

# 'WOMAN'S RIGHTS DENIED'

# NOTTINGHAM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



15th. Feb. 1985

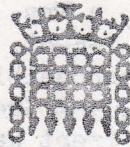
## ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOOS NEST



SEVERN TRENT WATER

Mr K W Bridle  
Mansfield 641641 Ext 25

MARTIN M. BRANDON BRAVO M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Gregsons*

Susan M. Gregson-Murray, LL.B. Hons.  
84 Derby Road,  
Nottingham,  
NG1 5FD.  
Tel. (0602) 40485



©Mr Brandon-Bravo

Since none of the local Solicitors are taking action, it seems to me quite wrong that the Law Society will make no comment on the grounds that one of the Solicitors mentioned in the magazine might at some time in the future respond.

I feel I must press this matter for if there is no justice in Mrs Reid's allegations, then I want the matter made clear, and if there is substance in her allegations, the matter should be brought into the open and dealt with.

11th. January, 1984.

## THE TRUTH

# THEY CAN'T TAKE INTO COURT

(WHY HAS THE LAW SOCIETY SILENCED AN MP)

"Legal Mafia in Action"

\*Behind Closed Doors now asks why Mr. Brandon-Bravo M.P. has not pursued Ms. Reids case as he stated in his letter above dated the 11th January, 1984, or is he like other M.P.'s to scared to speak against the Legal Mafia as it's now over 12 months since his revelations revealed in the above letter that the matter should be brought out into the open and dealt with. Any one who would like to know the facts about this case should ring the person named here:- J. Stevenson, Legal Dept. S.T.W.A. HQ, Abelson House, 2297 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham. B26 3PU.



In the life of every man and nation,  
Comes the moment to decide  
Between good and evil,  
Truth and falsehood.

*Is it true?*

## Democracy or Hypocrisy

## "One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest"

The above caption has been the centrepiece on the front page of "Behind Closed Doors" for the past 5 years, and many people have queried its significance, not all have understood it, its meaning is in its parity with the Nottingham Legal Establishment, i.e, a cuckoos nest has never been found, as the bird never builds one, on the same token when dealing with Nottingham's Legal Eagles, one finds that Truth and Justice seems to have passed into the world of illusion and like the Cuckoos nest is rarer to find.

The case centres on "Gregsons" Solicitors of 84 Derby Road, Nottingham, as they were Ms. Reids Solicitors whom she had on Legal Aid in what must be considered a solid and air tight Divorce case regarding the husbands admitted adultery and cruelty, and desertion after nearly 30 years of marriage, yet through what can only be described as Criminal Negligence on the part of her Solicitors in failing to get a maintenance order, and in allowing the husbands debts to be transferred into her name by Severn Trent Water Authority, Ms. Reid and her two children was forced to live on £32 a week from November 1981 to October 1983, while the husband took trips to America with his girl friend.

The two letters Ms. Reids Solicitor, a Mrs. Goodall sent to the husbands Solicitor Mr. John S Hodgson, one dated the 2-6-82, the other dated the 1-9-82 shows that she was fully aware of the fact that the responsibility for the Rates lay with the husband until the Divorce was made Absolute, yet Gregsons stood by while the debts were transferred to Ms. Reids name by Severn Trent Water Authority on the instigation of Mr. John S Hodgson knowing full well that it was Criminal Negligence on their part, and also the Birmingham County Court Registrar Mr. Burnie, who amended the Summons on the Application made by Mr. Bridle of Severn Trent Water Authority was guilty of Criminal Intent, yet no action has been taken against them.

When "Behind Closed Doors" first published Ms. Reids story and exposed people like John S Hodgson, Mrs. Goodall, Susan Gregson-Murray, and the unethical conduct of the Registrars of Birmingham and Nottingham County Courts, Burnie of Birmingham and Hibbert, Hotter, Enzer, and Cochrane of Nottingham, John Hodgson panicked and wrote to the Attorney General to seek an injunction to stop "Behind Closed Doors" exposing the truth, the Attorney General ordered an investigation by members of the Nottingham C.I.D., yet the first person to suffer was Ms. Reid, the C.I.D. went to her home with Bugs to record the conversation and even dragged her into the Station for questioning, it was there they produced the Bug and played her own words back to her, they then accused her of writing "Behind Closed Doors", Ms. Reid reminded them that she came to Nottingham in August 1980, and that "Behind Closed Doors" had been in existence since 1979. They also got John Boyd, the Editor of "BCD" out of bed at 8a.m. the next morning and held him for 4 hours of interrogation on the 19th July '84, this was not the first time Mr. Boyd had been roped in over the case, but accusing Ms. Reid while at the same time handling Solicitors like Hodgson and Susan Gregson-Murray like Royalty makes one wonder at the powers of the Legal Establishment has even when Solicitors are involved in Criminal Activities and it involves the Police.

Ms. Reid is now awaiting a reply from the Chief Constable of Nottingham to her Solicitors letter to him dated the 1st Feb. 1985, an investigation has been going on for some time into this case by the C.I.D. but seems to be getting no where, so her Solicitor wrote to them for an explanation about the delay, one thing is sure, this case will not lie fallow until the Law Society and its carpetbaggers in Nottingham are exposed for what they are, they are running a Legal system which has long lost its cloak of respectability and is today run by a "Fraternity of Shylocks" who under the cloak of Truth and Justice have done for British Justice what their counterparts "Batman and Robin" done for it in America, made it a farce, for under the umbrella of Authority, the Law Society under the guise of being Democratic must run parr with the Mafia in its manipulation of Truth and Justice.

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\*Behind Closed Doors, is not allied to any Political Party, Institution, neither endorses any such like Organisations, we are self-supporting, but may accept donations to cover the cost of printing.

Contact:- "Campaign Justice for Women", c/o 32a. Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

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- 15 Warrant issued by Birmingham County Court reissued by Nottingham County Court Registrars, Mr. Hibbert, Hotter, Enzer, and Cochrane, yet these same Registrars had known all the facts of the case as they had presided over her Divorce therefore they were guilty of unethical conduct.
- 16 Copy of Seizure of Goods Notice with "Behind Closed Doors" comment at the top of the page.
- 17 An amazing turnabout by S.T.W.A. in the issuing of an overdue account notice dated 16-5-83 in V.Southams name, yet the summons was still in Ms.Reids name, this can only be seen as panic on the part of S.T.W.A. as they knew they were guilty of perverting the course of justice.
- 18 Short letter from Nottingham County Court to Ms. Reid dated 6-6-83 in reply to her asking for an explanation for the transfer of the summons. "Behind Closed Doors" comment at top of this page.
- 19 Summons issued by Nottingham Magistrates Court dated 13-7-83 on behalf of the City Treasury for rate arrears of two previous years, it was sent to Ms. Reid yet it was in her married name of Mrs. Southam, and can only be seen as a deliberate attempt by the City Treasury to force her to pay her husbands bills.
- 20 Letter from the City Treasury to Ms. Reid dated 26-7-83 in which he states the summons had been withdrawn and the records amended, yet there was no apology for the panic caused in Mrs. Reids home when she received the summons, yet Sheldon states that the summons was sent on the advice of her husband who wrote to Sheldon earlier that year, it again proves that even in the world of a buffoon like Sheldon, a woman is a second class citizen.
- 21 Letter to Mr. Sheldon City Treasury from Ms. Reids husband dated 7-2-83 this is the letter which Sheldon mentioned in his letter to Ms. Reid dated 26-7-83, it again proves that in the eyes of people like Sheldon only the husbands word is taken for Ms. Reid was not told of the change of rate arrears until she received the summons.
- 22 Page taken from 'Family Law' where under paragraph headed "Rate Obligation" it states very clearly that the Husband is liable for the Rates until the Decree Absolute of divorce. Yet, people like Sheldon of the City Treasury, and Bridle of the Severn Trent Water Authority seem to be able to make up their own Laws as the occasion arrises.
- 23 Letter dated 26.3.83. to Ms. Reid's solicitor from John S Hodgson, which is self contradictory in that he says his client would look to Ms. Reid for reimbursement for payment of the rates. Here-in, he conveniently forgets that in his letter of the 7.1.82. he states that his client would meet with the rates until the Decree Absolute. What Hodgson fails to realise, is that to be a good Liar one must have a good memory: not a Convenient one. Hodgson, who is also a "Barrister" in his own right, is guilty of Gross "Professional Misconduct" in his handling of this case, as Ms. Reid's solicitors'- GREGSONS, were merely Pawns when dealing with a Vulture like Hodgson, as in His capacity he knew all about Family Law, including Divorce.
- 24/25 When Ms Reid was at home in Scotland in December 1983, she went to a well known Glasgow solicitor to obtain advise over the difficulties she was experiencing in her divorce case. The letter dated 29.12.83 is the reply. As can be seen in this letter, the solicitor - after perusing the correspondance and documents relating to her case, advised her that her only course of action was to take a case against her solicitors - GREGSONS of 84 Derby Rd, Nottingham. He also suggested that she should write to the "Professional Purposes" Dept. of the Law Society in London, which she had already done to no avail, as subsequent letters have shown.

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- I & 2 Mr. Hodgsons letter to Ms. Reids Solicitors "Gregsoms" dated the 7-I-82, in which he states he had taken his clients instructions, and his own comment on page 2 para. B, that his client would meet with the rates until the Divorce, yet as subsequent letters will show that with Mr. Hodgson self-contradiction is the order of the day.
- 3 Summons dated IO-3-82 issued by Nottingham City Treasury against Mr. V. Southam Mrs. Reids husband for rates which she passed on to her Solicitor "Gregsoms".
- 4 & 5 Personal letter dated II-5-82 sent to Ms. Reids Solicitor by her husband in which he states he told the Bailiffs who had called to his office that he was responsible for the rates until the Divorce was Absolute, this letter and the one above dated 7-I-82 from his Solicitor shows that the Summons Ammended to Ms. Reids name could not have been done without his Solicitors compliance.
- 6 Letter to Mr. Hodgson from Ms. Reids Solicitor Mrs. Goodall dated 2-6-82 which shows that Mrs. Reid was unaware of where her husband was living, it also proves that her Solicitor knew where responsibility for the rates lay, yet in the subsequent transference of the debt to Mrs. Reids name by Severn Trent Water Authority the issue was never challenged by her Solicitors.
- 7 Summons dated 29-7-82 against Mrs. Reids husband Mr.V.Southam issued this time by Birmingham County Court on the instructions of Mr. J.Stevenson Solicitor for S.T.W.A. for water rates this Mrs. Reid also passed on to her Solicitor.
- 8 Letter to V.Southams Solicitor Mr.J.Hodgson from Mrs. Goodall dated I-9-82, it shows that in knowing about the Summons of Default issued to V.Southam and passing it on to his Solicitor that 4 months later on the 25-I-83 they were guilty of "Criminal Negligence" when with having "Knowledge aforethought" they not only allowed the amendment of the summons to their clients name, but instructed her to pay the debt.
- 9 Writ of Judgement issued against V.Southam by S.T.W.A. dated I5-IO-82 which Ms. Reid again passed on to her Solicitor.
- IO Letter dated I9-II-82 from Mr. Hodgson to Mrs. Reids Solicitors in which he says Mrs. Reid was losing £60 a month due to their incompetence, the letter also states in para.4, that with an intrim court order his client would no longer pay the rates. This is in contradiction to his letter dated 7-I-82, yet her Solicitors never challenged it.
- II Application for Ammendment of V.Southams debts to Mrs. Reids name by K.Bridle of S.T.W.A. dated I7-I-83, yet it was omitted in their letter dated I3-2-84 to Ms. Reid.
- I2 Copy of Decree Absolute of Mrs. Reids marriage dated 25-I-83 at Nottingham County Court, yet no maintenance order was made.
- I3 Application for Ammendment of summons to Mrs. Reid by S.T.W.A. to Birmingham County Court dated 25-I-83, yet Mrs. Reid knew nothing of this as she was waiting at Nottingham County Court for her Decree Absolute.
- I4 Warrant dated 20-3-83 issued by Birmingham County Court against Mrs. Reid, yet she knew nothing of this, they even omitted it from their letter dated I3-2-84 as they had done with the S.T.W.A. one dated I7-I-83.

( S. T. W. A. )

Severn Trent Water Authority.

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- 26..Letter dated 3.I.84 from Birmingham County Court to Ms. Reid which states that all proceedings will be set aside, and the Action withdrawn. We again ask - "What reimbursement can Ms Reid expect for having lived through three years of misery, with her life in ruins, and her home in Tatters, as Debts pile up trying to keep a home and family on £32 per week, while her husband takes trips to America with his girl friend Aided by his solicitor J.S.Hodgson, who, by a strange coincidence was also a close friend of the said girl friend
- 27..Amazing letter from Severn Trent to Ms. Reid's solicitor dated 4.I.84, which has Bridle at his usual Incompetant Best. He states that the original amendment to the summons still stood, and he could see no reason to consider Ms. Reid's claim for compensation.
- 28..Letter dated II.I.84. from Ms. Reid's M.P. Mr. Brandon Bravo, to Mr. J Hoyle of the Law Society, asking rightly, for an explanation as to how solicitors' and other members of the Judiciary are protected by the Law Society. He states that if there is substance in Ms. Reid's case, then it should be brought into the open and dealt with. In other words - a PUBLIC ENQUIRY.
- 29..Letter to Mr. Brandon Bravo from Mr. J.D.M.Hoyle dated 26.I.84. which shows 29A Mr. Hoyle, who is a member of the Professional Purposes Department (i.e. The Pinstriped Protection Dept. of the Law Society) in his usual role of Covering Up the activities of the more unsavoury members of his profession. Also, insert is an item about businessman Les Parsons planning to sue the Law Society for their cover up for another solicitor. We must now ask - "What can the public expect when the very Fabric of their culture is composed of Charltons and "Shakedown" artists.?
- 30..Hodgson's letter dated 3I.I.84. to Ms. Reid's solicitor, in which he states 30A that he only first became aware of proceedings against his client in September 1982, conveniently forgetting that in Mrs. Goodall's letter to him of the 2.6.82. she specifically mentioned the Rates, and the Bailiff calling at his clients office. He states that he pointed out to Severn Trent that his client had at no time lived in the property at IO9 The Downs, and that rightly, proceedings should be taken against Ms. Reid. Yet, in paragraph 2 he says he wonders what motivated Severn Trent Water Authority to take the course of action they did. But in stating that Ms. Reid was the author of her own misfortune, one can only see what can only be described as "Psychopathic Behaviour", as no Competant person would write such a contradictory letter.
- 3I..Letter dated 3I.I.84 which Ms Reid sent to Birmingham County Court requesting an explanation as to how her EX husband's debts could be transferred into Her name without her knowledge. This was the Third letter she had to write to get an "explanation".
- 32..Letter of reply to Ms Reid from Birmingham County Court, LORD CHANCELLORS OFFICE dated 13.2.84. in which as they say, they give a clearly worded account of the procedures of this summons through The Courts, yet they have blatantly left out the two most important dates a) The 17.I.83(which should be between the the dates "15.I0.82 and the 25.I.83") and which was when Bridle of Severn Trent Water Authority applied to have the summons "amended" to Ms. Reid's name. b) The 20.3.83 ( Which should have been between 25.I.83 and the 3.I.84) and which was the ~~date~~ date that Burnie - The Registrar of Birmingham County Court, issued a Judgement Against Ms Reid without her knowledge. The original Judgement was against Ms. Reid's EX husband - V.T.Southam for non payment of rates, yet this "judgement" was swithed into her name, which in itself constitutes the Criminal Act of interfering with Court Documents.

Pages cont...

- 33/34..Letter dated 14.5.84 to Ms. Reid from Mr Debere - Secretary of the Professional Purposes Department of The Law Society. In the letter, Debere attempts to discredit the fact of Ms. Reid's case by insinuating that as she was involved with the Women's Movement, she was merely trying to use her case as a campaigning issue. This can only be seen as a pathetic attempt to gloss over the activities of the unsavoury members of his profession.
- 35..Letter to Ms. Reid from Severn Trent Water Authority dated 31.1.85 in which they threaten to disconnect her water supply. We now ask - "Has the old means of swapping summons' gone out of fashion? Or is Severn Trent once again trying to walk over people.? Ms.Reid having written twice to them about her cash delay from the Department of Health and Social Security.
- 36..Letter dated 1.2.85. to Ms. Reid from her solicitor in which he highlights the difficulties in having her state benefit sorted out. Yet Severn Trent - no doubt incensed at having their shady activities made public, and knowing the plight she was in, decided to threaten to cut off her water supply. Mr. Nelson also points out that he has written to the Chief Constable of Nottingham regarding the criminal actions that took place in the Severn Trent Water Authority Department of Birmingham County Court, and about her claim for compensation. He is also waiting for Legal Aid certificates to be granted to pursue her claim for reimbursement against her former solicitor - Gregsons, due to the Criminally Negligent way they handled her Legal Affairs.

25-11-84

THE SUN, Thursday, N

# IT'S YOUR TURN TO MOVE IN, LOVE!

**A SEPARATED couple are taking it in turns to live in their council house . . . on the orders of a judge.**

The bizarre ruling means Carol Ward and her seven month old son say there for six weeks.

Then they move out to allow Carol's common-law husband Douglas Winning back

By HUGH WHITTON

In for the same period. In between residence at the three-bedroom house in Colgrave, near Nottingham.

CAROL, 20, lives at a hostel for the homeless with baby Paul. And DOUGLAS, 21, goes to stay with his sister.

Judge Thomas Heald ordered the merry-go-round when Carol and Douglas both applied for the tenancy of the house when they split up.

Carol, who moves in tomorrow for her latest turn, said: "Until recently we were sharing the house on a two-week basis but the judge extended the period."

Judge Thomas Heald who sat in Judgement on the case of Lexie Reid refused to answer the recorded letters sent to him asking for an explanation as to how her name came to be substituted for that of her husbands debts.

**FRASER, BROWN, WHITE & PEARS**

**SOLICITORS**

**COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS**

**R. SEELY WHITEY**

**J. V. MOORE**

**P. L. T. JACKS**

**A. B. PALFREMAN, M.A. (CANTAB)**

**D. I. HENSON, M.A. (CANTAB)**

**J. S. HOODSON, M.A. (CANTAB)**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**9-1 & 2-5**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

**84 FRIAR LANE,**

**NOTTINGHAM**

**NG1 6SD**

**TELEPHONE: 42541 (3 LINES)**

**OUR REF. JSH/KS**

**YOUR REF. EKH/HEID**

**7th January 1982**

Dear Sirs,

Southam and Southam

We write further to our letter of the 30th of December. We have taken our client's instructions on your letter, and our comments follow. We are however also instructed to write in connection with certain behaviour of your client which has recently come to our client's attention.

It appears that on a number of occasions in the last few weeks your client has telephoned our client's employer at 6 in the morning. She has apparently spoken at length to various members of the staff present at the time. The reason why the matter has only just come to our client's attention is that it was only today that your client spoke to a senior member of staff who reported the matter to his superiors. In the first place our client is highly embarrassed by the fact that his and your client's personal affairs are being discussed apparently at random with total strangers whose only connection with our client is that they happen to work for the same relatively large organisation. In the second place it appears that following the report from the gentleman to whom your client spoke this morning there has been a meeting of Directors to consider the position. Our client has been warned firstly that his own job performance will now be closely examined to see whether his present matrimonial difficulties are adversely affecting it which could possibly have very serious repercussions on his employment, and secondly that the Company finds this behaviour of your client quite unacceptable in that it embarrasses the staff who have to deal with these telephone calls, and takes them away from the duties for which they are being paid. We understand that this morning's telephone call for example lasted all of thirty minutes.

Obviously our client has only had a second or third hand account of what your client has been saying, and it appears that your client is giving a very over dramatised and very partial account of the situation. Some of what your client has had to say bears on the younger children of the family. The reason why our client has not made more effort to see these children since the separation is simply that he has felt that his presence at the matrimonial home would upset and annoy your client.

Cont/..

Our client would certainly be happy to see more of these children and help them come to terms with what has happened. All that is necessary is for your client to give an indication of some means whereby this can be achieved.

Our client honestly believes that he has done his best to minimise the adverse effect of the separation on your client and he will continue to do so so far as is within his power. If your client requires an outlet for her emotions on the subject, we would have thought that there are a considerable number of people and organisations far more suitable than randomly selected fellow employees of our client.

We now turn to deal with your letter of the 21st of December and our client's comments arising therefrom. We shall deal with the points raised in the same order in which you raised them.

- (a) This is the first that our client knew of these standing orders. He tells us that they do not in any way relate to clothes for himself, although he accepts that they may quite well relate to clothes for the children. In so far as they relate to clothes for the children our client will be prepared to assume responsibility for them. We shall however require full details of the amounts still payable, and the items of clothing which are involved. Our client tells us that he has never had any dealings on credit with either of these two organisations, and he believes that in so far as these accounts do not relate to clothes for the children they may well relate to clothes or other items for your client which our client is not prepared to pay for.
- (b) The only insurance premium of which our client is aware is the House Insurance collected by the Building Society in addition to the mortgage payments. Our client is prepared to continue to meet this. X Our client is also prepared to meet the rates until there is a divorce. Once there is a divorce, our client will no longer be in rateable occupation, and your client will be able to obtain a rate rebate. It is obviously difficult for us to make the necessary calculations, but we would have thought that the rebate would be a substantial one. We would be prepared to advise our client at that stage to consider an adjustment to maintenance if the residential liability were substantial.

Cont/..



IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM



SCHEDULE  
GENERAL RATE

No. 3250

MR V SOUTHAM  
109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM

I have phoned and written  
to tell them my husband  
does NOT live here. They even called  
at the door (as I told you about) & I told  
them the only address I could give  
them for him was his work!!!

Made on the  
9TH DAY OF MARCH 1981  
SUPPLEMENTARY RATE MADE ON THE  
27TH DAY OF JULY 1981

£
90.20
36.90
127.10
3.00
0.10
TOTAL 130.20

COMPLAINT has this day been made to me, the Clerk to the Justices by  
collector of general rate charges in the said City that you, being a person  
rated and assessed in respect of the (several) rate(s) set out in the schedule hereto  
have not paid the (several) sum(s) set out opposite to the rate(s) respectively in the  
said schedule (or any part thereof) X X

F. W. SHELDON

YOU ARE THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR ON  
FRIDAY THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH 1982 AT THE HOUR OF TEN O'CLOCK

before the Magistrates' Court sitting at the Guildhall, Nottingham to show cause why  
you have not paid the said sum(s).

If you do not appear you will be proceeded against as if you had appeared and be dealt with according to law

DATED THE 10TH DAY OF MARCH 1982

*Gene Jordan*

Clerk to the Justices for the City aforesaid. PB

ARREARS OF FORMER RATE made on the

RATES DUE 127.10

THE UNDERMENTIONED COSTS HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN INCURRED.  
Rating Authority for obtaining this summons.  
Clerk to the Court

3.00  
0.10

21 093 10900 90 TOTAL 130.20

IF THE AMOUNT OF THE ABOVE COSTS TOGETHER WITH THE RATES CLAIMED BE PAID TO  
RATING AUTHORITY AT THE CITY TREASURY, GUILDHALL, BURTON STREET, NOTTINGHAM  
NG1 2DE BEFORE THE DAY ON WHICH THIS SUMMONS IS RETURNABLE, ALL FURTHER  
PROCEEDINGS WILL BE STOPPED.

PAGE 3

4  
10 45, BRUDENELL  
ORTON GOLDHAY,  
PETERBOROUGH  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

11<sup>th</sup> MAY 1982.

F. A. O. MRS. GOODHALL.

RECEIVED  
MAY 1982

Dear Madam,

Please forgive me for the intrusion into having to write to you.

This morning, at noon, a Senior Bailiff Officer from the City Treasury called to see me at my place of work. In his possession, he had a Warrant, stating that goods and chattels at 109 The Downs must not be sold or moved until the outcome of a court case for non payment of rates on 109 The Downs. I told him that I am responsible for rates until the eventual divorce is absolute, and after a talk, he has agreed to waive the warrant as long as the rates are paid, for last year, and this year, during the next week. My reason for writing to you, is firstly because you refused to speak to me on the telephone, but more important, to ask you to speak to my wife, your client, and have her forward any such letters which may be addressed to me at 109 The Downs, to my mothers house, address, 45, BRUDENELL, ORTON GOLDHAY, PETERBOROUGH. The goods and chattels referred to, are, as I have already agreed, belong to her. It could have been, as it was to me, very embarrassing to some people, and all for the sake of forwarding a letter. Whilst on the subject, I have

asked on countless occasions, both direct to her, and my lawyer, to release the few personal belongings, still at 109 The Downs. I have very little in the way of clothing, and surely it is not asking too much to be allowed access to it. What I am looking for are a few clothes, two new suit cases, and one portable TV, given to me by my parents. There is a Halifax Building Society holding book with about £100 in it. If this is sent onto me, I will assume you're client that as it should have been in joint names, she will receive half. I don't know why I am being so soft about the money. I have had to find hundreds to pay for rates, electricity, gas, and phone accounts, all of which she had the money to pay for. Did you know about that?

Maintenance, which has not yet been through a court order may have to be cut severely very shortly, in order to repay money paid out on the above accounts.

I look forward to hearing from you, through MR J. Hodgson

Yours Sincerely,

William

MR. V. T. SOUTHAM.

6  
MG/JS  
Reid

JSH/KH

2nd June 1982  
(Dictated 28th May)

Mrs Goodall

Dear Sirs

Re: Reid - Southam

We thank you for your letter of the 12th of May 1982 and we refer to our telephone conversation with your secretary of the 26th of May. We confirm that divorce papers have been filed in Nottingham County Court and the number of the matter is 1982 (D) 1005. You should shortly therefore be receiving the papers from the Court.

We note what you say with regard to the rates. When our Client last received notice from the City Council that the rates were overdue she did telephone Mr Southam's parents with a view to finding out his address and forwarding the demand to him there. Mr Southam's parents telephoned her back and informed her that they did not know where he was living. Accordingly the Court Bailiff called at her home our Client stated that she did not know where Mr Southam was living; she only knew that he was working at Fork Farms. This presumably led to the incident which you refer to in your letter. To prevent any re occurrence we have advised our Client to hand documents addressed to Mr Southam to ourselves and we shall then forward them on to you.

We would inform you that your Client did attempt to speak to us on the telephone after the Bailiff incident, and also wrote to us giving his address for future correspondence as that of his parents in Peterborough.

Your Client also mentioned in this letter that he wished to have certain items returned to him namely his clothes, two new suit cases, and a portable television given to him by his parents. Our Client has no objection to these items being collected so long as she is notified of when this is to be so that she can have the items ready. She suggests a Saturday morning as being convenient and we would be grateful if you would take instructions on this. She also mentions that the children's portable red television has disappeared, and if you Client has removed this she would like it to be returned by him.

Cont'd..... P T O ....

Messrs Fraser Brown White & Pears  
Solicitors  
MDX 10,011

# BIRMINGHAM COUNTY COURT

Summons  
Number

482 149016 05

## PARTICULARS OF CLAIM

PROP REF NO 5 19 21 0126 1090 1

THE PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM IS FOR CHARGES FIXED BY THE PLAINTIFF PURSUANT TO THE WATER ACTS 1945 AND 1973 AND THE WATER CHARGES ACT 1976 FOR THE PERIOD

1ST APR 1982 TO 30TH SEP 1982

TOGETHER WITH AMENDS, IF ANY, FULL PARTICULARS WHEREOF HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

IN RESPECT OF (IF DIFFERENT FROM THAT SHOWN OPPOSITE)

Signed

Date 27/07/82

Plaintiff

SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY  
LOWER TRENT DIVISION  
GREAT CENTRAL ROAD  
MANSFIELD  
NG18 2RJ

Plaintiff's  
Solicitor

J STEVENSON - SOLICITOR FOR THE PLAINTIFF WHO WILL  
ACCEPT SERVICE OF ALL PROCEEDINGS AT THE ADDRESS  
SHOWN ABOVE

Ref No.

Defendant

MR V SOUTHAM

109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG11 7EA

What the  
claim is for

CHARGES DUE AS BILLED

I apply for this action, if defended to be referred to arbitration  
(Mark box if appropriate)

The defendant is not a person under disability

### JURISDICTION (DEFENDANT OUT OF DISTRICT)

The facts relied upon as showing that the cause of action arose within the district are:

THE CHARGES ARE DUE AND ASSESSED IN BIRMINGHAM

J/E BY U.C.F.

14 DAYS

15.10.82

Amount claimed 148 50

Court fee 14 90

Solicitor's costs 15 00

TOTAL 178 40

Date of issue 29 JUL 82

Date of service

By posting on the

Officer

The summons in this case has not been served having been returned by the Post Office as "Gone away" or

Officer

Date

8

2

COUNTY COURT

MKG/JS  
Reid

JSH/KH

1st September 1982  
(dictated 25.8.82)

Mrs Goodall

Dear Sirs

Re: Southam and Reid

We thank you for your letters of the 28th of July and 10th of August 1982 and regret our delay in replying to you.

We wish to apologise for the unnecessary contact our Client has made with your Client.

We are arranging to see our Client again when Mrs Goodall returns from holiday in order to discuss the property and maintenance matters more realistically.

We confirm that we have received your Client's acknowledgment of service and are arranging for our Client to apply for directions for trial by special procedure.

We are also forwarding two opened letters which our Client has only just forwarded to us. Regrettably we note that one addressed to your Client is a County Court Default Summons in respect of water rates which has already expired. We accept that these steps will have to be taken into account when the property matters are finally resolved.

Yours faithfully

GREGSONS

Messrs Fraser Brown White & Pears  
Solicitors  
MDX 10,011

Particulars of Claim

Case No. 1982 1001 1

Plaintiff: Southam and Reid

Defendant: Mrs Goodall

Amount claimed: £1000.00

Date of service: 25.8.82

Disposing on the: 1st Sept 1982

Order: 1000.00

TOTAL: £1000.00

Date of issue: 25.8.82

JURISDICTION (OUT OF DISTRICT)

The facts relied upon as showing that the cause of action arose within the District are:

THE CHARGES ARE NOT ADMITTED BY DEFENDANT

The summons in this case has not yet been returned by the Post Office.

SEAL OF THE AUTHORITY

LOWER TIER DIVISION

GREAT CENTRAL ROAD

MANSTEAD

NR2 5RL

100 THE COURT

NR1 3EA

When the claim is for:

Damages

Specific performance

Injunction

Other

12.10.82

Which must be mentioned in any letter to the Court about this case.

SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY  
LOWER TRENT DIVISION  
GREAT CENTRAL ROAD  
MANSFIELD  
NG18 2RJ



MR V SOUTHAM

109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG11 7EA

Defendant

IT IS ADJUDGED that the Plaintiff do recover against the Defendan.

the sum of

148 58

for debt or damages

and

29 90

costs on summons

6 00

costs on entry of judgment

amounting together to the sum of

184 48

AND (the Defendant having paid the sum of

—

into Court or to the Plaintiff)

IT IS ORDERED that the Defendant do pay the sum of

184 48

to the Registrar of this Court

on the

29 OCT 82

Dated

15 OCT 82

METHOD OF PAYMENT

By calling at the Court Office Payment may be made in cash or by BANKER'S DRAFT, GIRO DRAFT or by CHEQUE SUPPORTED BY A CHEQUE CARD SUBJECT TO THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR ITS USE. Drafts and Cheques must be made payable to HM PAYMASTER GENERAL and crossed.

PAYMENT OTHERWISE THAN AT THE COURT OFFICE COUNTER DURING OFFICE OPENING HOURS IS AT THE PAYER'S OWN RISK. Remittances to the court by post must be by POSTAL ORDER, BANKER'S DRAFT or GIRO DRAFT only, made payable to HM PAYMASTER GENERAL and crossed. Cheques, giro cheques and stamps are not accepted. Payment cannot be received by bank or giro credit transfer.

This form should be enclosed and postage must be prepaid. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed to enable this form, with a receipt, to be returned to you.

THE COURT OFFICE AT:-

2 Newton Street  
Birmingham B4 7LU

is open from 10 a.m.  
till 4 p.m. on  
Mondays to  
Fridays only.

D. F. Burnie  
Registrar

FRASER, BROWN, WHITE & PEARS

SOLICITORS  
COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS  
R. SEELY WHITEY  
J. V. MOORE  
P. L. T. JACKS  
A. B. PALFREMAN, M.A. (CANTAB)  
D. I. HENSON, M.A. (CANTAB)  
J. S. HODGSON, M.A. (CANTAB)

OFFICE HOURS:  
9-1 & 2-5  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

84 FRIAR LANE,  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG1 6ED

TELEPHONE: 42541 (3 LINES)

OUR REF JSH/KS

YOUR REF MKG/JS/REID

19th November 1982

Dear Sirs,

Southam and Reid

We understand from our client that the older of the two children of the family still at home is now in full time employment. That being so, it is clearly appropriate that the question of maintenance be reviewed.

As you will no doubt recall our client has for approximately a year been paying maintenance on the basis of our proposals of the 13th of November last. We appreciate that you may have been reluctant to consider formal proposals when the question of sale of the matrimonial home was unresolved.

Nevertheless the net situation is that for the past twelve months your client has actually lost £60 each month because of the absence of a Court Order.

We would suggest that matters now be regularised and that there be a Court Order. Our client would submit to continuing to pay the mortgage, but not the rates and other outgoings in respect of the matrimonial home. He would also be prepared to continue to pay maintenance at the equivalent of the previously agreed rate after deducting a suitable amount for the child who is now no longer dependent. We would consider that that amount is £60, and so the Order should be in the sum of £80 per month for your client and £60 per month for the younger boy.

We do feel strongly that the matter should be resolved one way or another, and while our client is most reluctant to take unilateral action, he may find himself compelled to that course unless matters are resolved by agreement.

Yours faithfully,

Messrs. Gregsons,  
Solicitors,  
84 Derby Road,  
Nottingham.

2



//

Conspiracy.

Below is a notice of Application dated \*17th January\* 1983 to Birmingham County Court by Mr.K.W.Bridle of Severn Trent Water Authority for leave to amend the Summons and Writ of Judgement issued against V. Southam to his wives maiden name of Ms. L.M.B. REID, this amendment was granted by Birmingham County Court on the same day 25th January 1983 that Mrs Reid was waiting for her Decree Abselute at Nottingham County Court yet Mrs Reid knew nothing of this.

In the Birmingham County Courts letter to Mrs Reid dated the 13.2.84. they conveniently omitted the Notice of Application for the amendment of the summons dated the 17th January 1983 from their letter as dated. We now ask why this application for the summons of transfer is missing between the dates 15.10.82 and 25.1.83.

We must now ask, what Mrs. Reid can expect in compensation for the turmoil and mental conflict she and her family had to go through? we have estimated in the region of £20,000 but when the overall effect is taken into consideration only time will decide the real truth, we may well ask the question of how many more women have been put through this ordeal by Severn Trent Water Authority and County Courts in this so called fair and just democracy.

Ex.23.-Notice of Application BIRMINGHAM County Court  
BETWEEN STWA Lower Trent Division Plaintiff,  
AND Mrs V Southam Defendant

No. of  
Plaint W8214901605

TAKE NOTICE, that I intend to apply to the Judge (or Registrar) of this Court at THE COUNTY COURT, NEWTON STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

(1) State for (1) on the day of 19, at o'clock  
nature and grounds of Application. leave to amend the summons to  
Mrs L.M.B Reid Mrs Southam  
has reverted back to her maiden name  
she is responsible for the water  
charges. stated in the particulars  
of claim

AND TAKE NOTICE that if you do not attend at the time and place mentioned, such order as the Court thinks just will be made in your absence.

Dated this 17th day of January 1983.

To the Plaintiff  
Defendant

K.W. Bridle  
Plaintiff  
Defendant

**MATRIMONIAL  
CAUSES RULES**

In the **NOTTINGHAM** County Court.

Rule 67(2)

No. of matter **1982(D)1005**

BETWEEN LEXIE MARY BELL REID (formerly Southam) ..... *Petitioner*

AND VICTOR TIMOTHY SOUTHAM ..... *Respondent*

AND ..... *Respondent*



Referring to the decree made in this cause on the **9th**

day of **November** **19 82**, whereby it was decreed that the marriage

solemnised on the **14th** day of **July** **19 54**

at **The Parish Church in the Parish of S Anne Brondesbury in the County of Middlesex**

between ..... *the Petitioner*

**Lexie Mary Bell Reid  
(formerly Southam)**

and **Victor Timothy Southam** ..... *the Respondent*

be dissolved unless sufficient cause be shown to the Court within six weeks from

the making thereof why the said decree should not be made absolute, and no such cause

having been shown, it is hereby certified that the said decree was

on the **25<sup>th</sup>** day of **January**, **1983**, made final and absolute and that the

said marriage was thereby dissolved.

Dated **25<sup>th</sup> January 1983.**

**A.A. HIBBERT, G.A. HOTTER,  
C.E. LAVENDER,  
C. ENZER,  
Registrars.**

Address all communications for the Court to: **The Chief Clerk, County Court, St. Peter's Gate, NOTTINGHAM.**

The Court Office at St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham,  
is open from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays only.

13

13

BIRMINGHAM

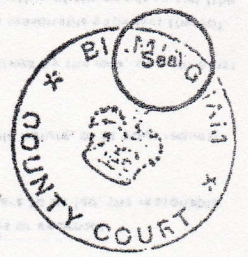
(1) BETWEEN SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY PLAINTIFF

AND MR. V Southam DEFENDANT

109, The Downs  
Willesdore  
Nottingham

NG11 7BN

CASE No. W82 149 016 05



(1) If in a matter, re-use heading

UPON THE ex-Parte application of the PLAINTIFF.

IT IS ORDERED that leave be given to amend the Summ  
to Mrs L.M.A. Reid.

DATED 25 JAN 1983

Address all communications to the Chief Clerk AND QUOTE THE ABOVE CASE NUMBER  
THE COURT OFFICE AT

is open from 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday

N.24 General form of judgment or order.  
Order 22 R.ile 1(1)

In the BIRMINGHAM County Court.

No. of Plaintiff W 82 142016 D5 No. of Exon. 1 s 904821

Sovereign Trent Water Authority (see below)

Plaintiff

(The name and address of the (Solicitor to the) Plaintiff is—

John Stevenson  
c/o Divisional Finance Officer  
Great Central Road  
Mansfield NG18 2RJ  
**AND Ms L M B Reid**  
109 The Downs  
Wilford, Nottingham

Defendant

Amount for which Judgment [or Order] was obtained ...	£	
Subsequent Costs ...	184	48
Paid (into Court) ...		
Remaining due ...	184	48
Fee for issuing this Warrant ...	25	00
Solicitor's costs of issue ...	1	00
Paid for Certificate of search in the Land Registry ...		
Total amount to be levied ...	210	48

Date received	Amount	Balliff's Initials	Paid into Court	Clerk's Initials
19	£		19	

159.—Warrant of Execution against Goods of Defendant. Order 25, Rule 14(1).

(1) If there are more Defendants than one, name those against whom the Judgment was obtained.

WHEREAS on the 15<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 1982

Plaintiff obtained a Judgment in this Court against the Defendant for the sum of £ 184-48 (or Dnbt)

and Costs; and it was ordered that the Defendant should pay the same (to the Registrar) within 14 days (~~as by instalments of £~~ for every calendar month)

AND WHEREAS default has been made in payment according to the said Judgment:

YOU ARE THEREFORE ordered forthwith to levy the amount due to the Plaintiff under the said Judgment together with the costs of this Warrant and the costs of executing the same, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the Defendant/s,

whosoever they may be found within the district of this Court (except the wearing apparel and bedding of him or his family to the value of one hundred pounds and the tools and implements of his trade, to the value of one hundred and fifty pounds), and also by seizing any money, bank notes, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bonds, specialties or securities for money belonging to the Defendant which may there be found, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy this execution, and to bring the proceeds of the levy into Court, and to make a return of what you have done under this Warrant immediately upon the execution thereof.

Dated

20 . . . . . 1983

To the Registrar and Bailiffs of the Court.

D.F. BURNIE, Registrar

Application was made to the Registrar for this Warrant at minutes past the hour of 10 in the forenoon of the day last above mentioned.

NOTICE.—The goods and chattels are not to be sold until after the end of five days next following the day on which they were seized, unless they are of a perishable nature, or at the request of the Defendant.

153.—Warrant with Execution or Order of Commitment to Registrar of Foreign Court. Order 25, Rule 9(1).

WHEREAS this Warrant has been issued out of this court.

AND WHEREAS the address at which the Warrant is to be executed is within the jurisdiction of the NOTTINGHAM County Court.

of which you are the Registrar.

YOU are therefore required to execute the said Warrant within the jurisdiction of the last-mentioned County Court.

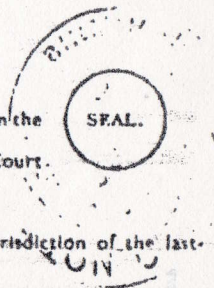
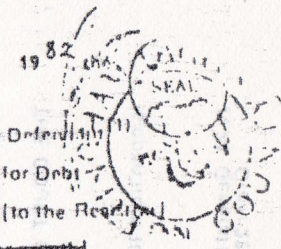
Dated

20 . . . . . 1983

To the Registrar of the last-mentioned County Court.

D.F. BURNIE, Registrar

*Date of seizure of goods 7 + date of 1982*



If you pay the amount to be levied, as stated on the other side, within half an hour of the entry of the Bailiff, you will incur no further fees or expenses where repairs are taken to remove goods to a place of deposit, the reasonable expenses incurred are payable and, in addition, where animals are to be fed, the reasonable expenses of feeding them.

If your goods are removed, the appraisement fee under-mentioned will be payable by you.

Your goods will not be sold until after the end of five days next following the day on which they were seized, unless they are of a perishable nature, or at your request.

If your goods are appraised and sold, the following fees are chargeable for the appraisement and sale, and no others—

For the appraisement 5p for every £1 on the value of the goods appraised.

For the sale, including advertisements, catalogues, sale and commission, and delivery of the goods, 15p in the pound on the amount realised by the sale, or such other sum as the registrar may consider to be justified in the circumstances.

For advertising, any sale by auction, pursuant to section 132 of the County Courts Act, 1959, in addition to the last-mentioned fee, the reasonable expenses thereof.

Where no sale takes place by reason of the execution being withdrawn, satisfied or stopped, there may be allowed 15p in the pound on the value of the goods seized (the value to be the appraised value where the goods have been appraised), or such other sum as the registrar may consider to be justified in the circumstances, and in addition, any reasonable expenses paid for advertising pursuant to section 132 of the County Courts Act, 1959.

If your goods are removed, the bailiff is required to give you a sufficient inventory of the goods so removed, and to give you notice of the time when and the place where such goods will be sold, at least twenty-four hours before the time fixed for the sale.

If your goods are sold, the bailiff is required to furnish you, on your request with a detailed account in writing of the sale, and of the application of the proceeds thereof.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE COURT OFFICE  
 BIRMINGHAM, 2 Newton Street, on Mondays to Fridays, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

THE NOTICE that all payments under the Warrant of Execution should be made and all notices or claims in respect of the execution of the goods taken in execution should be given or sent to THE REGISTRAR, 115A1  
 COUNTY COURT

PAGE 14

15

IN THE **NOTTINGHAM** COUNTY COURT

583956

W 82 149016 D5 | S 904821

BETWEEN Severn Trent Water Authority (see below)

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

1. By calling at the Court Office  
 Payment may be made in cash or by BANKER'S DRAFT, GIRO DRAFT or by CHEQUE SUPPORTED BY A CHEQUE CARD SUBJECT TO THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR ITS USE. Drafts and Cheques must be made payable to H.M. PAYMASTER GENERAL and crossed.

2. By Post  
 Remittances to the court by post must be by POSTAL ORDER, BANKER'S DRAFT or GIRO DRAFT only, made payable to H.M. PAYMASTER GENERAL and crossed. Cheques, giro cheques and stamps are not accepted. Payment cannot be received by bank or giro credit transfer.

This form should be enclosed and postage must be prepaid. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed to enable this form, with a receipt, to be returned to you.

County Office of Nottingham  
 Mansfield NG18 2RJ  
 AND Ms L M B Reid  
 109 The Downs  
 Wilford, Nottingham

*Settle by*  
*13/5/83*  
*B Wainwright*  
*Bell Potter Co Court.*



Notice to Defendant of Issue of Warrant

As you have made default in payment as ordered by the Court in the above action, the Plaintiff has issued a WARRANT OF EXECUTION for

£ 210.48 (which includes the issue fee).

If you send or bring this sum to the Court Office on or before

it will not be necessary for the bailiffs to call on you. If, however, the money is not paid by noon on that date, the warrant will be handed to the bailiffs with instructions to call upon you and to execute the warrant for the amount stated, together with such further costs as may become due.

Date 22 APR 1983

A.A. HIBBERT  
 G.A. HOTTER Registrar  
 C.ENZEP  
 J.G. COCHRANE

Address all communications for the Court to The Chief Clerk, The County Court.

The Court Office at St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham, is open from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays only

Copy of Bailiffs Warrant

Below is a copy of the Bailiffs warrant that was issued to the Bailiffs by the Registrars of Nottingham County Court which can only be described as unethical conduct for they knew as registrars, when a husband walks out on his wife and kids to go and live with another woman, he is still responsible for the maintenance of the family including the rates and debts until the divorce is absolute.

Mrs. Reid who having no recourse to the courts and relied on her Solicitor Mrs. Goodall of Gregsons was panic stricken when the Bailiffs arrived for she felt she had been let down by her Solicitors, when she knew that the Bailiffs would be back, she had her furniture removed and stored, even the beds with the result of herself and her children having to sleep on mattresses on the floor for 2 months or more, her goods and furniture then worth at least £5,000 today, are now in a sorry mess, the price of mental anguish and turmoil to her and her children can never be calculated, yet Mr. Bridle of Severn Trent in his letter to Mrs. Reid on the 26th August 1983 describes it as an occupational hazard, lightly forgetting that he signed the summons for the ammendment to Mrs. Reids name on the 17th January 1983 before the Decree Absolute on the 25th January 1983.

Again we quote the old caption which seems so apt and appropriate for this travesty of justice "They Were Bent But Not In Prayer" we now ask, why Mr. Bridle issued an overdue accounts statement dated the 16th May 1983 in Mrs Reids husbands name of V. Southam, without any records of the summons being changed by a Court of Law.

SEIZURE OF GOODS - FINAL NOTICE

COURT OFFICE: ST. PETER'S GATE, NOTTINGHAM

PLAINT NO.: 82-144016

WARRANT NO.: Fy 10636

*30/11/83* *1st* *Warrant* *Adv. 1* *LN 15 King*

I am holding a warrant issued in the above action for the sum of £ 210-48

Unless this amount is paid into the Court Office by *F. R. Whitby* your goods and possessions will be seized and sold by Public Auction on the instructions of the Registrar.

Enclose this notice with payment. Cheques will not be accepted.

*My* *ant* *shelton* *Baugh*  
Bailiff of the Nottingham County Court  
St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham  
ALL ENQUIRIES TO ABOVE

*Telephone 583 956 Ext 33/27*  
*Before 0930 hrs Mr. Martin* *Supervisor* *partic*

17

**SEVERN  
TRENT  
WATER  
AUTHORITY**

PROPERTY REF.	<b>5 19 21 0126 1090 1 8</b>	PLEASE QUOTE FOR ALL ENQUIRIES
ENQUIRIES TO	<b>LOWER TRENT DIVISION GREAT CENTRAL ROAD, MANSFIELD.NG18 2RJ TEL:MANSFIELD 643321</b>	
POSTAL PAYMENTS TO	<b>STVA, P.O. BOX 271, SHELDON, BIRMINGHAM B26 3YT</b>	

**MR V SOUTHAM  
109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM**

**10/0225**

**FIRST  
HALF YEAR**

**HOW TO PAY  
SEE OVER**

**NG11 7EA**

Please notify  
us if you  
change your  
address.

PROPERTY REFERENCE	OWNER REF	DATE	AMOUNT DUE
<b>5 19 21 0126 1090 1 8</b>		<b>16 05 83</b>	<b>£ 77.99</b>
<b>ADD : AMOUNT SUBJECT TO COURT ACTION</b>		<b>£210.48</b>	

Please tick  
if you  
are  
paying  
by  
cheque

**OVERDUE ACCOUNT**

Records show that at the above date the amount due was still outstanding. Please make payment within ten days.

If payment is received in full the Authority may take legal action for recovery and may disconnect your water supply.

If legal action is necessary legal costs will be incurred which will be added to the debt. If disconnection takes place the cost of reconnection will have to be paid before the water supply is restored.

IF PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE ABOVE DATE PLEASE DISREGARD THIS STATEMENT. At least four working days must be allowed for payments to reach the Authority when they are made through a bank or post office.



FIAT  
1983/84

**Bank Giro Credit**



158  
208

51921 0126109018

**4393163**

£ **77.99**

30-00-00

LLOYDS BANK

H.O. COLLECTION A.C. NO V7004393163  
SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY

**10/0225**

**MR V SOUTHAM  
109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM**

Total  
Cash  
Total  
Cheques

TOTAL £


**NG11 7EA**

OWNER REF

Please do not write or mark below this line

5192101261090182 V7004393163 000077992 74 X

18

This short letter below is a pathetic attempt by Nottingham County Court to allay suspicion by stating in their letter dated the 6th June 1983 in reply to Mrs Reids letter of the 27th May 1983, that all the records of the case were at Birmingham County Court, how could they explain that by issuing the Warrant on the 22nd April 1983 the registrars Hotter, Hibbert, Enzer and Mr. Cochrane, had knowingly perverted the course of justice as they were the same registrars who granted Mrs. Reid the Decree Absolute on the 25th January 1983, and they had all the records of the case, so they knew full well that the Warrant they issued covered a period of 2 years before the Decree Absolute. Yet this conduct was nothing strange for the same registrars had in the past aided and abetted Solicitors Paul Ealen and John Hodgson in containing the "Mason v Wolfe" case and keeping it out of court, we now ask, how many women are actually going through this ordeal right now with registrars in County Courts.

COUNTY COURT

Memorandum

Office St. Peter's Court, Nottingham  
 Telephone (0602) 583955 ext 32  
 From The Chief Clerk

To  
 Ms. L. Reid  
 109 THE BOWNS  
 Silverdale  
 Wilford  
 Nottingham

Your reference  
 Our reference  
 Date BLF/slw  
 6-6-83

Dear Ms. Reid,

RE: STWA - v - YOURSELF

(Birmingham) 82149016 local No. FC 10636

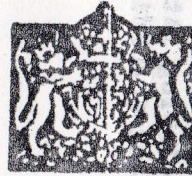
Further to your letter dated 27-5-83.  
 As all the records relating to the above numbered action are held at the Birmingham County Court a copy of your letter has been forwarded both to STWA and to the Birmingham County Court from where a reply should be forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,

J. Wainwright (Ms)  
 for Clerk/SLW



20 IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM



MRS V SOUTHAM  
109 THE DOWNS  
WILFORD

NOTTINGHAM NG11 7EA

SCHEDULE  
GENERAL RATE

No. 590

Made on the  
14TH DAY OF MARCH 1983

£
157.33
157.33
3.00
0.10
160.43

ARREARS OF FORMER RATE made on the

RATES DUE

THE UNDERMENTIONED COSTS HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN INCURRED.  
Rating Authority for obtaining this summons.  
Clerk to the Court

21 093 10900 90 TOTAL

IF THE AMOUNT OF THE ABOVE COSTS TOGETHER WITH THE RATES CLAIMED BE PAID  
RATING AUTHORITY AT THE CITY TREASURY, GUILDHALL, BURTON STREET, NOTT  
NG1 2DE BEFORE THE DAY ON WHICH THIS SUMMONS IS RETURNABLE. ALL FURTHER  
PROCEEDINGS WILL BE STOPPED.

Page 19

COMPLAINT has this day been made to me, the Clerk to the Justices by F. W. SHELDON  
Collector of general rate charges in the said City that you, being a person  
lawfully rated and assessed in respect of the (several) rate(s) set out in the schedule hereto  
have not paid the (several) sum(s) set out opposite to the rate(s) respectively in the  
said schedule (XXXXXX)

YOU ARE THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR ON  
FRIDAY THE 29TH DAY OF JULY 1983 AT THE HOUR OF TEN O'CLOCK

before the Magistrates' Court sitting at the Guildhall, Nottingham to show cause why  
you have not paid the said sum(s).

If you do not appear you will be proceeded against as if you had appeared and be dealt with according to law

DATED THE 13TH DAY OF JULY 1983

*[Signature]*

Clerk to the Justices for the City aforesaid.

R/AJM/JFW  
Mr Mann

*Schilder*

183

26 July 1983

Dear Madam

GENERAL RATE  
109 THE DOMES, SILVERDALE, WILFORD

I refer to your letter dated 25 July 1983 and subsequent discussion with my Deputy Revenue Principal yesterday and confirm that in the circumstances, I have arranged for the summons recently issued to be withdrawn and have amended my records accordingly.

I would also confirm that the record details were previously amended on the advice of your former husband who wrote to me earlier this year, a copy of the letter having been passed to you yesterday.

I am, therefore, enclosing herewith a revised account including rate rebate and look forward to receiving your remittance in settlement accordingly.

Yours faithfully



City Treasurer

Mrs L E 12  
109 The Domes  
Silverdale  
Wilford

CURRENT TOPICS

City of Nottingham  
City Treasury  
The Guildhall

Nottingham NG1. 2DE

TO BRUDENELL  
ORTON GOLDHAY  
PETERBOROUGH  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
7. 2. 85.

FS

F.A.O. MR. SHELDON

Dear Sir, 109 THE DOWNS, SILVERDALE WILFORD

I write to you on the advice of my lawyer,  
Mr. J Hodgson, of Fraser, Brown White and Pears.

I have received from the courts my divorce  
decrees absolute, but my wife still resides at 109,  
The Downs, Silverdale, Wilford Nottingham.

My lawyer has advised me that I am no  
longer responsible for the rates of the house, as my ex  
wife is now eligible to claim a rate rebate.

Would you therefore make the necessary  
alterations to your records when sending out this  
years rates please.

Yours sincerely

Southam

NECD Footnote:- At the time of writing the above letter to the  
City Treasury, Mr. Southam was living at 306 Wigman Road, Bil-  
borough, Nottingham. Tel. 0602-298940.

Please ask for Ms. Shirley Ann Grieveson.

## CURRENT TOPICS

### RATES JURISDICTION

By s. 16 of the General Rate Act 1967 it is the occupier of property who is liable to be assessed to rates in respect of the hereditament which he occupies. This very subject arose in *Verrall v Hackney London Borough Council* [1983] 1 All ER 277. The premises in question belonged to NFP Ltd and were used by members of the National Front for various recreational and organizational purposes. The defendant was a member of the National Front, an officer of the club and secretary to one of the companies. When the rates were not paid, Hackney Borough Council laid a complaint before a stipendiary magistrate for leave to issue a distress warrant against the defendant. The magistrate decided he could issue the warrant on the ground that the defendant had expressly or impliedly authorized the occupation of the premises by the National Front or had ratified it.

On the defendant appealing by way of case stated, the Borough Council argued that as he had not raised the defence of non-occupation by way of appeal to the Crown Court under s. 7(1)(a) of the General Rate Act 1967, it could not be raised by way of defence to proceedings for a distress warrant. The judge, following a line of recent authorities, agreed.

In the Court of Appeal, May LJ did not. The issue had been confused by three recent decisions at first instance (including *Newport Borough Council v Williams* [1982] RVR 169) which in May LJ's opinion had been wrongly decided. It was clear from *Camden Borough Council v Herwald* [1978] 2 All ER 880; [1978] 1 QB 626, a decision of the Court of Appeal, that on an application for a distress warrant to enforce payment of rates it is a defence for the defendant to show that he is not in occupation of the hereditament at all. Therefore, the stipendiary magistrate did have jurisdiction to investigate the question of occupation.

As to the facts of this present case the Court of Appeal considered that the National Front was and is an unincorporated association and could not be said to occupy anything. It therefore followed that the mere fact that a person is a 'member' of an unincorporated association is insufficient material on which to base a finding that that person is the occupier of the premises. In this case the whole building was rated as one indivisible hereditament, but it had been used for various different purposes for varying periods by different legal entities and persons. It would not seem possible that one member, albeit a very important member, of the National Front could be the occupier of the whole premises, it being a requirement that the actual occupation or possession must be exclusive for the purpose of the possession. Therefore the matter had to be sent back to the magistrate with a direction to dismiss the summons for the distress warrant.

The important question of whether, on an application for a distress warrant for non-payment of rates, it

was a good defence for the defendant to show that he was not in occupation of the hereditament has finally been decided by the Court of Appeal in the affirmative after a number of Divisional Court cases expressing a contrary view on this point. (See, *inter alia*, *North Cornwall District Council v Johnson* [1981] RVR 201; *Bird v Blakemore* [1982] RA 12 and *Newport BC v Williams* (above).)

Practitioners and magistrates' clerks will no doubt welcome this decision of the Court of Appeal which clarifies what previously was a rather nebulous area of the law.

### RATES OBLIGATION

One instance where the person liable for rates does not have to be in actual occupation of the premises was illustrated in *R v Harrow Justices ex parte London Borough of Harrow* (1983) *The Times*, February 6. The husband had left the matrimonial home in 1978, giving an undertaking not to return. He advised the gas and electricity boards and the landlord that he had left, although remaining sole tenant of the premises. He was maintaining his wife and children who remained in the home, the wife cohabiting with another man.

The justices decided that he was not liable to rates as he was not in beneficial occupation. Brown J, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, disagreed. Following *Cardiff Corporation v Robinson* [1957] 1 QB 39, after decree absolute when the husband has left the matrimonial home permanently and the marriage is finally dissolved, if the wife remains she is sole occupier. But while the marriage still subsists and the husband is under an obligation to support his wife and home he is still in occupation for rating purposes. The wife's cohabiting is irrelevant.

### THE ACE SPECIAL EDUCATION HANDBOOK

The 1981 Education Act came into force on 1 April 1983. The Advisory Centre for Education has published the *ACE Special Education Handbook*, a comprehensive guide to the new law for parents and everyone concerned with the education of children with special needs.

The *ACE Special Education Handbook*, written for ACE by Peter Newell, provides an authoritative commentary on the new legislation; the ideas contained in the Act; the formal processes of assessment; the making of 'Statements of Special Educational Needs'; the appeals procedure; reviews and reassessments.

The Act gives parents of children with special needs the right to a copy of all the advice, information and evidence upon which local education authorities will base decisions about special educational provision. ACE regards this as a major step towards opening up all school records. The handbook describes this and other parental rights and details the implications for education, social services and health authorities.

It costs £3 including postage and packing and is available only from ACE, 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB.

FRASER, BROWN, WHITE & PEARS

SOLICITORS  
COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS  
R. SEELY WHITBY  
J. V. MOORE  
P. L. T. JACKS  
A. S. PALFREMAN, M.A. (CANTAB)  
D. F. HENSON, M.A. (CANTAB)  
J. S. HODGSON, M.A. (CANTAB)

OFFICE HOURS:  
9-1 & 2-5  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

OUR REF. JSH/KS  
YOUR REF. JPG/MRS/Reid

84 FRIAR LANE,  
NOTTINGHAM

NG1 6ED  
TELEPHONE: 472541 (3 LINES)

MDX 10,011 NOTTINGHAM

31st August 1983

Dear Sirs,

Southam and Reid

We refer to your letter of the 24th of August. Our client understands from the Halifax Building Society that your client is still refusing to hand over the final instalment of forms to enable the release of the money from the Endowment Policy. As we have made clear on previous occasions this is proving a greater annoyance to our client the longer the matter remains unresolved.

The situation has now been further complicated by a letter from the Severn-Trent Water Authority who have apparently now checked their records relating to the disputed water rates account. They have now confirmed that the amount due does reflect a period of arrears dating back to August 1980. They are looking to our client for payment, and so far as we can see our client has no answer to their claim for any period up until the date of Decree Absolute.

However our client informs us that your client was provided with sufficient money to enable her to discharge these rates from the housekeeping money when the parties were living together and thereafter from the voluntary maintenance payments made. While our client will have to discharge the amount owing to the Water Board, he will be looking to your client to reimburse this sum since he takes the view that as between him and her, this account is her responsibility. As you know he was particularly annoyed by the publicity which this matter received in the local press as a result of what he considers to have been irresponsible and inaccurate information given by your client to the Reporter in question. We must stress that unless this matter is cleared up very very quickly our client will take the matter to court.

Yours faithfully,

Messrs. Gompertz and Company,  
Solicitors,  
1 Station Road,  
Hucknall,  
Nottingham.

M. Scanlan  
F. McAteer, M.A., LLB.  
S. McAndrew, LLB.

MEMBER OF  
**RUTLAND EXCHANGE**  
BOX 24

# Russells

Solicitors and Notaries

104 West George Street  
Glasgow  
G2 1PS  
Tel: 041 332 4176 - 7  
041 332 1695 - 6

Our Ref: FMA/1/83/2.

Your Ref:

Date: 29th December 1983.

Mrs. Lexi Reid,  
c/o 89 Barlandfauld Street,  
Kilsythe.

Dear Mrs. Reid,

English Divorce, Professional Negligence,  
and Ancillary Relief, Custody

We refer to your recent meeting with our Mr. McAteer in connection with the above matters which we discussed at length with you. On the basis of the correspondence which you exhibited to us and our further discussions relating to the correspondence, it appears to us as though your only remedy would be an action against the solicitors who acted on your behalf in the divorce action, namely Messrs. Gregsons. It seems to us as though your solicitors should have concluded for aliment, periodical allowance and a capital sum in the original divorce summons which we think in England comes under the generic term of Ancillary Relief. It further appears to us as though on the basis of what you told us, that your solicitors failed to act in accordance with your instructions in the action against you at the instance of the Severn-Trent Water Authority in respect of arrears of rent. As a result of this you appear to have suffered not only financial loss but also distress and inconvenience.

We are somewhat surprised as you claim, to hear of the difficulties you have encountered in relation to your complaint to the Law Society. We can only suggest that you write a formal letter of complaint to the secretary of the Professional Purposes Committee of the Law Society, Chancery Lane, London.

whereas/

Incorporating  
Gartshore Scott Sons & Co.  
H. J. McGoldrick & Co.

Branch Office  
265 Langlands Road  
Glasgow G51 3QB  
Tel: 041 445 3110

whereas we have a great deal of sympathy with the predicament you have found yourself in over the past year, we have no right of audience in the English Courts and can only hope that our advice to you will be met by a positive response from the Law Society.

Yours faithfully,

*H. Arncliffe*

# SPURNED WIFE GETS £1 A YEAR!

## EXCLUSIVE

By WENSLEY CLARKSON

**Y**OUNG mum Janet Ousey's maintenance payment, from her estranged hubby has been fixed at just £1 A YEAR.

The ruling by magistrates did add a further "bonus", though, for the upkeep of the couple's two-year-old son—a further £1 a year.

A shocked Janet said at her flat in Wimborne, Dorset, last week: "It's a farce."

"I do not know why they bothered. This award is the equivalent to less than two pence a week. That is not enough to buy our son a biscuit."

Janet and her driving instructor husband Simon, 30, parted ten months ago. His maintenance payments were originally set at £73 a week.

Magistrates at Poole slashed the figure when he pleaded he had debts totalling thousands of pounds and could not afford it.

Janet, who is jobless and living on social security payments of about £50 a week, did not object to Simon's application for a reduced award. But she said afterwards: "I had no idea it could be dropped to virtually nothing."

"I know I can appeal, but I'd probably end up getting 50p a year."

Simon who has recently set up home with a new



Simon—"surprised."



Janet—"I do not know why they bothered."

## Court slashes support order

girlfriend near Lewes, East Sussex, admitted: "I was surprised by the court's decision, and so was my solicitor."

"I suppose I could have managed to pay more than £2 a year. I was expecting to have to pay £20 or £30 a week—but who am I to argue."

The Clerk to Poole Justices Mr Brian Harris, QC said: "Courts are not allowed to order more

maintenance than the payer can afford."

"If an award would reduce his circumstances below the subsistence level then it is customary only to make a nominal order of £1 a year."

Simon, who admits that besides having a job he is "partly subsidised" by his new girlfriend said, that he still owes his wife £400 maintenance arrears on the previous order.

He said: "I fully intend to repay that and, who knows, one day I might be able to afford more weekly maintenance."

Frances Logan of the National Council for One Parent Families said of the new award to Janet: "It just doesn't seem fair."

Janet commented: "Christmas is just around the corner, but I may as well try to pretend it just doesn't exist."

29 26

Address all communications for the Court to "The Registrar, County Court, BIRMINGHAM"

In the

County Court

(1) if in a Matter, revise heading - see Form 1

(1)

BETWEEN SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY Plaintiff,

No. of Plaintiff W82/14901 DS

AND m/s LMB Reid Defendant.



(2) Recitals as necessary.

UPON the ex-parte application of the plaintiff;

IT IS ORDERED that the Judgment in this action and all subsequent proceedings be and the same are hereby set aside.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the action herein be withdrawn.

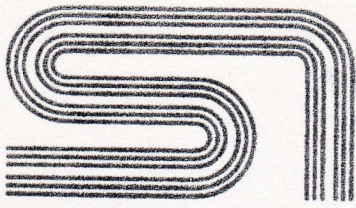


Dated 31/1/84

THE COURT OFFICE at 2, NEWTON STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B4 7LU, is open from 10 on Mondays to Fridays only.

D F. BURNIE Registrar.





SEVERN TRENT WATER

Severn-Trent Water Authority  
Lower Trent Division  
Great Central Road  
Mansfield  
NG18-2RJ

27

My Reference KWB/MG/233/01/MANS

Your Reference JPG/JU/REID

4 January 1984

Dear Sirs

PROPERTY REFERENCE 5 1921 0126 1090 18  
M/S L M B REID 109 THE DOWNS WILFORD NOTTINGHAM

I wish to refer to your letter dated 13 December 1983.

Application was made to Birmingham County Court to substitute your client's name for that of her former husband and by virtue of the order granted by the court the substitution took place.

Having studied the contents of your letter the Authority can see no reason to reconsider its decision with regard to your client's claim for compensation.

Yours faithfully

Assistant Divisional Manager (Services)

Gompertz & Company  
One Station Road  
Hucknall  
Nottingham  
NG15 7UD

When telephoning or calling please ask for  
Mr K W Bridle  
Mansfield 641641 Ext 25

28

From: MARTIN M. BRANDON BRAVO M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th January, 1984

J M D Hoyle Esq.,  
The Law Society,  
The Law Society's Hall,  
113 Chancery Lane,  
London WC2A 1PL.

Dear Mr Hoyle,

Mrs L Reid, 109 The Downs, Silverdale Estate

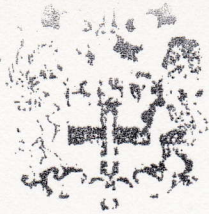
I thank you for your letter dated 30th December and I must express my disappointment at the response.

I too would not wish to comment on the allegations made by Mrs Reid in the publication 'Nottingham Behind Closed Doors' but since clearly there are allegations, and a number of the Nottingham Legal profession are involved, and the fact that Mrs Reid can obtain no satisfaction from this area, she has approached me seeking my help and I, in turn, am seeking the assistance of the Law Society. I am asking for your help in achieving some sort of enquiry into this matter.

Since none of the local Solicitors are taking action, it seems to me quite wrong that the Law Society will make no comment on the grounds that one of the Solicitors mentioned in the magazine might at some time in the future respond.

I feel I must press this matter for if there is no justice in Mrs Reid's allegations, then I want the matter made clear, and if there is substance in her allegations, the matter should be brought into the open and dealt with.

*Brandon*



The Law Society's Hall  
 113 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1PL  
 Telephone 01 242 1222  
 Telegrams Interpreter London Inter  
 Telex 26120: LAWSON G  
 LDE Box No. 56

29

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

# The Law Society

Martin M. Brandon Bravo Esq., M.P.  
 House of Commons  
 London SW1A 0AA

Our reference EU8240B (Please quote)  
 Your reference  
 Date 26th January, 1984

Mrs. L. Reid, 109 The Downs, Silverdale Estate, Nottingham

Thank you for your letter dated 11th January. I have carefully noted all that you say.

I naturally understand your approaching the Society after Mrs. Reid had sought your help about the difficulties she has experienced following the breakdown of her marriage. The Society always endeavours to assist when this is possible. However, as I mentioned in my letter of 30th December, the powers of the Society are somewhat limited. In this respect, I am enclosing a leaflet called "Dealing with complaints about solicitors" which sets out in paragraphs 7 - 11 what the Society can and cannot do.

What little I know of Mrs. Reid's case is derived from "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors". As I understand it, the allegation is one of conspiracy between all those concerned, including four County Court Registrars, to transfer the liability for certain rates from Mrs. Reid's former husband to Mrs. Reid herself. The liability for rates is, of course, a matter of law which can only be determined by a competent Court. The Law Society simply has no jurisdiction to conduct an enquiry into an allegation of this nature which is, if I may say so, very much at large and presented in what I regard as a far less than temperate fashion. It seems clear that the divorce proceedings have not been finalised and as I mentioned in my letter dated 30th December, the Society is unable to comment upon a matter which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court.

Not only are there proceedings between Mrs. Reid and her former husband but in the final paragraph of their letter dated 12th September, Messrs. Fraser, Brown, White and Pears refer to possible proceedings against the proprietors of "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors" and it is possible that proceedings may have been commenced by other persons referred to in the article in question.

/Cont .....

It is right to point out that any disciplinary action which the Society may take against a solicitor will not assist a dissatisfied client just as a fine or disqualification imposed upon a driver by a Magistrates' Court will not assist a third party who may have been injured in a road accident.

It would appear that the Lord Chancellor may already have some knowledge of "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors" and that being so, I would certainly encourage you to write to him, particularly as one of the complaints in the article in question relates to the alleged conduct of four County Court Registrars and this is, of course, a matter for his Department.

The Society's jurisdiction and its statutory powers are directed towards the investigation of complaints about solicitors' conduct and, ultimately, the maintenance of proper professional standards. I am unable to construe the unilateral and, in my view, far less than impartial presentation of the issues in "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors" as revealing complaints about the professional conduct of the various solicitors identified in that publication.

In the hope that it will help to clarify the issues, I will, however write to Messrs. Gompertz & Co. who are, I believe, Mrs. Reid's present solicitors. It would appear that they are acting in the best interests of their client and neither they, nor any other interested party has, so far, approached the Society to suggest there are issues of professional conduct requiring investigation. I am approaching them in view of your concern and propose to ask them if there is, in their judgment, any locus for the Society in what, like you, I regard as a disturbing situation. They may well require Mrs. Reid's permission to provide me with the comments I seek. Accordingly I enclose an additional copy of this letter for you to send to her. Would you also confirm that I may send to Messrs. Gompertz & Co. copies of your letters to the Society.

J.M.D. HOYLE  
Secretary  
Professional Purposes

## Inventor Les plans to sue lawyer 'union'

BUSINESSMAN Leslie Parsons decided yesterday to sue the Law Society over the case of a solicitor who overcharged him by £131,000.

Mr. Parsons took the decision after the society's own internal inquiry described the affair as "a disgrace to the Law Society."

Mr. Parsons was

charged £100,000 by solicitor Glanville Davies, who helped him win a court action over an onion-peeling machine he had invented.

When Mr. Parsons complained to the Law Society about the bill they told him there was nothing further to investigate.

Later Mr. Davies, from Llanelli, South Wales, was struck off after Mr. Parsons went to the High Court. The bill was also cut from £100,000 to £57,000.

The Law Society has now apologised to Mr. Parsons, who lives in Carmarthen, West Wales.

FRASER, BROWN, WHITE & PEARS

84 FRIAR LANE,  
NOTTINGHAM

SOLICITORS  
COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS  
R. SEELY WHITBY  
J. V. MOORE  
P. L. T. JACKS  
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D. I. HENSON, M.A. (CANTAB)  
J. S. HODGSON, M.A. (CANTAB)

OFFICE HOURS:  
9-1 & 2-5  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY

NG1 6ED  
TELEPHONE: 472541 (3 LINES)  
MDX 10,011 NOTTINGHAM

OUR REF JSH/KS  
YOUR REF JPG/JU/Reid

31st January 1984

Dear Sirs,

Reid and Southam

We acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 13th and 23rd of January. So far as the proceedings by the Severn-Trent Water Authority are concerned, we first became aware that proceedings had been issued in the Birmingham County Court by the Water Authority against our client in September 1982. It was not until that time that your client saw fit to forward any of the documentation relating thereto. We wrote to the Water Authority pointing out that our client did not and had not at any material time lived in the property. Ostensibly the Summons was for water rates for the then current period "together with arrears if any". There was no breakdown. We pointed out that your client had been resident in the property throughout. We pointed out that the postal service on our client had been ineffective and also that it was our view that he was not liable and that proceedings should properly have been commenced against your client.

The first and indeed only response was a letter dated the 10th of January 1983 informing us that the Authority had decided that they would transfer the action and the Summons would be reserved against your client. That decision was entirely the Authority's, and we cannot comment as to the reasons which motivated them in taking this course of action.

We would of course point out that your client is a co-owner, was in rateable occupation, and was therefore a perfectly proper Defendant. The only relevance of the Routhan case is as to whether our client, although not in actual occupation was to be defined as in rateable occupation.

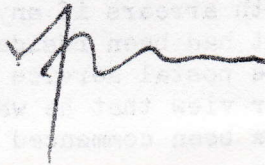
We take the view that it is entirely for the Water Authority to decide who they are going to proceed against, and the division of liability as between husband and wife is not a matter for the Water Authority. In the event as you know the amount due was re-calculated and our client has in fact settled it.

We would very firmly take the view that your client is entirely the author of her own misfortune in that:-

Cont/..

1. When the proceedings were first commenced she did not see fit to notify our client of them.
2. When her name was substituted as Defendant she did not take any proper steps in the matter.
3. Instead of taking proper steps she caused a highly tendentious and sensational article to appear in a local newspaper which would, had our client been a man of means, almost certainly have resulted in defamation proceedings.

Yours faithfully,



Messrs. Gompertz & Company,  
Solicitors,  
1 Station Road,  
Hucknall,  
Nottingham,  
NG15 7UD.

**NOTTINGHAM**

**Evening Post, Tuesday, April 10, 1966**

**THE MORE I saw and heard, the harder I found it to believe. The incredible was followed by the impossible.**

No, it wasn't a horror movie. It was a damning investigation of the Law Society in "World in Action" (ITV, 8.30).

The three cases outlined in the programme left no doubt in my mind — and I suspect most lay viewers felt the same — that the time has come for some drastic curbing of the Society's role in the investigation of complaints against solicitors.

The first example, that of former Crufts champion breeder Peggy Wood, 67,

was probably the most scandalous.

On the advice of her solicitor, Mrs Sylvia Hubbard, she obtained loans totalling more than £10,000 from finance companies including one called Mobile Homes.

Her only security was her cottage home and the land around it, for which she was awaiting planning permission. She had no income.

It was not too long before Mobile Homes started pressing for the money and took her to court.

Nor was it too long,

before it was revealed that the company was registered at Mrs Hubbard's office and that one of the directors and the company secretary was none other than Mrs Hubbard's husband.

Then Miss Wood discovered Mrs Hubbard was no longer acting for her. Mobile Homes was a client of lesser standing.

But when Miss Wood complained to the Law Society, it did not recognise that she had any grounds for complaint.

Law Society spokesman Christopher Hewetson couldn't explain away the

anomalies of that case or of the two others cited.

Nor could he explain why a recommendation by a Royal Commission SEVEN years ago, that details of negligence panels established by the Society should be included in a basic pamphlet sent to complainants, had still not been acted upon.

Thousands of solicitors as well as members of the public are concerned about the Law Society.

And after last night's programme they could be forgiven for considering it little more than a pin-striped protection racket for the legal establishment.

**TONY DONNELLY**

109 The Downs  
Silverdale  
Wilford  
Nottingham

31

Court Administrator  
Birmingham County Court  
2 Newton Street  
Birmingham B4 7LU

31.I.84

- a...Pliant. No. W82/I490I6/D5 (I98I/82/83) Severn Trent Water Authority.
  - b...Defendant:- Victor Timothy Southam, IO9 The Downs Silverdale Wilford Notts
  - c...Pliant No.W82/I490/D5 (as from 3/I/84) Severn Trent Water Authority.
  - d..."Defendant":- m/s LMB Reid, as from 25th.Jan.I983., date of Decree Absolute
- in  
"NOTTINGHAM" County Court.
- =====

Sir,

On the 7th. January 1984, I received a communication from Birmingham County Court dated 3rd. January 1984.

It was with extreme interest I absorbed the information enclosed within this communication, as it brought back memories of another "Silent Court" which took place in Birmingham under My name, and without My knowledge. I refer here, to the 25th January 1983, the date on which my "Decree Absolute" went through NOTTINGHAM County Court, and on which BIRMINGHAM County Court (Under the Authorisation of J.Norton,Registrar,Birmingham County Court) transferred my now - as of that date - EX husband's Severn Trent Water Authority debt ILLEGALLY and Corruptly into MY name.

I wrote then - as I do now - requesting an explanation as to how a court can transfer a debt which was not Legally mine, into My name, through a "court" which was 'called', 'sat', "Found Judgement Against Me" without any prior notification what-so-ever addressed to me. This act in itself being ILLEGAL. This ILLEGAL ACT then being furthered by the ILLEGAL PRACTICE of transferring someone elses debt into my name. However, no Satisfactory explanation was ever forthcoming.

Since your communication dated 3rd Jan. 1984, I now find myself in the same position of having to "request" an explanation as to how Birmingham County Court can - AGAIN - Hold Court 'Setting Aside' a Judgement which should never have been made against me in the first place, without any prior Knowledge or Notification on My part.

I await - with Great Expectations - your Full and EXplanatory reply.

Your faithfully,  
*L. Reid*  
L. Reid.

COPIES SENT...

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT  
MIDLAND & OXFORD CIRCUIT

32

COURTS ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
2 NEWTON STREET  
BIRMINGHAM  
B4 7LU



021-233 1234 extn. 232

Your reference

Our reference 56

Date 13 February 1984

From The Courts Administrator  
Birmingham Group of Courts

Ms L Reid  
109 The Downs  
Silverdale  
Wilford  
Nottingham

Dear Ms Reid

W82 149016 D5 STWA -v- Southam

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 1984.

The progress of this summons through the court is as follows:-

- 29.7.82 - Default summons issued by STWA against Mr Southam of 109 The Downs, Wilford, Nottingham, for £178.48 in respect of water charges for the period 1.4.82-30.9.82.
- 15.10.82 - Judgment entered in default for £184.48 to be paid within 14 days.
- 17-1-83 MISSING
- 25.1.83 - Ex-parte application made by STWA for leave to amend the summons to Ms L M B Reid on the grounds that you were responsible for the water charges in the original particulars of the claim.

This application is made under Order 5 Rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981. The STWA would have served a notice of this application on you at your address. This was referred to in a letter from the court dated 6.6.83 in reply to your letter of 27.5.83. The application was granted as you did not make an application for discharge of the variation within 14 days.

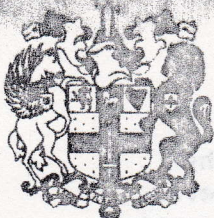
- 20-3-83 MISSING
- 3.1.84 - Ex-parte application made by STWA for judgment to be set aside and the action withdrawn as you were no longer considered to be responsible for the debt. This application was made as the debt was paid in full by Mr Southam. WHY?

All proceedings on this case have been made within the County Court Act and Rules. If a person subject to litigation does not take an active part in the proceedings e.g. by not appearing at hearings, the court will make orders and give judgment in default.

Yours sincerely

Cyril Green





33

The Law Society's Hall  
113 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1PL  
Telephone 01-242 1222  
Telegrams Interpret London Telex  
Telex 261203 LAWSOC G  
LDE Box No. 56

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

# The Law Society

Mrs. L.M.B. Reid  
109 The Downs  
Silverdale  
Wilford  
Nottingham

Our reference EU8240B (please quote)  
Your reference  
Date 14th May, 1984

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter dated 2nd April together with its enclosures which I did not receive until 30th April. Indeed, I see that the envelope is postmarked 26th April.

As Mr. Hoyle has already explained to your Member of Parliament, Mr. Martin M. Brandon Bravo, the powers of the Law Society are somewhat limited and in this respect I would particularly refer to his letter dated 26th January a copy of which has, I understand, been sent to you by Mr. Brandon Bravo. I would, if I may, suggest that you have another look at that letter as it is essential to draw a distinction between the merits of your divorce case which can only be dealt with and finally determined by a competent Court and the professional conduct of your solicitors which is a matter for the Law Society.

I have considered your letter very carefully and must immediately say that I have the greatest sympathy for the circumstances in which you now find yourself as it seems clear from your letter that your marriage has, to say the least, been very unhappy for you. Indeed, you yourself refer to it as a traumatic experience of having to spend a great deal of your life tied to a violent marriage partner. However, the purpose of your writing to the Law Society is to complain about the conduct of your solicitors and it is, of course, only upon this aspect of the matter that I am able to comment.

You say that your solicitors colluded with your former husband's solicitors and the Courts in an attempt to make you penniless and homeless in a foreign land, by way of punishment for their disapproval of your voluntary work in campaigning for women's rights. However, if I may respectfully say so, it would seem to me that your letter dated 2nd April is a part of that campaign. I should make it absolutely clear that it is no part of my function to express any views about that campaign but I would like to say that I most certainly do not hold it against you or think any less of you because you take an active part in campaigning for women's rights. I mention it simply because I find it extremely difficult to pinpoint any issue of professional conduct which requires investigation by the Law Society. You refer to a conspiracy between Mr. Hodgson, Ms. Gregson-Murray, The Severn Trent Water Authority and the Courts but if you think about it, I am sure that you will realise that this is not a matter which can be investigated by the Law Society. The Society could, of course, investigate the conduct of a solicitor if he had been convicted by a criminal Court but that is, of course, entirely different from the situation with which we are now faced.

/Cont .....

It is quite true that the common law of this country is based upon the decisions of the Courts in cases going back over the centuries. However, by far the largest part of the laws by which we are all governed is created by Parliament. Lawyers are very often criticised by individuals or pressure groups who think that many of our laws are bad but it is essential to realise that lawyers do not make the law; they simply attempt to administer the law within its framework. Let us consider your own case. You clearly feel that the law is unfair to women and that more should be done to help divorced wives who may have sacrificed a great deal to run the home and bring up the children of the marriage. With great respect, I think that it is wrong to blame solicitors and barristers and the Courts. As I have said, they only administer the law and if you or any of the groups with which you are associated feel that the law needs to be changed, the person to lobby is your Member of Parliament. I do not know to what extent you have done so although he is, of course, aware of the background to your own particular case.

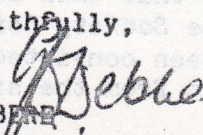
About six or seven lines from the foot of the second page of your letter, you state that your solicitors have been negligent in the way in which they have conducted your case. However, I should explain that this is a matter with which the Society has no power to deal as only a competent Court can adjudicate upon a claim for negligence and award damages. In this respect, I should add that the Society has no power to order a solicitor to pay compensation or damages either to his own client or to a third party.

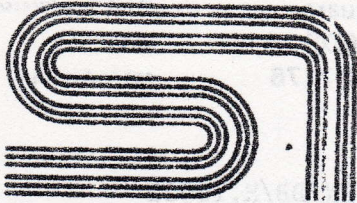
The practice of the Society when it receives a complaint which requires investigation is to send to the solicitor complained of a copy of the complainant's letter. It is therefore essential that such a letter should be clear and concise so that the solicitor concerned can easily determine the precise nature of the complaint made against him. On occasions three or four copy letters may be enclosed but we simply cannot deal with complaints on the basis of 50 or 60 pages of evidence so that the solicitor complained of is expected to sit down for two or three hours and work out for himself the basis of the allegations against him. I mention this specifically so that if, at the appropriate time, you wish to pursue the matter you will be able to write a fairly short and concise letter stating the exact nature of your complaint.

As you know, I had hoped that I would hear from your new solicitors after they had obtained your file and had an opportunity of considering the matter and I would, if I may, suggest that you might consult your new solicitor who will, I am sure, be able to advise you upon your allegation of unbecoming conduct on the part of your former solicitors. Indeed, he may be able to write to the Society on your behalf at the appropriate time or at least help you by drafting a letter for you to write.

I naturally regret that I am of the opinion that the Society is unable to assist you at this stage and would only add that if you are dissatisfied with the way in which the Law Society has dealt with your complaint, you may write to the Lay Observer, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W.C.2. You should do so within three months of the date of this letter. The Lay Observer is a person appointed for this purpose by the Lord Chancellor. However, you should understand that his function does not include enquiry into the merits of your original complaint except insofar as it is necessary for him to do so in order to assess the Law Society's treatment of it. The Lay Observer may, after considering your complaint, make recommendations to the Law Society which will, of course, be given careful consideration.

Yours faithfully,

  
G. D. DEBERE  
Assistant Secretary  
Professional Purposes



SEVERN TRENT WATER

35

Severn-Trent Water Authority  
Lower Trent Division  
Great Central Road  
Mansfield  
NG18 2RJ

Telephone Nottingham 608161

Date:

DISCONNECTION OF WATER SUPPLY

NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR CUSTOMERS WHOSE WATER SUPPLY IS TO BE  
DISCONNECTED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF CHARGES

The Water Industry operates a Code of practice for domestic customers and you are urged to read carefully the attached leaflet and contact the Authority without delay if you feel the contents apply to you.

SEVERN  
TRENT  
WATER  
AUTHORITY

PROPERTY REF: 51921 0126 1090 18	PLEASE QUOTE FOR ENQUIRIES
V/C ENQUIRIES: →	GT. CENTRAL ROAD, MANSFIELD
	TEL. NOTTM 608161

H M/S L. M. B REID  
109 THE DOWNS,  
WILFORD  
NOTTINGHAM NG11 7EA

OCCUPIER AND SUPPLY ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE	
--	--

PROPERTY REFERENCE	OWNER REF.	DATE	ARREARS
51921 0126 1090 18		31.1.85	£ 214.49

**DISCONNECTION OF WATER SUPPLY**

Our records show that despite previous requests for payment, settlement of your account had still not been made at the above date.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOUR WATER SUPPLY WILL BE DISCONNECTED ON OR AFTER:

18 FEB 1985

If the arrears are not paid IMMEDIATELY and disconnection takes place, the amount outstanding together with the disconnection/reconnection fee will have to be paid before the water supply is restored.

Payment must be made in person or by first class post to the above divisional office address. Please produce/enclose this notice with your remittance.

DISCONNECTION/ RECONNECTION FEE
£ 19.00

Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths

Anthony C. Casson, LL.B

36  
**Casson & Co.**

Bexley Chambers  
1 Bexley Square  
Salford M3 6DB  
Tel: 061-834 7176

All communications  
must be addressed  
to the firm  
not individuals

This matter is being dealt with by

Mr. Nelson

Our ref: SN/DB/R.10922

Your ref:

1st February 1985

Miss L. Reid,  
109, The Downs,  
Silverdale,  
Nottingham.

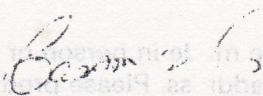
re

Dear Miss Reid,

We write to advise you the up-to-date situation herein.

1. We first wrote to the DHHS back on the 21st September 1984 informing them that you were entitled to state benefits which would include a payment in respect of mortgage interest. No reply was received to that letter. A further letter has been sent which to-date has produced no reply. It is obviously essential that your entitlement to state benefits be assessed as quickly as possible so as to prevent the mortgagees from entering into possession.
2. I have been in touch with Rotheras the solicitors for the Halifax Building Society and advised them of the difficulties which you are encountering with the DHHS. They are taking their clients instructions and we are hopeful that they will defer from instituting any proceedings which in any event would take some three to four months to reach fruition.
3. The writer has written to the Chief Constable of Nottingham referring to the conversations we have had with Inspector Thompson in respect of Severn Trent Water Authority problem. We will keep you advised.
4. We have requested the Law Society to issue an amendment to your existing Legal Aid certificate so as to pursue variation of maintenance proceedings against your former husband, on the basis that there has been a change in circumstances by virtue of an increase in the cost of living. We are not hopeful that such application will be granted, we feel that it is too short a time for there to have been a "material" change in circumstances. We will however keep you advised.
5. We confirm that your application for legal aid has been submitted in respect of your proposed claim for negligence against the Severn Trent Water Authority and again we will keep you advised.
6. We have not yet submitted your application for legal aid in respect of your proposed claim against Gregsons, because we have had to write to them to ask for approval of our Bill of Costs before same is lodged at Court. Once our bill is lodged at Court and the file of papers is returned to us we will be in a position to apply for legal aid, limited to Counsels opinion only we anticipate, and thereafter pursue the matter if legal aid is granted.

Yours truly,

  
CASSON & CO.

FRIDAY 15TH FEB 1985

Once again I am being 'pulled' into court by Mr Sheldon.  
The last summons to U.T. Seetham which Mr Sheldon switched  
into my name, was taken out of my hands at City Treasury  
Guildhall Burton Street - a ripped up I was told to "forget it -  
it's not even in your name!"  
IN THE CITY OF NOTTINGHAM



70 LEATH MOUNTAINS  
OF THE DOWNS  
ILFORD

NOTTINGHAM NG11 7TA

LAINT has this day been made to me, the undersigned Justice of the Peace by W. SHELDON  
Director of general rate charges in the said City that you, being a person  
rated and assessed in respect of the (several) rate(s) set out in the schedule hereto  
but not paid the (several) sum(s) set out opposite to the rate(s) respectively in the  
schedule (or any part thereof) X X

ARE THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR ON  
FRIDAY THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1985 AT THE HOUR OF TEN O'CLOCK  
at the Magistrates' Court sitting at the Guildhall, Nottingham to show cause why  
you have not paid the said sum(s).  
If you do not appear you will be proceeded against as if you had appeared and be dealt with according to law.

DATED THE 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 1985

*H. J. Arnold*



Justice of the Peace for the City first above mentioned.

SCHEDULE GENERAL RATE		No. 5997
Made on the	2ND DAY OF APRIL	1984
		£ 0.00
ARREARS OF FORMER RATE made on the	14TH DAY OF MARCH	1983
		43.64
RATES DUE		43.64
THE UNDERMENTIONED COSTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INCURRED		
Rating Authority for obtaining this summons.		3.00
Clerk to the Court		0.10
21 005 10900 20	TOTAL	46.74

PAGE 3/4

IF THE AMOUNT OF THE ABOVE COSTS, TOGETHER WITH THE RATES CLAIMED BE PAID TO RATING AUTHORITY AT THE CITY TREASURY, GUILDHALL, BURTON STREET, NOTTINGHAM NG1 2DE BEFORE THE DAY ON WHICH THIS SUMMONS IS RETURNABLE ALL FURTHER PROCEEDINGS WILL BE STOPPED

# Justice for Women

\*ATTORNEY GENERAL CLOSES INVESTIGATION AND THERE IS NO CHARGES AGAINST NBCD\*

# NOTTINGHAM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

*Armstrong Spungin & Scott*

SOLICITORS & Commissioners For Oaths

M. F. SPUNGIN, O.B.E., M.A., B.LITT.

M. L. SCOTT

10a King's Walk  
Parliament Street  
Nottingham NG1 2AG  
Telephones: 0602 - 475359  
& 413553

MFS/BEF/10662.

16th March 1984.

Dear Mr. Boyd,

I have today had a telephone call from Inspector Pickard who informs me that he has now received instructions from the Attorney General's Office that no further action is to be taken against you in respect of "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors".

It is odd that you mentioned this to me this week, but apparently the information has only just come through, you can, therefore, cease to have any anxieties with regard to that matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J.J. Boyd,  
38, Percival Road,  
Sherwood,  
Nottingham.



The  
Law  
Society

No. 10 (East Midland) Legal Aid Area



"Law Society"

**The sharks on land are  
more fearful than those at sea.**

**SPECIAL INVESTIGATION**

For your copy of "Nottingham Behind Closed Doors":-  
Contact:- "Justice for Women"  
c/o 32a Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.  
(Postal Address only) Enclosing 75p donation,  
P & Postage.

Legal Aid Office  
5 Friar Lane  
Nottingham  
NG1 6BW  
MDX 10035 NOTTINGHAM

Telephone (0602) 412424

Mr. Addison

please ask for

WHY IS LEXIE REID IN COURT ?

WHO IS THE LAW PROTECTING TODAY ?

Lexie Reid was married to Victor Southam. The decree absolute for their divorce has now come through.

Lexie, as a single woman is now entitled to Supplementary Benefit and payment of her rates - rates payments should be paid direct from Treasury to Council, the claimant does not receive the money.

On the strength of a letter from Victor Southam, the rate debts that he incurred as her husband were transferred into the name of Mrs V Southam

THIS IS AN ILLEGAL ACT

Lexie Reid received a summons to appear in court for non-payment of a £40 rates bill.

- Before the decree was made absolute Victor Southam was liable for rates payments
- After the decree absolute Lexie's rates should be paid automatically by the Treasury.

WHY IS LEXIE IN COURT ?

THESE ARE NOT HER DEBTS.

Lexie has been fighting for her rights and the rights of other women who have had the law used against them.

It's time to expose the corruption and criminal acts of husbands, lawyers, and judges, who choose to ignore the pain and injustice suffered by women under a system run by men for men.

LEXIE NEEDS SUPPORT

PUBLICISE HER STRUGGLE

obey these solicitors

John Hodgson (for V. Southam) TEL: 472541

Susan Gregson-Murray (for Lexie) 411999

John Nelson (for Lexie)

and The City Treasury

418871

The Guildhall

476345

and your local  
councillors