue; and she'd have every right to sue.

I don't know if the MoS could either - they certainly could not name her as a source if they hadn't spoken to her direct (through an intermediary is not good enough.)

I'm not sure what you were referring to when you emailed 'can't do that; no way am I going to be involved' etc in your first email last night as I didn't suggest anything new that we haven't discussed many times.

Anyway, its actually helpful that you killed the story last time and he knows you told the Mos no comment; it makes it more credible whe you ring him/text him and say you're worried the story has resurfaced, this time with the Sunday Times; and you want to talk to him about it. But you would need to make sure you're in the right place at the right time to tape the conversation. No good if you're in the car; getting on the bus; walking down the street or whatever; and we lose the opportunity; as you will only get on chance.

I am wondering if there's anything I can do in relation to CT - is she knows about all this, is there some way I can capture her on tape talking about it? I could try to lure her to meet for a coffee on some pretext, but I'm not sure what, as she would be very suspicious. (I could pretend to be on Chris's side - after all, hes an old friend of Matthew's ex - and tell her I need to meet her to tip her off about some rumours of something.) but I doubt she'd bite. Just thinking aloud really...

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From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Fri, 18 March, 2011 9:39:38  
Subject: Re: update

Sorry Isabel, bad night last night and I was a bit incoherent. I meant that I don't want to be the source if I can avoid it or be named directly and it is true that re the second MoS investigation I am not the source as CT is. So far I have confirmed that there is a second incident re the points in addition to Jo White but have not confirmed to them whether it is me which is what CT told them or another member of the family. I had not I don't think taken in your note that said 'of course you would not be named 'when I sent my odd e-mail so ignore that- sorry.

CH knows you have been writing things against him so if you contacted CT she /he would smell a ratt but fet's think about that a bit more. Funny that MoS said they would name her as a source. Wonder whether they were trying to soften me up so I would sign affidavit.

Still thinking. Re when he rings I don't have to take call immediately and If I pick it up say I am illegal and need to be earphones on which he knows I do and it is a well rehearsed ritual so he will not be suspicious. I could in fact say I will ring back as soon as I put headphones on.

As you say this not the right week. Don't think MoS will do anything this weekend. So there is plenty of time I think but you and I will need to work up how to handle

them. waiting myself to get advice from lawyers re affidavit and prosecution etc but it seems to me that the writing of a story and me going to Nick saying it did not come from me but I am under pressure, papers about to publish, I would be prepare to substantiate if it came to it as not keen on lying publicly might do it?? When the time is right? Or other option going back to the piece I would have written on our earlier scenario. Not naming who took them and you pick up story and you thought I may not need affidavit then. And finally the asking a question in public at the right moment but which you are not keen on . Between all those a solution must be possible with no damage to me??ie me still being seen as the victim rather than the horrible avenger? That is what I think I meant re no involvement from me but by then, when I was writing last night, I had sort of lost it.

Do you want to talk later? I will be on hands free in a few minutes and can give you a call.

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 18 Mar 2011 10:14:20

To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: update

got to [REDACTED] so not a good time for another chat but like you, getting frustrated by going round in circles!  
forget the CT idea - it won't work because i don't know her and she'll have no reason to trust me.

We have nothing to lose by trying to get him on tape – except that it will rattle him and give him time to think of strategies; issue formal denials, etc etc, so ideally we should only do that when we're pretty much ready to go with the story anyway. A Friday would be best. What we don't want is him doing some desperate damage limitation trick involving giving a story about it to the Saturday papers, on his own terms – I've seen this happen before with ministers when they're on the rack. The most obvious example if Damien McBride (mcPoison) who knew the Sunday Times was about to expose his private emails slandering colleagues; so he tipped of the Saturday telegraph about it in an attempt to get the story run in a less damaging way. (it didn't save him but it did complicate things.)

will email again later.

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 22 Mar 2011 23:42:03

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Reply-To: vickypryce [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: update

Hi glad all ok. Not right week re story as too much going on including budget and yes they have been in touch and will find out next week what they are thinking. Have been worried that they will get really annoyed if their story is hijacked and they will turn against me which will be a disaster so have to carry on talking to them. Also they have the source and that is important for me to hang on to as it is good cover if they can use it though need to understand what they think is possible. If what they say does not give enough guarantee then I abort and think again. But what do you think of maybe a two-pronged attack? and/or being ready maybe with a different but related story to run in parallel? Of course if I get things on tape I will not need to worry about cover but doubt there is much chance of that as he will be suspicious if I get in touch first and will then be very cautious in what he says. Let's talk tmr? x

v

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2011 21:50:43

To: << vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: update

i don't know what to think really. i just want the story out there so that he has to resign!

the managing editor wants me to go into the office next week for a discussion with the Editor (sorry if i'm confusing you with these various ranks of editor; but the Editor is the big cheese who makes all big decisions ultimately) about how/what we can do about the story. at present the Editor doesn't know about the story- i've only talked it through with my 'line manager' (who is the managing editor.) I think we should position ourselves to try and get him on tape at the end of next week, with a view to running something not this weekend, but next. we can tee this up by getting one of our senior investigative reporters to ring him or his people so that he knows we're onto him; then you call him acting 'worried' and say we've been onto you too etc- as discussed. that way he should not be suspicious.

i understand your concern about the Mail on Sunday. Just keep me in the loop about what they are doing so nobody has any nasty surprises. As i understand it you still haven't told them that you were the one who took the points - they think you're covering for one of your children - and i advise you to keep it that way - but do let me know if there is any change to that.

can definitely sometime tomorrow though as usual, not quite sure when!

isabel

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, 2 Apr 2011 10:21:48

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Reply-To: vickypryce [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: update

Nothing in the Mail- they told me that her lawyers issued statement that it is not true (and probably threatened to sue) but now MoS still pursuing. Clearly true then..and they are clearly rattled so what do you think re call???

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 2 April, 2011 12:11:26  
Subject: Re: update

Plus as I had thought the FT article on page 2 today and Gudio Fawkes' blog all suggest that he is positioning himself for the leadership (the guy is amazing) though the piece may just reflect negative Tory briefing. But I had heard he was on "manoeuvres" and a piece duly appeared in the Mail diary just before Sheffield. And it revives my thoughts about talking to Nick..and also timing of the story whatever my QC says. Do you think he would have any chance of winning?? I had been told that if he ever tried all the stuff would come out and would haunt him and he would have no chance. Hope that is true but if he was planning it still even if deluded about his chances it also explains why he was pushy re early financial settlement so he could get papers lose interest in him (he told me this once earlish on) and maybe also why he may be deciding to ditch CT as she cannot be an asset on his side as "potential leader". Wonder whether his lawyers contacted anyone but as I said I was told it was hers..which may be proof enough ...But he certainly would not want anything to come out now so here is our chance to rattle and get him to make mistake? Or wait until he makes move re leadership when everyone would be contacting me again for views and then do it??

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 3 Apr 2011 13:22:58  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

i'm absolutely happy to set up the sunday times calling him this week and try to get him on tape but i need to be sure you won't change your mind once i set it in motion? it's not that it's any big deal to set up, but in order to do it I will need to bring a colleague and possibly the editor himself in on the story, and i don't want to 'march them up to the top of the hill' and then march them down again, if you see what i mean. i don't mean you, or we, are committing ourselves to running the story, just that you'd be committing yourself to having the conversation with him over the phone.(assuming he rings.) also I would prefer as few people as possible in the newsroom to know about it....If we are going to do it, i would suggest we do it on Friday, which is when Sunday papers typically approach their story subjects...

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

From: vickypryce  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sun, 3 April, 2011 17:17:28  
Subject: Re: update

Perfectly understand. I would commit to the tape if he rings, no doubt about that. However we need to talk though about precise question - it would need to be whether he had made any member of his family or anyone else take his points instead of him and if story then appeared after he rang , if he did, it would not mention names as we had agreed? Vicky  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sun, 3 Apr 2011 19:12:50  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: update

yes, of course, that's all we've agreed to just now. i don't honestly know if the editor would run it anyway but we might as well try and get him on tape and then take things from there.

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent Sun, 3 April, 2011 20:53:55  
Subject: Re:update

In fact ringing on Sat morning better which is what happened with MoS last lime and he had no time to try and brief against and therefore rang me straight away..V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: Isabel Oakeshott  
To: Vicky Pryce  
Subject:  
Sent: 7 Apr 2011 19:39

sorry, with all the to-ing and fro-ing i got confused - i don't think we should try to do the tape this saturday, unless you are prepared for us to run a story this Sunday - and i think you want to wait until next weekend, (ie, the weekend after this one) don't you?

If we try to do the tape a week before running the story, it will only give him more time to find a way of blocking the story or killing it. So we should only do the tape

when we are all 'ready to go' with the story the next day. however, it's worth having our 'interview' as soon as possible, just so that it is on my notebook and ready to go. speak tomorrow morning? i'm out tonight. yes, out! for dinner!

---

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 9 Apr 2011 12:05:50  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re:

i'm quite happy for you to send me things as you think of them for us to chew over and we can use/scrap as we please, depending how things develop. i don't think commenting on your earning is important so don't worry about it. not sure what to advise re. vince - is there a danger he would tip chris off, if you suggested papers were looking for skeletons and that something might come out soon? we want to catch him unawares next week...

---

Re:

Hide Details

FROM: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
TO: Isabel Oakeshott  
Saturday, 9 April 2011, 12:28

**Message Body**

Actually I had told Vince and Rachel about points before when the three of us were having supper about a month ago - they were horrified at the time but VC has probably forgotten it by now. He was v tired that night.

v

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott <ioakeshott@yahoo.co.uk>  
Date: Sun, 10 Apr 2011 11:09:02

To: <[vicky.pryce](mailto:vicky.pryce)>  
Subject: couple of thoughts

just a couple of thoughts...

when we (the Sunday Times) approach Chris next week (Friday or Saturday; probably Friday), what exactly do we put to him? I think we have to put something slightly different to him than the Mail on Sunday did months ago, or he will just shrug his shoulders and not be too worried, as he will think it's the same old story that he killed off last time.

So perhaps we say: 'we are writing a story that at least one, and possibly two, individuals took license points for you.' and say that we aren't revealing their names for legal reasons...? Then he won't know who we are referring to and will definitely be worried enough to call you?

Also, re. the Mail on Sunday, if we get what we want on the tape, and are able to go ahead with the story, perhaps you could tell them on Saturday morning that you did a profile piece with me and were amazed when I brought it up. You decided this time not to kill the story, and gave me a line confirming 'someone close to Chris' took points for him (or whatever line we agree.)? That way they can run the story as well if they want, though I'd be keen not to share our tape with them.

I am away tonight at my parents (no internet) but back tomorrow afternoon so will check emails tomorrow. enjoy the sunshine

Isabel

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

From: isabel oakeshott  
Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2011 20:12:57  
To: <[vicky.pryce](mailto:vicky.pryce)>

1) can you remember the name of Jo White's husband? it would help if you can remember his first name or surname so we can try and track down an address for them on the electoral roll.

2) I am still unsure what we say to Chris when we, the Sunday Times, ring him up to ensure he is really rattled, and doesn't think he just kill it off by re-issuing the same old press officer statement. We will have to be pretty firm with him. If he huffs and puffs that it's all nonsense, can we go as far as to say we've got the information from somebody close to him, who has given us a statement? That would definitely frighten him?

3) Can you email me the throwaway line you're happy for us to insert into the longer piece? Maybe something like; "a lot of people around Chris made big sacrifices for him, in the interests of his career.... It's true that somebody close to him agreed to take driving licence points for him. He put them under a lot of pressure. He would have lost his licence if he hadn't persuaded them.

But I can't say anything more about it." ??? I then make it clear in the words that follow that you absolutely won't be drawn any further.

just a suggestion -let me know what you'd be happy with...

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

From: [vickypryce](mailto:vickypryce)  
To: Isabel Oakeshott

Sent: Tue, 12 April, 2011 20:59:59  
Subject: Re:

Jo white's husband is called Rob. I will remember surname later. It may be Barnard but not sure. The quote is too long and too specific- it would work best with you just saying you heard from Lib Dem sources and I sound surprised and say don't how this has come up, but yes, and it is part of the whole thing of living with a politician that everyone around them is constantly having to cope with the pressures they are under..V Important not to sound vindictive please- whole piece is more sadness- it is you who should be asking about sacrifices. Re saying you have definite proof a bit dangerous. You can do that when you ring him again? but let's think further ..

V

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, 12 Apr 2011 21:11:59  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re:

that quote you suggest would be fine i think.

i've been in touch with the boss again this evening to talk through the game plan. He would much prefer we approach chris/jo/and try and get the tape on friday....it could be Friday late afternoon or early evening?

There are important reasons why it makes sense from our point of view to do it on the Friday. By Saturday we are all operating under intense time pressure and it could get very stressful if things don't go exactly to plan, for whatever reason. The last thing we want is for the story not to appear because we've gambled on leaving it so close to our deadline and then Huhne throws us some kind of curve ball we haven't anticipated and we run out of time....(from my own professional point of view, it would be quite a disaster to have the editor all psyched up for this story on saturday, only for it to collapse at the last minute, leaving us with a giant hole in the paper and me with a lot of egg on my face. easier to deal with egg on my face and a hole on the paper, on a friday....)

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wed, 13 April, 2011 7:31:01  
Subject: Re:

And re egg on face you should adjust boss' expectations downwards as much as poss so if there is anything there at all it is regarded a triumph..

When should we finalise text , with crucial bit obviously missing, so that at least there is something ready? Would that be on Sat? As I said tone will be v Important- in fact

crucial for my reputation and if there is any bite- and even if not I guess- I will need enough time to contact MoS with a story explaining ST's involvement as they may hear from their source via CT that ST has now been in touch..

I will think more re questioning line and story line on plane journey tonight. Maybe we can talk later and then meet tomorrow evening as you suggested?. If we do that we can also progress on story. As far as I can see if we meet at Sloane Square at around 6 or 6.30 like before it should be possible to spend a bit of time doing that which would be useful .

xV  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

---

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2011 07:38:11  
To: < vicky.pryce [REDACTED] >  
Subject: Re:

ok, that is probably all fine. impossible to adjust boss' expectations, though he knows very well how problematic the story is. however, he believes we can deliver it. i agree about tone and we don't want to make you sound bitter either. i think a bit sad is fine, but i'd prefer to make it quite upbeat - your career going from strength to strength despite it all etc.  
got to dash now but will be in touch again this evening.  
see if you can remember Rob's surname as we need to track down an address for Jo White. Not a disaster if you can't. Also, any prospect of finding your licence with the points on, between now and the weekend, do you think? (not crucial but helpful.)  
speak later

---

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 18 Apr 2011 20:07:00  
To: << vicky.pryce [REDACTED] >>  
Subject: tomorrow

Been thinking about how to approach things tomorrow....  
I think it's a good idea for you to phone him, as you suggested, rather than send any more texts.  
So, maybe you ring and say something like: "Isabel Oakeshott has been in touch about this bloody thing again. I thought you'd got rid of the story! It's not going away so we need to have a grown up conversation about it... ' ?

If then starts up his "the story is nonsense, it's all cobblers' act, you can say, 'clearly you are paranoid and think the news of the world is hacking into your phone. do you want to ring me from a secure line?' and if he says no to that, you can say: 'so maybe

we have to meet face to face to talk about this like grown ups, even though you're the last person i want to see'..... or something like that?

If, on the other hand, he starts talking to you properly, then of course, you will be recording it and hopefully we will get him this time.

keeping up the pretence that you are 'in it together', perhaps ask him:

-why did you tell Carina i took your points?

- how many people do you think know about it?

-you keep telling me not to say anything, but i can't keep that up for much longer.

Why should i go on covering for you?

-what if somebody has evidence that it happened?

-what's the situation with jo? she did take points for you too, didn't she? do we need to do anything to make sure she keeps quiet?

-maybe I should just tell the truth about what happened?

It's important you keep calm enough to give him time to respond -assuming he's not doing his stupid bullshitting act. If he's bullshitting then there's no point in continuing the conversation – you'll just have to ask why he's so bloody paranoid and demand to meet face to face. The final threat is to say to him that unless you can sort it out between you and he stops patronising you with this shit about it not having happened, you will have a coffee with me, because you trust me, and you will tell me what really happened.

What do you think? i would rather you didnt' have to meet him face to face, and we catch him on the telephone, but I think he's probably too paranoid....

If you think he's not going to be worried enough, you could possibly say that you did pick up the phone to me, and told me 'no comment', and that I responded to you that 'no comment is a non denial' and told you i'd be back in touch about the story later in the week?

I can't think of an excuse to ring Joel and don't think it's necessary, though i could call him and say i've rung you and you said no comment, which is a non denial. but it would be weird for me to do that on a Tuesday and he might smell a rat.

okay, that's it for now. you know best what's likely to work with this arrogant sod!

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]

To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, 18 April, 2011 20:37:09

Subject: Re: tomorrow

Ok I will ring and do it along these lines. Not sure I can do it in the morning though if not late afternoon or am I leaving it too late? Having lunch with Miriam C tmr. Should I hint at anything? I told Vince there is something hanging over him and he wanted to tell Clegg-I can say am being pestered by the press about something he did which CT let slip and which I know is true but have been protecting him so far but he has been such a shit not sure I can do it any longer. I am inclined to chance it but not disclose what it is.

Should we be together? Of course he may not pick up so you need to say something to joel to worry him-not that I said no comment-or perhaps it is ok to say that? Lets talk later. Ring me when you get this if you can. Many thanks

V

---

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 18 Apr 2011 22:16:09  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: tomorrow

If he doesn't pick up the phone, and you think a text would be more effective than leaving a voicemail, you could text him something along the lines of "Isabel Oakeshott rang me again. i had brief conversation with her. seriously sick of this. ring me " ?? that would worry him, wouldn't it?  
remember keep calm; let him speak (don't talk over him!) and if he's still doing his great act about it being a 'nonsense story' then tell him to stop insulting you and demand to meet to talk sensibly about this 'and other stuff.'

you're brilliant and i think we'll get there eventually. as you say, we may have to be patient, which i'm not feeling, and i'm sure you're not either. (Sunday Times splash yesterday named him and tim farron as clegg's main threats for the leadership. i'd like to topple him before there's any danger of that ....)

---

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2011 19:38:50  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: tomorrow ••

Ahead of tomorrow's meeting, i want to be sure I am clear about your positions on various issues that will come up. So here is my understanding of where you stand. Please let me know if i've misunderstood anything.

- 1) Your key concern is not to be identified as the source of the story. I agree that the story has been circulating among senior figures in the Lib Dem party and that I can write the story in such a way that it looks as if that is how I first heard of the story. So i will attribute it to "well placed figures in the party" or some such thing.
- 2) Two people are prepared to testify in court, or give a statement to the Sunday Times that could be used as evidence in court, that you told them around the time of the event, in 2003, that CH pressurised you into taking the points? These people are, i understand, Constance Briscoe and one of your daughters who is now grown up. This evidence could be vital so it's important you're clear that they are prepared to do it, in principle. of course, we hope that it will never get anywhere near court.

3) You are willing to give us an affidavit, but don't ever want it to be disclosed? I'd like you to think very carefully about this. I understand that your concern is that by giving us an affidavit, it will then be obvious, if the affidavit is used, that you cooperated with the story. I disagree!

Think about this; if we had no cooperation from you over the story at all, we would obviously approach you for a comment about it, before running it. As you are not the sort of person to lie, you confirmed the facts that we already knew from other sources. We were very grateful for your confirmation of the facts that we had already gathered; but needed to be sure you were telling us the information in good faith. Therefore we asked you for an affidavit, which you were willing to give, on the condition that we did not refer to the existence of the affidavit in our story.

Giving us an affidavit that we can use if we absolutely have to, doesn't mean everyone will assume you were the source of the story! All it does is demonstrate that you were not prepared to lie, when asked about the facts.

Other questions for you:

- 1) have you contacted the DVLA to find a date/location for the speeding offence?
- 2) Can I say that a number of CH's "allies," including Cable, are aware of the situation? To what extent is Clegg aware that something is hanging over Huhne? (you mentioned it to Miriam, didn't you?)

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tue, 26 April, 2011 20:19:35  
Subject: Re: tomorrow

Hi

- 1) Is fine
- 2) One or two people prepared to confirm what I told them as I said before. Do not want at present information of their identity to go on record but you and I have discussed it before.
- 3) Re the affidavit, I will get back to you later this pm and if I do it it will be carefully crafted but I don't understand your points. My concern is that it is NOT disclosed to the other side if they challenge you once story breaks and they ask for the evidence. Please check that with the lawyers tmr. Will still get back to you later on this.

Re other questions:

- 1) Yes I have managed after numerous tries to speak to DVLA and they confirmed (wish I had earpiece) that they were given information about my points in May 2003 but said they may have been entered into my licence a few months earlier. They are now wiped out as they no longer count against me.
- 2) Yes, I have told VC, MiriamC, MOak... and a few other Lib Dem Lords and others working close to NC.

V

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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Re: tomorrow  
Hide Details

From: isabel oakeshott

To: Vicky.pryce [REDACTED]  
Tuesday, 26 April 2011, 20:28  
Message Body

that is quite useful from DVLA. interesting that they said they were "given information about your points" but i'm a bit confused by dates. cant see how they can put points on the licence BEFORE having the information. interesting that they no longer have record of exact date/time of offence. might make a police inquiry quite difficult.

will ring you for a chat in about half an hour?

---

Fw: VP

1

Hide Details

FROM:

isabel oakeshott

TO: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
Message flagged Friday, 6 May 2011, 19:49 Message Body

hi, here is the statement by our lawyers, which highlights that we protect our sources and will not expose you etc.

if you are happy with it then could you print it off and sign it? we will then come and collect it tomorrow morning when it suits you? (we will also give you a copy with our signature on it, obviously.)

1 Attached files|14KB

Confidential V Price 6 May 2011.docx

Download  
Reply to:  
Send

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 21:43:34  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: can you read this?

This is an agreement between The Sunday Times and Victoria Price.

1. The Sunday Times has been provided information by Vicky Price. The information is that Christopher Huhne entered Vicky Price's name as the driver of a vehicle in 2003 involved in a speeding offence. She was put in a position whereby she felt she had no choice but to take the fixed penalty notice (3 points and a fine) as Mr Huhne had entered her name as the offender.
2. The Sunday Times has agreed to carry the story but not to include any details which will suggest that it was Vicky Price who took the points. It is entitled to protect its sources.
3. Vicky Price stands by the statements which she has made to The Sunday Times to the effect that she took the points under pressure.

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Fri, 6 May, 2011 22:04:55  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

Yes but need to change the words a bit to protect me from prosecution if it goes to court. It will need to use words like pressurised to take the points and so on so will need some reworking but sentiment of note ok. Constance looking at it I see CH's outburst actually resulted in an eve worse AV outcome!!! Amazing.V  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 22:22:54  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

ok, thanks- though it says you were "put in a position where you felt like you had no choice" but to take the points... that is the same as pressurised! (infact it is stronger than saying pressurised...)  
we will be very tight on time tomorrow morning so please make any amendments asap..  
have a look at Daniel Hannan in the Telegraph (you'll find it if you go to

Google News and search under Huhne.) I suppose they probably worked together when CH was an MEP.

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Fri, 6 May, 2011 23:14:09  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

What does Telegraph story say? My blackberry is useless.

Actually I will need to change the words and re reading it the agreement is very short on protection and giving me any other guarantees other than not disclosing the source. It will also need to say that the evidence will not be disclosed to the other party unless forced by a court etc. The point re the "pressurised" is to give me added legal protection-slightly different point to the one you make it needs to be written in such a way that it never gets me prosecuted by just what it says unless this is something that will never be disclosed. I will explain and sort out tmr. However Constance was unfortunately going to bed by the time I got your reformatted note. I appreciate the timing issues so I have arranged to meet her for 10 minutes at 7.30 am(!)but then she is not back until 10 from where she is going and I need her with me as she won't let me sign anything she does not approve of but from what she has told me before it should be possible to get something sensible out that is shortish but will do trick and protect me though it will require some redrafting.

Vicky

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 7 May 2011 07:46:29  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

sure, but remember my lot will not sign something that completely ties their hands in the case of a multi million pound libel suit. i am sure you can understand that - there has to be some give and take.

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 7 May, 2011 8:00:33  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

Yes, I understand, have just been talking to Constance and surprisingly she is much more relaxed than me and thinks only a little tweaking will do it so the agreement will not need to change dramatically but I won't be able to engage her until 9.30 when she gets back here and then I will have something for you by 10. How is that? I am about

to do school run [REDACTED] but will be back here and ready to start by 915 and we can work on the piece. I presume you have a first cut of it?

Ps I seem to get very worried at nights when I am at my lowest must resist sending messages after 1am.. X

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 7 May 2011 08:20:21  
To: <vicky.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

yes, i understand that well - i sometimes have some pretty low moments myself at around that time.. [REDACTED]

10am is fine

i don't have a first draft of the piece because it was simply impossible yesterday. we got back from Isle of Wight and nigel went straight to work, so I had baby all afternoon as well as all the unpacking (which was copious.)

There will be various meetings about the story first thing this morning and then i'll be able to start writing.

What do you think about (you) warning Nick or Miriam about this story and telling them it's true?? anything to be gained from doing that, or not? obviously we haven't told CH yet that he's about to find himself at the centre of a shit storm, but we'll need to do that later today (probably not till late afternoon, if our lawyers think that is fair on him. he's only going to deny it anyway.) he hasn't actually had as much air time as i thought in the last 12 hours - I expected him to be all over the BBC News last night and Today programme this morning, so perhaps he has retreated to lick his wounds. I have never been sure what to make of what you say about CT telling the Mail on Sunday about the points in the first instance. i always assumed that was a bit of a fig leaf on your part and didn't take it seriously, but if you are telling me that is genuinely what happened, of course i believe you. it's strange though - why would she expose CH to such a big risk by blabbing such a thing? and why would he bring it up with her in the first place?

---

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

From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
To: Isabel Oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sat, 7 May, 2011 8:56:35  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

Also since I told you this apparently by accident not realising the importance of it I need to think when and if to tell them but also must think re MoS as we said. I spoke to David twice yesterday as you know. V

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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

From: isabel oakeshott [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 7 May 2011 09:18:34  
To: <viclw.pryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: Re: can you read this?

i think what we should probably do re. MoS is you ring them this afternoon (at a time we agree) and say that I've done a telephone interview with you to freshen up some old material i had on my notebook. you can say i sprung the question on you and that you decided just to answer honestly. you can say you don't know what we're doing with the material but you wanted to let MoS know so they have the chance to do something if they want to?

How does that sound?

I've not run this by my bosses yet but they do understand your viewpoint on this and realise the MoS will probably want to do something. in some ways it may be good for us to have some coverage in MoS too.

---

Re: can you read this?

Hide Details

FROM: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
TO: IsabelOakeshott

Saturday, 7 May 2011,9:27

Message Body

Sounds good. You must also speak to your contact as you have been told by CH that they were investigating this sometime ago and also I told you when you asked me question whether you had been talking to the MoS since they had been open to me too recently some time ago. This along the lines we discussed yesterday so would like a coordinated information flow to them- you higher up than me with Dillon. We will still have to clear the tape issue- if story comes out you gave tape DD would want to know how you got it and I will have to plead ignorance as you may have got it from another source, nothing to do with me hence why I was prepared to say come open to you.

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

---

From: "Oakeshott, Isabel" [REDACTED]  
Date: Sat, 7 May 2011 11:14:29 +0100  
To: <vickypryce [REDACTED]>  
Subject: here it is again...this okay?

(36)

This records an agreement between The Sunday Times and Vicky Pryce.

1. The Sunday Times has been provided information by Vicky Pryce. The information is that Christopher Huhne entered Vicky Pryce's name as the driver of a vehicle in 2003 involved in a speeding offence. She was put in a position whereby she felt she had no choice but to take the fixed penalty notice (3 points and a fine).
2. The Sunday Times has agreed to publish the story but not to include any details which will suggest that it was Vicky Pryce who took the points. It is entitled to protect its sources. The Sunday Times undertakes not to disclose the information provided by Vicky Pryce further, other than in court proceedings arising from publication.
3. Vicky Pryce stands by the statements which she has made to The Sunday Times to the effect that she took the points under pressure.

Dated: May 2011

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From: vickypryce [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 May 2011 11:27  
To: Oakeshott, Isabel  
Subject: Re: here it is again...this okay?

Add please ." and protect her anonymity" somewhere and then I am happy  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

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options

Hide Details

FROM: isabel oakeshott

TO: vickypryce [REDACTED]

Thursday, 12 May 2011, 20:05

Message Body

So, what can we write this weekend???? Nothing is not an option, according to my boss.

Now, no getting into a lather, please. Be assured, nothing without your agreement. BUT we need to write something. So I need your help. Please don't tell me what I can't write. Tell me what I CAN write.

Here are some ideas. Are any of them acceptable to you?

1) Constance confirms it was you who took the points? (You said she the Mail on Sunday has been talking to her, which I was surprised to hear. I am sure they will use her in some way...)

Here's how we'd write it:

"Chris Huhne forced his wife to take his speeding points, a close friend confirmed today. The Cabinet minister falsely named her as the driver after he was caught exceeding a 30mph limit on March 12, 2003, the friend confirmed. At the time, Huhne was returning to London from Strasburg. His wife Vicky was 100 miles away in London, giving a talk at conference. Last night, barrister Constance Briscoe said: "Yes, Vicky took the points for him. She was put in an impossible position." It is understood Pryce confided in Briscoe after the incident. Pryce refused to comment. etc

OR

2) Chris Huhne tried to persuade a witness not to expose him after he persuaded another driver to accept his penalty points. The Energy Secretary coached the witness in how to avoid the media if they were approached to discuss the incident. He told the witness: "xxxxx"

of course I am referring here to the tape, but not mentioning it. or some variation of this that you are okay with?

3) CHris Huhne acted alone when he falsely told police someone else was behind the wheel of his car when he was caught speeding. The Energy secretary did not consult the other driver before sending their details to police, the Sunday Times has learned. The individual only found out they had been falsely named when they were contacted by officers.

I need to emphasise again that writing nothing is not an option. If i don't write anything, then someone else in the office will take over the story, and I'll lose control of it. So we need to come up with something that you are happy with. But we won't break our agreement, so no need to get into a state.

Isabel



Andrew Alderson

---

**meeting up...**  
1 message

---

**Andrew Alderson** <andrew.r.alderson@...>  
To: Vicky Pryce <vicky.pryce@...>

Sat, Nov 20, 2010 at 5:35 PM

Hi Vicky,

Could you please let me know asap what day and time you and Constance would like to meet up? And then I can book my train tickets accordingly.

Many thanks

Andrew



shorthand  
notebook

• 160 pages

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766137

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quality product





~~CRIME~~

WELTER.

(agut)

GAST CE LUTE.

SUPPORT.

ENT WELTER.

(2003) P.  
END

DE

END OF 2002.

NEW OF 2003.

9 POINTS.

(LUST -)

BULLY IN

Extract from Andrew Alderson's shorthand notebook dated November 22,  
2012 to December 14, 2010

Page 1

Vicky Pryce: Nov 22, 2010

Not intend to marry//co-habit

Digging into past.

Lost his licence.

Points.

2003.

When [illegible]

Bullied.

Lost his

Speeding.

on mobile phone.

12 points.

Page 2

(Anne)

Jo White.

(agent) Eastleigh

Support.

Eastleigh.

(2003)

End

Be

End of 2002

Begin of 2003.

9 points

**(Lost)**  
**Bullying.**



Andrew Alderson

---

**MoS/statement**

1 message

---

Andrew Alderson

Fri, Dec 10, 2010 at 9:4

To: Constance Briscoe

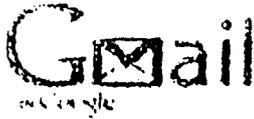
Good morning.

Do we have lift off - ie a statement to the MoS?

If so, I suspect he will be an ex minister by Sunday lunch-time....

Best wishes

Andrew



Andrew Alderson [redacted]

meeting?  
5 messages

Andrew Alderson [redacted] Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 10:55 AM  
To: David Dillon [redacted]

Apologies for having to end the call so quickly.

As I said, I am trying to be the conduit so that things get moved forward - hopefully significantly forward. It is not perfect or entirely straightforward but you (or your "representative"), me and the friend could meet for 15 minutes round the corner from your office at 8pm today. I can introduce you to Constance and leave you to get something agreed between the two "sides" that protects the "central individual" from being identified that enables you to be confident that you have enough to defend any (unlikely) libel action by a grumpy (but hopefully resigning) politician.

I am on the mobile and can talk any time in the next two hours when you are free...

David.Dillon [redacted] Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 10:55 AM  
To: Andrew Alderson [redacted]

Thanks Andrew. I can come along to the meeting. There is a La Pain Quotidien in Young Street. Does that sound okay

This e-mail and any attached files are intended for the named addressee only. It contains information, which may be confidential and legally privileged and also protected by copyright. Unless you are the named addressee (or authorised to receive for the addressee) you may not copy or use it, or disclose it to anyone else. If you received it in error please notify the sender immediately and then delete it from your system. Please be advised that the views and opinions expressed in this e-mail may not reflect the views and opinions of Associated Newspapers Limited or any of its subsidiary companies. We make every effort to keep our network free from viruses. However, you do need to check this e-mail and any attachments to it for viruses as we can take no responsibility for any computer virus which may be transferred by way of this e-mail. Use of this or any other e-mail facility signifies consent to any interception we might lawfully carry out to prevent abuse of these facilities.

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Andrew Alderson [redacted] Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 11:01 AM  
To: David.Dillon [redacted]

Sounds perfect. I am glad it's you personally - although I am sure you are busy.

So I don't waste your time, I could be there early/on time and as soon as Constance arrives, I can ring you to join us (she is in court this afternoon and might be running a few minutes late)? Constance is fabulous (no dithering, no bull-shit) - there will be three people around the table all willing this project to come good.

Though, alternatively, IF you want to chat with me alone first, we can meet a few minutes before 6pm. It's your call...

[Quoted text hidden]

David.Dillon [redacted] Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 11:29 AM  
To: Andrew Alderson [redacted]

last night...

<https://mail.google.com/mail/>

3



Andrew Alderson

---

last night...

1 message

---

Andrew Alderson

Fri, Dec 17, 2010 at 8:0

To: Constance Briscoe, David Dillon

Constance/David,

Thank you for meeting up last night - and I am glad we are all agree on the best way to proceed.

You now have each other's email addresses. As I said last night, by all means deal directly with each other from now on on the "agreement" (though I would appreciate it if I was copied in on significant emails so I know where the negotiations are).

However, if the "Relevant Person", or indeed anyone else, feels happier going through me on some things, that is fine with me too.

My sole aim - which I know you both share - is to get a major exclusive story (which will lead to the resignation of a politician) in the MoS asap, though I think this realistically means early in the New Year.

Best wishes

Andrew

Reprographics - RPC

---

From: Dominic Turnbull [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday 20 December 2010 17:08

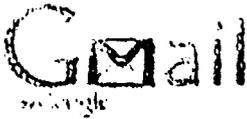
To: constance.briscoe [REDACTED]

Please find below with reference to your earlier discussion with David Dillon

To Vicky Pryce

Dear Vicky

The Mail on Sunday confirms that the information you supply will be treated on a 'not for attribution' basis. We will not publish any words or photographs which may lead to you being identified. We will not use the information you supply for any reason otherwise than for the purpose of publishing a story in the Mail on Sunday and its website, nor will we communicate to any third party that you are the source for the story.



Andrew Alderson [redacted]

**festive greetings**

3 messages

Andrew Alderson [redacted]

Wed, Dec 29, 2010 at 9:00 AM

To: Constance Briscoe [redacted]

Hi Constance

I hope you had a good Christmas?

I just tried to ring you. Are we all "set" for blast-off this weekend?

Could you give me a quick call please at home - [redacted] (but I will be out between 9.50am and 10.10am dropping off my younger daughter at riding)?

Best wishes

Andrew

constance.briscoe [redacted]

Wed, Dec 29, 2010 at 11:02 AM

Reply-To: constance.briscoe [redacted]

To: Andrew Alderson [redacted]

Will call you when I have finished my military training.  
Constance B

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From: Andrew Alderson [redacted]

Date: Wed, 29 Dec 2010 09:39:22 +0000

To: Constance Briscoe [redacted]

Subject: festive greetings

[Quoted text hidden]

Andrew Alderson [redacted]

Wed, Dec 29, 2010 at 11:25 AM

To: constance.briscoe [redacted]

Thanks, Constance. I am here until 12 noon - and then back at about 1.30pm.

Speak soon.

Andrew

[Quoted text hidden]

David Dillon

---

From: David Dillon  
Sent: 29 December 2010 18:49  
To: constance.briscoe [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re:

Dear Constance,

Thanks for your email and thanks also for all the time and effort you have put into this matter thus far. I hope that the following will help clear up any concerns you have and bring us a little closer to making this work. I will do everything I can to reassure you and your friend.

The email sent to you earlier was a written guarantee that The Mail on Sunday would not identify the "relevant person" as the source of information and a guarantee that the Mail on Sunday would not publish the identity of the "relevant person". If you would like this to be drawn up as a legal document then I will ask our lawyers for assistance with that.

If the story is true then it is unlikely to be contested. However, we would ideally like corroboration of the details supplied by the "relevant person" prior to publication. As we discussed in our meeting this corroboration would ideally come from a third party who is fully aware of the facts of the story. Any documentary evidence which backs up the story would of course also be essential to us.

If "he" asks The Mail on Sunday to reveal the source of our story we would of course refuse to do so. You have already received a written guarantee of this.

Please call or email me if you have any further questions.

David Dillon

---

From: constance.briscoe [REDACTED]  
Sent: 30 December 2010 00:37  
To: Constance Briscoe; David Dillon  
Subject: Re:

Please forgive the delay. I have now spoken to the relevant person and a formal contract as to the agreement is preferable. There are a number of other points that can be dealt with tomorrow when I will email you. Constance Briscoe

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

From: Constance Briscoe <constance.briscoe [REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 29 Dec 2010 21:02:41 +0000

To: <David.Dillon [REDACTED]>

Subject: Re:

Dear DD,

I have again copied your response and handed it over. I hope to have a response for you later today.

Constance Briscoe

On 29 December 2010 18:48, <David.Dillon [REDACTED]>

Dear Constance,

Thanks for your email and thanks also for all the time and effort you have put into this matter thus far. I hope that the following will help clear up any concerns you have and bring us a little closer to making this work. I will do everything I can to reassure you and your friend.

The email sent to you earlier was a written guarantee that The Mail on Sunday would not identify the "relevant person" as the source of information and a guarantee that the Mail on Sunday would not publish the identity of the "relevant person". If you would like this to be drawn up as a legal document then I will ask our lawyers for assistance with that.

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If "he" asks The Mail on Sunday to reveal the source of our story we would of course refuse to do so. You have already received a written guarantee of this.

Please call or email me if you have any further questions.

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David Dillon

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From: Constance Briscoe [REDACTED]  
Sent: 30 December 2010 11:05  
To: David Dillon  
Subject: Re:

Dear DD,

I will forward the paragraph you but in the meanwhile here are the points I have been asked to bring to your attention no particular order:

1. I have already informed you that the relevant person would like a contract drawn up.
2. The story re the points is absolutely true. It is true that someone other than CH took the points and it definitely happened on at least one occasion.
3. If a member of the family was able to confirm the story together with a third independent person would this be sufficient to stand up in court if it came to it or would this be inadmissible?
4. The relevant person was bullied and pressurised to accept the points which CH was anxious to avoid.
5. After CH lost his licence he had to be driven around by the relevant person and others until he got his licence back.
6. There is no documentary evidence except the driving licence which the relevant person is looking for. Copies of the licence can be obtained.
7. Finally, you will appreciate that I have no particular interest in this story save that I have been asked to act as an intermediary on behalf of the relevant person.

Constance Briscoe

30 December 2010 10:39, <David.Dillon [REDACTED]>

Thanks Constance,

I will talk to our lawyers as soon as possible. Those that have dealt with this matter so far on holiday so that will slow things up. If you could send me the paragraph that my colleague Dominic sent to you it would help enormously.

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**Reprographics - RPC**

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**From:** Martin Wood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 30 December 2010 16:57  
**To:** David Dillon  
**Cc:** John Wellington  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Fwd:  
**Attachments:** VickyPriceLetter.doc; pic14485.jpg

How about this?

<<VickyPriceLetter.doc>>

---

Martin Wood

Group Legal Adviser

Associated Newspapers Ltd

Direct: [REDACTED]

Switchboard: [REDACTED]

David Dillon/News/TMOS/ANL

30/12/2010 15:14

Martin Wood [REDACTED]

Fw: Fwd:

T  
C  
Subjec

To Vicky Pryce

Dear Vicky

The Mail on Sunday confirms that the information you supply will be treated on a 'not for attribution' basis. We will not publish any words or photographs which may lead to you being identified. We will not use the information you supply for any reason otherwise than for the purpose of publishing a story in the Mail on Sunday and its website, nor will we communicate to any third party that you are the source for the story.

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Re: Fw: Fwd:

Page 4

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<<pic14485.jpg>>

# The Mail

ON SUNDAY

Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, Kensington, London W8 5TS

Vicky Price

  
30 December 2010

By Courier

**Private and Confidential**

Dear Vicky,

I understand that you have asked us to provide you with some written assurances with regard to the proposed story your friend, Constance Briscoe, has been discussing with Dave Dillon, the News Editor.

I can therefore confirm that The Mail on Sunday will treat information you provide in respect of the proposed story on a 'not for attribution' basis. Furthermore, we have no intention of publishing any words or photographs which may lead to you being identified as the source of the story or identifying you as the source to a third party.

Information you supply to us in relation to the proposed story will be used strictly for the purpose of publishing the story in The Mail on Sunday and on the newspaper website.

I trust these assurances will allay any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely,

John Wellington  
Managing Editor

Reprographics - RPC

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From: constance.briscoe [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday 03 January 2011 22:23  
To: Dominic Turnbull  
Subject: Re:

Please call me

Constance Briscoe  
Sent using BlackBerry 9630 from Orange

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

From: Dominic Turnbull [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, 20 Dec 2010 17:07:52  
To: <constance.briscoe@[REDACTED]>  
Subject:

Please find below with reference to your earlier discussion with David Dillon

o Vicky Pryce

Dear Vicky

The Mail on Sunday confirms that the information you supply will be treated on a 'not for attribution' basis. We will not publish any words or photographs which may lead to you being identified. We will not use the information you supply for any reason otherwise than for the purpose of publishing a story in the Mail on Sunday and its website, nor will we communicate to any third party that you are the source for the story.  
(Embedded image moved to file: pic14485.jpg)

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ul - VP

<https://mail.google.com/mail/> [REDACTED]



Andrew Alderson [REDACTED]

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**VP**

1 message

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**Andrew Alderson** [REDACTED]

Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 8:46 AM

To: David Dillon [REDACTED]

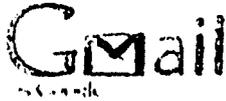
Good morning Dave

I had my (slightly grumpy) contact on the phone on Sunday asking if you were no longer interested in the big story - or the story about her planned book? I simply said that as far as I knew you were going to ring her last Tuesday and sort out a (joint) "plan" (after taking legal advice). I am well aware that in the current "climate" journalists are being very carefully now for obvious reasons but surely if an individual independently decides to do the snaring - and you ultimately benefit - that's his/her "call"?

Anyway, I asked her to leave everything until Tuesday (after your weekend) - ie today. Are you going to speak to her? Are you happy if - as VP wanted in the first place nine days - I now give the book story to Richard Kay? I am home this morning if you want to talk anything through...

Best wishes

Andrew



Andrew Alderson [REDACTED]

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**Chris Huhne**

1 message

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**Andrew Alderson** [REDACTED]  
To: David Dillon [REDACTED]

Tue, Feb 22, 2011 at 9:47 AM

Hi Dave,

I spoke to our mutual friend yesterday and she was very happy with the article - and the very careful way you had handled things. She also suggested you had discussed how to move the story on (ie "the biggie") but she was at work and didn't go into any detail. Predictably enough, your story led to a whole load of new inquiries from journalists ('what will the book say?' to 'can we help you write the book?') - but she didn't give anything away.

Unless you want me to get involved, I am just going to leave things to you and her on "the biggie"...but obviously let me know if you think I can help in any way.

Best wishes

Andrew

PS Actually, I think our mutual friend said you are on holiday this week, in which case have a good break and let's talk on your return...