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Grantham Research Institute
on Climate Change and
the Environment

Chair: Professor Lord Stern
of Brentford

25 July 2014

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am writing to complain about an article (enclosed) by David Rose which was published by 'The Mail on Sunday' on 6 April 2014 in its print edition, under the headline 'Green 'smear campaign' against professor who dared to disown 'sexed up' UN climate dossier', and on its website. The article is grossly inaccurate and misleading, in breach of Section 1(i) of the Editors' Code of Practice. Although I originally considered that the article was so ridiculously false that nobody would believe it, I now recognise that there may be one or two individuals who wrongly believe its content to be factually accurate.

The article is based on the hearsay of Professor Richard Tol of the University of Sussex who claimed that I had been carrying out "a smear campaign" against him. It is an entirely untrue allegation. I have been attempting to persuade Professor Tol to correct errors in his work. Professor Tol had not corrected any of the errors in his work at the time the article was published, and even though he has subsequently made some corrections, a number still remain outstanding.

The article by Mr Rose in 'The Mail on Sunday' severely misrepresented my actions and provided a false account of events. I am providing here a list of the major misrepresentations in the article. I have enclosed a copy of my e-mail correspondence with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as Mr Rose purported to quote from it in his article, as well as my entire e-mail correspondence from Professor Tol about this matter.

1. The article states that I "sent an email disparaging Prof Tol's research to several leading IPCC scientists and officials", but it failed to point out that the message was in fact sent as part of my duty as a reviewer of the IPCC report to highlight some errors in a section of a chapter written by Professor Tol.

2. The article states that the other co-author of the chapter, Professor Doug Arent, sent me an e-mail claiming that "a tiny, statistical error" had been found in "an earlier draft". This is completely untrue, as can be seen from the enclosed copy of the e-mail from Professor Arent – it states: "The data has been double and triple



checked, and corrected if in error, and the chapter revised”. The uncorrected chapter of the Final Government Draft, on which I commented, still remains on the website of the IPCC, pending publication of the final version later this year.

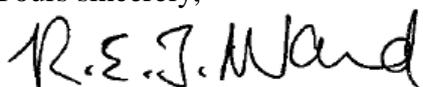
3. The article claims that an email to Professor Tol from me “admits the errors are small” in his work. This is very misleading as my email messages made clear why the errors, while applying to a small number of figures cited in his papers, were significant and required correction.

4. The article states: “Yet weeks before Mr Ward published his article, Prof Tol volunteered to correct a handful of highly technical, minor numerical mistakes”. This is entirely misleading. In the correspondence I received from Professor Tol, the last of which he sent on 18 October 2013, he never offered to correct the errors in his work. Furthermore, when the ‘Journal of Economic Perspectives’ did eventually publish in May 2014 Professor Tol’s five-page correction and update (enclosed) to one of his papers, he acknowledged two major differences in the conclusions reached from the analysis. The corrections he made were significant and changed his conclusions.

5. The articles states about Professor Tol: “He added that the errors made no difference to his conclusion that global warming of up to 2.5C may have a net beneficial impact on the world economy”. This is entirely false, as can be seen from the enclosed copy of Professor Tol’s correction and update to his paper in the ‘Journal of Economic Perspectives’. He draws attention to his corrected results and points out that “unlike the original curve (Tol 2009, Figure 1) in which there were net benefits of climate change associated with warming below 2°C, in the corrected and updated curve (Figure 2), impacts are always negative, at least in expectation”.

This article represents part of an ongoing campaign by Mr Rose and ‘The Mail on Sunday’ to disparage my professional work because they are apparently unhappy at the way I have criticised their publication of inaccurate and misleading articles about climate change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.E.J. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Ward
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