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July 31, 2015

Dear Mr Clarke,

I write pursuant to your appearance at the trial of Ben Fellows. My assessment of this fantasist can be found here: <http://www.thelatestnews.com/ken-clarke-fantasist-ben-fellows-acquitted/>

I am though more concerned with others less fortunate than you who are currently languishing in prison, have had their careers and livelihoods destroyed, or simply had their names dragged through the mud on the basis of similar fantasies, something that is ongoing with this ludicrous historical child abuse inquiry.

It is notable that the police appear to have taken the allegations against you seriously, in spite of they're being over twenty years old at the time. If they had covered a time when you were not in office, and if Fellows had not made so many allegations against other people, you could have ended up in a position similar to Rolf Harris or Max Clifford.

I don't know how familiar you are with these particular cases, but although Harris did have an affair with a very much younger woman, for which he might have been brought to trial, the other allegations against him were ludicrous, yet he was convicted on all counts. Something you might like to consider is that the case against you was in some ways stronger than at least one of the allegations against him, because you spend your working life in London, yet there is no credible evidence that Harris ever went near an obscure community centre in the Portsmouth area in 1969/70, a time when he was riding high in the music charts, and would certainly have been featured in the local press. He was convicted on that charge simply because a woman claimed he had indecently assaulted her more than four decades later. How absurd is that?

Harris and Clifford in particular are the victims of a witch-hunt which entailed trawling allegations from demented women and chancers all over the world, including in Clifford's case that he had indecently assaulted a 12 year old girl in a jacuzzi thirty years earlier, a claim she told no one about. Other allegations against Harris and other celebrities are equally absurd and obscene.

The CPS and the police present these investigations into historical allegations of child abuse and other sexual offences as bringing to justice those who exploit their celebrity and power. Whoever you are and however long ago these crimes were committed, we are coming for you, is the mantra. The reality is very different.

Research in experimental psychology from both sides of the Atlantic, and the historical record, prove this is not the case. In 2002, the Home Affairs Committee held extensive hearings on the practice of trawling for evidence of sexual abuse in children's homes. Because girls in care are generally in the charge of women, the accusers in these cases are overwhelmingly men. While there have unquestionably been some genuine cases of sexual abuse in care homes, and one proven case of organised abuse - Kincorra - the paedophile rings that are said to operate at the highest levels of government, including within the Palace of Westminster itself, are not so much fiction as fantasy.

The reality is that the people making these allegations are very often mentally disturbed for reasons that have nothing to do with sexual abuse, many are confabulating, and others are simply on the take, aided and abetted by police officers who would much rather target old men than chase real criminals (who might shoot back), and by corrupt lawyers who are likewise on the take, like the firm Slater & Gordon that is quite brazenly encouraging people to make false allegations.

Allegations of this nature are also fueled by feminists and anti-rape activists (so-called), and by people who believe Satanic networks control Britain, America, and probably everywhere else. These latter include Christian fundamentalists, and therapists who take the fantasies of their clients at face value while at times implanting false memories of abuse into fragile minds.

The UK needs a statute of limitations to stop this nonsense; it also needs to take a firm line with gratuitous false accusers instead of pandering to agenda-driven special interest groups such as the NSPCC and Women Against Rape who have succeeded in undermining due process for those accused of sex offences without making a single potential victim safer, as can be seen readily from the Rotherham scandal.

I hope you will use your not inconsiderable influence to stop these witch-hunts because we have already long passed the point where a man accused by four or five individuals of offences at unspecified dates years or decades in the past is deemed guilty simply by virtue of so many allegations being made. Such spurious corroboration by volume may be good news for Loch Ness Monster hunters, but it is a tragedy for what was once the finest criminal justice system in the world.

Yours Sincerely,
A Baron

Cc Professor Chris French, Goldsmiths College
Sean Gabb, Libertarian Alliance