

Mr A J Mercer
Secretary General
National Rifle Association
Bisley
Brookwood
Surrey GU24 0PB

19 September 2019

By email only

Dear Mr Mercer

Appeal re Disciplinary Hearing decision on 9 October 2018

I reply now to your letter dated 2 September 2019. I note that it was posted on 6 September and it did not reach me until 9 September, a day before I went away for five days on a prearranged visit.

While I am of course pleased that an appeal is now to be held, albeit close on a year since I gave notice to appeal, the procedure you suggest and limits you seek to apply to the scope of the hearing are unacceptable.

You will be aware that much new evidence has emerged in the last 11 months about the processes employed by the Disciplinary Body against NRA members. You will know that the Charity Commission is, to say the least, very unhappy about the way the NRA frames, interprets and applies its disciplinary process. I fully expect that the disciplinary process is under close review, in large part as a result of the way I have been treated.

In advance of your setting a date for the hearing of my appeal, I request a response in writing from you to the following questions:

1. Why did it take you a year to issue, on 13 July 2018, the Notice of Intended Disciplinary Action concerning my letter to the Times which had been published on 13 June 2017?
2. Why did you choose to issue that Notice on the day before the start of the Hopton in 2018?
3. Why did you never reply to my letter of 31 July 2017, and whom if anyone did you consult in coming to that decision?

4. Do you hold the view that the answer David Evans gave to that letter in his letter to me of 13 June 2019 about the 'affordability principle' is true and wholly accurate?
5. Do you take the line that the affordability principle became public knowledge, so far as you are concerned, only on the publication of NRA Council Minute T1323 item 18 dated 4 October 2013 even though there are very many within the NRA (and not only those currently or previously members of General Council) who know that affordability at Bisley was a substantial concern from the 1970s onwards, as evidenced by reductions in rents of up to 60% for those clubs with large amounts of land, as enshrined in the 1987 Fair Rents Scheme?
6. Why, in light of the emergence of this widely-known fact, was I not permitted to shoot the Hopton in 2019?
7. Why in your letter of 12 October 2018, did you ban me from entering Bisley Camp when that punishment was not read out or otherwise indicated at the conclusion of my disciplinary hearing on 9 October 2018?
8. Why, in your letter to me of 14 November 2018, did you demand the return of my NRA Membership Card and Shooter Certification Card when the "loss" of neither of these was part of the punishment read out at the end of the Disciplinary Hearing on 9 October 2018?
9. I am glad to be told that the removal of my SCC did not form part of the sentence, so why did you demand its surrender?
10. You tell me that my SCC is a matter between the NLRC and the NRA. You will be aware that Christopher Leighton, the NLRC chairman, has several times requested the issue of one for 2019, which you have refused until I learnt on 28 August 2019 that you had at last sent it to Christopher Leighton at his home address so preventing me shooting the Welsh Match Rifle meeting on 26 August 2019. What are your reasons for the refusal if it was not indeed part of the sentence?

So in addition to the grounds of appeal set in my letter of 21 January 2019 (which must be put in full to and taken into consideration by the panel which hears my appeal), all the above questions (and your answers to them) must be brought into account on the hearing of my appeal. I do not accept that the appeal panel is restricted to considering

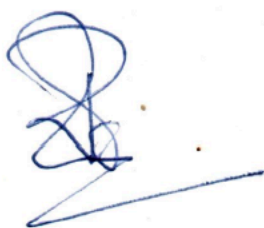
only the matters and evidence to which you seek to constrain it in your letter of 2 September 2019. The disciplinary rules as currently set out in the Bisley Bible impose no such restrictions, and you have no power to impose them.

We clearly need to agree dates for the appeal at which Mark Scoggins is able to attend to represent me. I have many commitments over the next three months so the sooner a date is agreed the better, and Mark is involved in a major public inquiry which limits his own availability to accompany me.

Finally, I put you on notice that, whatever the outcome of my appeal, I am seriously considering legal action against the NRA for compensation and other redress for the shameful way in which I have been treated and in regard particularly to the fundamental flaws, failings and unfairness in the disciplinary procedure and the woeful delay in granting me an appeal hearing. I will take a decision on legal action once my appeal has been heard and determined.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Robin Pizer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin Pizer

cc: All members of the Disciplinary Body and NRA Trustees