

McGregor, Sarah 9008
From: Kuttner, Stuart [mailto:stuart.kuttner@surry.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2002 9:46 AM
To: [mailto:sarah.mcgregor@surry.nsw.gov.au]
Subject: Amanda Dowler

Attn Ms Sarah McGregor
Press Office
Surrey Police

April 20 2002

Dear Ms McGregor:

Re Amanda Dowler

As you are aware, last Saturday evening (13 April) the News of the World contacted the Dowler Squad with information we had received. In the course of a conversation with Det Sgt Kevin McEntee we passed on information about messages left on Amanda Dowler's mobile phone (011 211)

In particular, we referred to a message from Monday's Recruitment Agency at Wellington, Telford, apparently left on Amanda's phone on the morning of March 27.

In addition, we advised of other messages left on this number and we offered a copy of a tape recording of the messages and other assistance.

In response, we were advised by Det Sgt McEntee that the messages could (a) not have been left on Amanda's mobile phone and (b) that the chances were extremely high that any such messages were the work of a professional hoaxer, well known to the police.

As a consequence, we took immediate steps to radically and substantially amend the article that had been prepared for publication.

A little later, in a subsequent conversation with Det Sgt McEntee we were further told that (a) the hoaxer had contacted Amanda's mother to 'wish her a happy birthday' and (b) that the hoaxer had checked into a hospital in Telford using Amanda's details, and (c) that this person had been captured on CCTV footage.

In the light of the above and subsequent inquiries I know you will understand that we cannot entirely dismiss our initial information. Presently it is our understanding that:

- 1 Messages, including one from Monday's, WERE left on Amanda's phone.
- 2 Police do NOT know who the 'professional hoaxer' is.
- 3 Surrey Police (through the Press office) say they have no evidence of the hoaxer being in contact with Amanda's mother.
- 4 That the 'hospital visit' is NOT on CCTV.
- 5 Police cannot identify the hospital at which the visit is said to have occurred.

I am sure you will appreciate how important it is to us in reporting this case to present a true and accurate account; and, as we have said before, to assist in any way we can in the search for Amanda.

Accordingly, I would welcome clarification, as a matter of urgency, in respect of each of the matters set out above.

In addition, can you please advise us if Surrey Police (or local officers on Surrey's behalf) have

- (a) made inquiries about Amanda with Monday's recruitment agency; &
- (b) made inquiries of the police in the Wellington / Telford area; &
- (c) if so, what is the outcome of those inquiries.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Kuttner
Managing Editor
News of the World

NB. We can be contacted at [redacted] or [redacted]

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