
M and A Pistorius' response to questions posed by News24

GENERAL:

1. We, M and A Pistorius, continue to object against publication in such a manner that we and A Pistorius' school business can be directly or indirectly identified, and reserve all our rights in that regard. In particular, but without derogating from the preceding general statement, we contend inter alia that:
 - 1.1 Publication in such a manner that we or the business may be linked to the allegations of sexual abuse of children, will cause us further distress and injury.
 - 1.2 Publication allowing M Pistorius to be identified may be construed as a criminal offence. In this regard we refer to the annexed comment and article by Jameelah Omar, marked **MP1**.
 - 1.3 M Pistorius is already in the position of an accused person, (inter alia in view of the fact that steps to privately prosecute him are underway) and is therefore entitled to the protection of the law against being identified prematurely.
2. In view of News24's persistently expressed intention to identify M & A Pistorius and the latter's school in regard to the alleged sexual abuse of children, in view of the escalated current and future costs of legal action, and further in view of the fact that News24 opted to disclose their identities in papers filed in current proceedings, the Pistorius' decided to

respond as follows below to the questions put to them by News24, and require News24, in the event that they persist with identifying them in publications (to which they by no means consent), to give due and fair coverage to the Pistorius' assertions, as set out below.

A PISTORIUS:

3. Q: What is your response to the allegations against your husband, that he removed children from Babbel en Krabbel and performed sexual acts on them?

R: I do not have any knowledge of any alleged sexual acts having allegedly been performed by my husband in respect of children. We have strict security measures in place at Babbel & Krabbel (B&K). Entry and other locations on the premises were being observed by camera and the footage recorded, and entry was controlled either by fingerprint recognition (parents), or the person requiring access would first be identified via the camera and then be allowed access by staff. The SAPS removed all CD's found on the premises and had access to the server for purposes of investigation and subsequently the sheriff, pursuant to the Anton Piller order, removed all recording devices and same was examined by IT experts appointed on behalf of Ms [REDACTED] and Ms [REDACTED]. No evidence of entering and removing as aforesaid was found.

4. Q: What investigation, if any, did you undertake following the allegations and charges laid in 2011 and 2018? What were the findings?

R: During 2011 I examined footage recorded by cameras on days when Mr [REDACTED]'s daughter had allegedly been molested by [REDACTED]. I questioned staff and, in some instances, subjected them to polygraph tests, I fully and extensively co-operated with the SAPS, the Western Cape Education Department, and the ACVV during their investigations. To the best of my knowledge no adverse findings against my husband

were made. We were unaware of any charges having been laid during 2018, until 5 April 2019 when Chrissie, a staff member, was interrogated by Von Wielligh of Milnerton FCS.

5. Q: Ms Sandy Gould says you were aware of her relationship with Mr Marius Pistorius when you got engaged in 1984. What was the nature of their relationship, according to you, at the time?

R: I was unaware of any relationship of a sexual or romantic nature. I did however notice that Ms Gould had an obsessive admiration for my husband.

6. Q: Ms Gould (Crake) says you confronted her about their relationship many times. What was the reason for this confrontation?

R: I did not confront Ms Gould as alleged. The only confrontation that I recall occurred when she insulted me on account of my appearance. I don't recall what gave rise to the insult.

7. Q: After your marriage, Ms Gould says you were aware of their visits on the beach in the dunes next to where the old crayfish factory used to be. According to her, you had followed them there on more than one occasion and that Mr Pistorius would tell you he was going to "jog to lose weight". What is your response to this?

R: I have no knowledge of the alleged visits. It follows that I did not follow them. I do not recall any such explanation by my husband. I find it strange that he is alleged to have said that, because to the best of my knowledge he never jogged.

8. Q: Anything else you would like to add?

R:

- 8.1 I pride myself on having founded and run B&K for three decades, providing a safe haven for the children left in my care and providing employment to numerous staff members.

- 8.2 Previous publication of the same allegations in 2011 resulted in about 18 children leaving the school. During 2018, when the rumours resurfaced, 10 children left the school. Despite widespread publication, suggesting that my husband was the perpetrator, there are still 85 children who attend the school. I fear that a further repeat of the allegations within the context of the school would result in further losses.
- 8.3 I do not accept that my husband, whom I have known for 38 years, could have perpetrated the crimes of removing children from my care, taking them to our home and molesting them. Those allegations were never proved in a court of law, and it appears to me to be a gross violation of my rights that my school should be connected to alleged crimes which are denied by the alleged perpetrator.
- 8.4 During 2018 and 2019 my husband for long periods lived on our farm approximately 320 km away from our house in the town where the school is situated. Since 13 December 2019 he has been living permanently on the farm and has never been back to our house. I regularly visit the farm over weekends to be with my husband.
- 8.5 It remains my view that it is unnecessary and potentially hugely damaging to my and my school's reputation, our right to dignity, and my right to conduct a business if we are to be identified as being connected and made to suffer from alleged criminal and other unacceptable behaviour. There are numerous examples of reporting by even News24 in which the general public is fully informed of allegations of impropriety, without identifying the alleged perpetrator.

M PISTORIUS:

9. At the outset I wish to deny each and every allegation of unlawful or improper conduct towards children perpetrated by me as suggested by

News24 and those interviewed by them. Until I have been informed of the alleged incidents, I had no knowledge of the sexual assault or rape of any child attending B&K.

10. Q: Did you have sexual intercourse with Sandy Gould when she was 13 years old?

R: No.

11. Ms Crake (nee Gould) says she was introduced to you by your mother in December 1982. Can you confirm this?

R: I am not sure. I came to know of her after she started paying visits so my children and my mother. She could have been introduced to me by my mother or my children, or I could have asked her name. I also do not remember when I met her.

12. Q: What, thereafter, was the nature of your relationship?

R: Until the time she fell pregnant with our child when she was 18, I have not had a relationship with her other than as an acquaintance due to her visits to my children and my mother at our house, and at times when she looked after my dogs or kept an eye over the house when no-one was at home.

13. Q: Ms Crake says you fondled and attempted to have sex with her in early 1983, before breaking her hymen the third time you invited her over for a late-night visit. What is your response to this?

R: Those allegations are false, and I categorically deny them.

14. Q: Ms Crake says the fondling and rape continued over the coming years. She says there was no reciprocation and that she had to be held down. What is your response to this?

R: Those allegations are false, and I categorically deny them.

15. Q: Did your mother, Ms Lettie Pistorius, hang a photo of Ms Crake on her bedroom wall? And did Ms Crake accompany your mother to collect you from the airport when you returned from meetings?

R: I do not recall such a photo. I cannot recall that my mother ever fetched me from the airport. I had a company car that I left at the airport when I had to fly.

16. Q: Was Ms Crake given a key to your house when she was a teenager?

R: When the occupiers went away for a weekend or otherwise, I requested her to see that the dogs are cared for and that there was nothing wrong at the house, and I gave her a key to the house for those purposes.

17. Q: According to Ms Crake, you had told her you “needed” sex and it was how she could prove that she was indeed your friend. She says you warned her that no one would ever believe her if she told of what was happening and that she would get into such trouble that she would be “sent away”. What is your response to this?

R: Those allegations are false, and I deny them categorically. I wish to add that she is an extremely troubled person with a very sad history. For the record I deny that I contributed to those by means of any unlawful conduct. I shall for the sake of our child not go into any detail for present purposes.

18. Q: She says she walked your dogs – a German Shepherd puppy after the Alsatian Satan died, as well as Devil the Rottweiler – as an excuse to see you and to also explain away the scratches and bruises sustained during intercourse. What is your response to this?

R: I do not know whether she walked my dogs. She would not be able to control the Rottweiler, a large and boisterous dog. I have no knowledge of the remainder of the allegations.

19. Q: I understand you got engaged to Annet in 1984, after Ms Lettie Pistorius organised her as a partner for you for a company dance. Can you please confirm this?

R: Yes.

20. Q: Ms Crake says Ms Lettie Pistorius had told her you and her (Crake) would be married once she was 16. She says the engagement and marriage to Annet was to allow you to have custody of your two children. What is your response to this?

R: I do not know what my mother told her, but I find it unthinkable that my mother would say those things. I certainly had no intention of marrying Ms Crake and I deny the alleged reason for my engagement and marriage to Annet.

21. Q: Ms Crake says about 6 months after you and Annet were married, you had picked her up from school and taken her for a weekend to your farm in Witsand. What is your response to this?

R: That is correct, but I did not pick her up from school and it could not have been 6 months after my marriage because Ms Crake was already 16 years of age.

22. Q: Ms Crake says she was sent to see a doctor for an internal examination after the welfare services in Malmebsury were called. She says: "Marius had instructed me how to act and what muscles to clench when the doctor tried to do an internal examination. He said it would be best if I did not let the doctor even get close. He told me to tense up all I am worth and that the doctor, erring on the side of caution will then not physically force an internal examination. His plan worked." What is your response to this?

R: I deny that I instructed or advised her to act as alleged during any examination.

23. Q: Her parents, who disapproved of your relationship according to Ms Crake, got an interim interdict, she says. Ms Crake says within 54 days, your meetings resumed on the beach in the dunes next to where the crayfish factory used to be. She says you would bring them brandy and coke to "warm up". What is your response to this?

R: There was no improper relationship to be disapproved of, although her parents did instruct an attorney who addressed a letter to me, advising that her parents did not approve of the relationship and demanded that the relationship had to be ended. There was no interdict. The remainder of those allegations is also false.

24. Q: Ms Crake fell pregnant in 1988 when she was 18 and studying (she says you encouraged her to become a nurse so that she can take care of you when you are old). She says you had asked her to have an abortion. What is your response to this?

R: Her mother, who was a nurse, encouraged her become a nurse, not I. I did not ask her to have an abortion. Welfare officials advised her to have an abortion.

25. Q: What was your reason for suing for custody of your daughter when she was 9?

R: I have previously referred to Ms Crake's troubled life. Our daughter was not safe with Ms Crake. There were allegations of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and was also the father of [REDACTED], and our daughter did not want to live with Ms Crake under those circumstances. The Children's Court vindicated my concerns by awarding custody to me on the grounds of our daughter having suffered

[REDACTED] abuse while in Ms Crake's custody. I invite News24 to read the record of the protracted trial for more particulars.

26. Q: She says you had a “hold on her” and that she was to report whatever she heard to you. What is your response to this?

R: The question is put in vague terms, making it difficult for me to respond. If it is meant to suggest that I had or tried to obtain control over her thoughts and actions, I deny it. I also deny that I ever instructed or required her to report to me “*whatever she heard*”.

27. Q: She says you are aware of News24’s investigation into the Babbel en Krabbel sexual abuse allegations as she had informed you about being interviewed. Can you please confirm this?

R: Ms Crake contacted me and created the impression that she was collaborating with inter alia Afriforum, Deon Wiggett, the press and the three biggest media companies to address that alleged abuse of children in a non-legal manner. She did not mention News24.

28. Q: Did you drive Ms Crake into your garage while she sat in the foot section of the front passenger seat while covered with a blanket so that no one would see her?

R: No.

29. She says you showed an intense interest in psychology when you were younger and read extensively on the subject. Can you confirm this?

R: No.

30. Q: Anything you would like to add?

R: This question will be dealt with when it is repeated below.

31. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts or touch the genitals of any children who attended Babbel en Krabbel?

R: No.

32. Q: Did you remove any children attending Babbel en Krabbel from the premises?

R: No.

33. Q: Did you take any children who attended Babel en Krabel to your home?

R: No.

34. Q: Did you threaten to cut off any of the children's fingers with a lawnmower if they spoke out?

R: No.

35. Q: According to the ACVV, allegations of sexual abuse at Babel en Krabel date as far back as 2011, when over a dozen children aged between 4 and 5 who attended the facility claimed to have been sexually abused. It says the children had identified the perpetrator as 'Oom Juffrou', referring to you, Mr Pistorius. What is your response to this?

R: I have no knowledge of those allegations. I had no interaction with the children. I deny the allegation that I sexually abused the children.

36. Q: In 2011, five cases were laid of sexual abuse by parents whose children attended Babel en Krabel. Their parents, after speaking to their children, allege that you were the perpetrator. What is your response to this?

R: I am aware that the five cases were laid. I have no knowledge of the allegations that resulted in the cases being laid. I deny that I perpetrated the alleged unlawful acts. I do not know the children, I have never seen them as far as I know, I do not know the children's parents, and I have never had contact with those children.

37. Q: Did you remove  from Babel en Krabel's premises?

R: No.

38. Q: Did you touch her genitals?

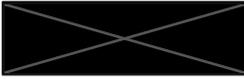
39. : No.

40. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with [REDACTED]?
- R: No.
41. Q: Did you remove your clothes and expose yourself to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]?
- R: No.
42. Q: Did you remove [REDACTED] from Babel en Krabel's premises?
- R: No.
43. Q: Did you drive her to your home, hiding her in the foot area of a vehicle?
- R: No.
44. Q: Did you touch her genitals?
- R: No.
45. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with [REDACTED]?
- R: No.
46. Q: Did you remove your clothes and expose yourself to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]?
- R: No.
47. Q: Did you remove [REDACTED] from Babel en Krabel's premises?
- R: No.
48. Q: Did you drive her to your home?
- R: No.
49. Q: Did you touch her genitals?

R: No.

50. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with ?

R: No.

51. Q: Did you remove your clothes and expose yourself to 
?

R: No. Also "no" in respect of .

52. Q: Did you remove  from Babel en Krabbel's premises?

R: No.

53. Q: Did you touch her genitals?

R: No.

54. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with ?

R: No.

55. Q: Did you remove your clothes and expose yourself to 
?

R: No.

56. Q: Did you remove  from Babel en Krabbel's premises?

R: No.

57. Q: Did you drive him to your home?

R: No.

58. Q: Did you touch his genitals?

R: No.

59. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with [REDACTED]?

R: No.

60. Q: Furthermore, two other cases were opened in 2018, in which you were accused of sexual crimes against minors – [REDACTED] and Sandy Crake. Did you remove [REDACTED] from Babel en Krabbel's premises?

R: No. I further wish to point out that during the time that [REDACTED] was allegedly molested, as stated in annexure AA16 of the answering papers, I was on the farm approximately 320KM away from our house and the school.

61. Q: Did you drive her to your home?

R: No.

62. Q: Did you touch her genitals?

R: No.

63. Q: Did you perform any sexual acts with [REDACTED]?

R: No.

64. Q: Did you play any games with [REDACTED]?

R: No.

65. Q: Did you tell [REDACTED] that you were her lover and that you wanted to marry her?

R: No.

66. Q: Did you put a knife to her wrist and threaten to cut her if she told anyone about the abuse?

R: No.

67. Q: Anything else you would like to add?

R: Yes. See below.

REPORTS OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGISTS:

68. [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED] instituted action against me and my wife in the Western Cape High Court under case number 175353/12 on allegation of the sexual abuse of the said children.
69. The plaintiff relied on a report of a child psychologist, Dr Bredekamp, in support of her contentions that her children had been sexually abused by me. A copy of Dr Bredekamp's report that was filed on behalf of the plaintiff is annexed herewith and marked **MP2**.
70. In her report, Dr Bredekamp found support for the allegation that not only [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but also other children, had been sexually molested by me. She relied on inter alia reports by social workers Ms Cottee and Mrs Kriel.
71. On page 20 of MP1 Dr Bredekamp alleges that during 2011 the NPA declined to prosecute on account of the children's young age. This is not entirely correct, because according to papers delivered by News24 in the recent legal proceedings, there were other reasons why the NPA declined to prosecute, inter alia the lack of independent corroboration.
72. My wife and I obtained a report by another child psychologist, Dr Thompson. A copy of Dr Thompson's report that was filed on our behalf is annexed herewith and marked **MP3**.
73. Inexplicably these two reports were not alluded to in News24's answering papers in the legal proceedings. News24 is urged to carefully study the report of Dr Thompson and pay particular attention to his motivated criticism on the modus operandi and the findings of Dr Bredekamp as well as the two social workers.
74. As an example, Dr Bredekamp states on page 18 of here report that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were able to identify me on a photograph. See Dr Thompson's

motivated rejection of the reliability of such "identification" in paragraph 4.4.4 of his report. This is but one example why I insist on proof in a Court of law of my alleged involvement, instead of being "identified" in news reports.

75. Subsequent to the delivery of the reports of the child psychologists, Drs Bredekamp and Thompson met, and jointly issued minutes of that meeting. A copy of those minutes is annexed and marked **MP4**.
76. It will be noted that Dr Bredekamp conceded Dr Thompson's report should be accepted in its entirety as an agreement between them.
77. Of particular significance is that the experts agreed that there were concerns with the veracity and reliability of the children's narratives that they were abducted from their pre-school and sexually abused by me.
78. Of even higher significance is the joint statement in paragraph 4(h) of the joint minute, that "*It is questionable whether the minor children would have been able to reliable identity or name Mr Pistorius from their own independent memory without adult suggestion*".
79. As a direct result of the developments above, the plaintiff withdrew her action against us. It is not correct that she decided to withdraw due to lack of funds. See also annexure AA8 to the answering papers, where it is suggested in paragraphs 26 and 27 that the plaintiff was in fact financially able to institute the proceedings.
80. The same deponent states in paragraphs 26 to 30 that she expected her case to be proven against me with evidence found on electronic surveillance devices. (See also annexure AA12 paragraph 40). It is common cause that all electronic recording devices were removed from our house and the school, and that not a shred of evidence was found by experts who examined the material.

OTHER ASPECTS:

81. See Captain Cottee's report (annexure AA7 to the answering papers) where she refers on pages 5 and 6 to incidents where one child alleged that his brother had hurt his (the child's) penis, which was confirmed by the brother (see page 8)
82. In paragraph 7.2 of annexure AA11A reference is made to a "*Margaret from the school*" who allegedly photographed a child's private parts. The same child reported that [REDACTED], another child at the school, hurt her by touching her private parts.
83. On page 16 of annexure AA11A reference is made to one "*Tannie Linda*" from the school who hurt the child's private parts. On page 18 it was "*Patricia*" who sexually assaulted her.
84. On page 20 of annexure AA11A a child cried out that she just saw two adult males who had hurt her, driving past. Those men were supposedly two old grey-haired men.
85. See annexure AA16 to the answering papers, where in paragraph thereof it is alleged that on 26 July 2018 I was seen at Meerendal Wine Estate in Durbanville by one of the child complainants ([REDACTED]). Not only have I never visited Meerendal Wine Estate, but I can (and will, when the time comes) prove conclusively that I was many kilometers away on that day. It is quite perturbing that although a photograph was allegedly taken of me, no such photograph was attached to the affidavit, nor ever shown to me.
86. The children's versions of what happened are replete with inconsistencies that I shall particularise when it becomes necessary.
87. When reading annexure AA2 to the answering papers (Ms Crake's affidavit dated 2 March 2022) I was astonished and incredulous to see the minute detail in which she described events that allegedly occurred almost 40 years previously. In my view it is not humanly possible to have such perfect recall and I am advised that such particularised evidence of

events that happened so long ago is frequently frowned upon in the courts.

In conclusion:

88. My wife and I have never done anything to hinder the investigations into the allegations of improper conduct and we remain willing to continue to assist wherever we can.
89. I urge News24 to reconsider their decision to continue identifying me, and my wife's business. We contend that even objectively speaking there is a real possibility that the complainants' reports insofar as they implicate me, are not only unreliable, but indeed false. Inasmuch as News24 is assisting the complainants in matters such as a private prosecution, the opportunity will in future arise to identify me as either innocent or found guilty.
90. We reserve all our rights.

5 May 2022