

September 18, 2012

Chris Day
The Press Complaints Commission
Halton House
20/23 Holborn
London
EC1N 2JD

By Post & Fax: 020 7831 0025

Ref: 123977

Dear Mr Day,

Thank you for your letter of September 13 regarding the complaint from Russ Graham about our article published on September 9. Mr Graham is complaining about the image that was published on Live magazine's website within Mail Online. To understand what has happened it would be helpful to look at the image that was created for publication in the magazine on pages 20-23. The image was created to illustrate an article by the writer James Delingpole which considered whether people may be falling sick because they live near wind farms. The original, untouched, image showed a wind turbine in Bedfordshire that is sited a few hundred yards from some houses. To create a more dramatic illustration for the article the magazine's Art Desk added a more moody sky and a sort of wave graph that was intended to evoke some scientific imagery. The version that appeared in the printed magazine did not alter the position of the wind turbine and only one turbine was shown.

When the article was posted on the website, the sub editor used the altered image which included the 'extra' wind turbine which, as Mr Graham points out, was a mirror image of the first. That second turbine did not appear in the magazine because that part of the image was covered by a text box containing the first column of the article.

The key point to consider here is whether any reader of the article would have been misled by anything. There is no suggestion anywhere that the stormy clouds could have been created by the wind turbine nor would anyone have been led to believe that the wave pattern on the image was actually visible in the sky. Regarding the second turbine that appeared in the online version of the image this also does not seem to have been seriously misleading. There was no claim, for instance, that having two turbines within a few hundred yards of those houses might have had a greater effect

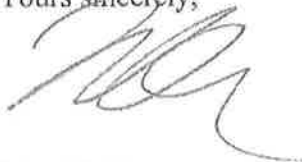
than one. Nor was the image of the second turbine placed any closer to the houses than the one that is genuinely present in that field. Anyone, like Mr Graham, with any knowledge of turbines would understand that this was not a completely genuine image, since as he says, it is an impossibility for the second turbine to be pointing in that direction.

In view of the above we deny there has been any significant misleading material published. Nonetheless we have removed that image from our website. If it will resolve the complaint we would be willing to insert a paragraph as a footnote to the online article stating as follows:

An earlier version of this article showed an image of some countryside in Bedfordshire that appeared to show two wind turbines close to some houses. In fact, this picture was an artist's production image for an illustration in the magazine and should not have been published. There is only one turbine in that position.

Please confirm that the above will be acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wellington', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Wellington
Managing Editor

Email: john.wellington@mailonsunday.co.uk