

2. 26 July: "Garth Anton Christie attempts to intimidate former Hales exclusive brethren members with brutish bailiffs #Unchristian"
3. 26 July: "UK leader of the Plymouth brethren Christian church Garth Christie condones brutish thuggery kidnap and abuse – public benefit #dontthinkso"
4. 26 July: "@jackspratt0394 the kidnap was with Bryony"

These are plainly very seriously defamatory allegations which would be taken to mean that Mr Christie condones the use of thuggery and authorised and/or ordered the kidnapping of a youngster from a Bedfordshire farm and that he attempted to intimidate former church members with the use of brutish bailiffs. In relation to the kidnapping allegation, you allege that our client is guilty of a very serious criminal offence.

Your claims are utterly untrue and malicious and there is no basis or foundation whatsoever to justify them.

Your tweet of 24 July refers to a "*Bedfordshire farm*" as the place at which the attempted kidnapping of the "*youngster*" took place. Mr Christie suspects therefore that your unsubstantiated allegations refer to an incident involving your daughter, Victoria, who recently left the PBCC and who was staying with her grandparents on a farm in Bedfordshire for a time following her departure from the Church. As you well know, Mr Christie has not made nor authorised nor ordered any attempt to remove Victoria from the farm, whether by kidnapping or any other way. Nor to his knowledge has anybody else connected with the PBCC done so, whether on his instructions or otherwise.

We understand that no pressure has been put on Victoria by Mr Christie or indeed by the PBCC as a whole to return to the Church. On the contrary, we understand that every effort has been made by the PBCC to comply with Victoria's demands relating to her departure from the Church. We also understand that a company car which Victoria was given the use of as a result of her employment with Greenbank has recently been gifted to her by members of the PBCC.

Furthermore, Victoria herself has pointed out that the kidnapping allegations are false. Following your tweet of 26 July stating that Mr Christie "*condones brutish thuggery kidnap and abuse*", Victoria comments as follows using the Twitter handle @jackspratt0394:

*"there was no kidnap or thuggery so of course he [Mr Christie] can deny it"*

No doubt as a result of the realisation that this particular allegation has been exposed as false by the very person it was said to concern, you then appear to change tack as you respond to Victoria that "*the kidnap was with Bryony*". Bryony is of course your other daughter who, we understand,