



(Founded 1889)

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THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN

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24th November 2021

Dear News Editor,

Jason Farrell's report on Child Grooming gangs in Hull; incorrectly featuring footage repeatedly of Hull Fair; that has nothing to do with the report nor its contents

I have just watched (at 21.40 approx.) and have been alerted to earlier broadcasts on Sky News by colleagues, of Jason Farrell's report on Child Grooming gangs in Hull.

Disturbingly, beyond, the already disturbing (but straightforward) contents of Jason Farrell's report on Child Grooming, the package

- started with extensive slowed-down footage of the recent Hull Fair
- and returned to further extended footage showed down of Hull Fair,
- with both vocal narrative and subtitles, related to child grooming.

The remaining package footage consisted of relevant footage of locations related to the subject of Child grooming and re-creations of experiences related to it.

The inclusion of the fairground at all, but in fact easily recognisable as this year's Hull Fair, that took place for 10 days in October, was gratuitous and completely irrelevant.

Not only that, but, especially as the package does not contain any other 'lifestyle footage' of Hull (*for instance a shopping street or other everyday scenes of Hull*); inevitably, especially with the overlaid vocal narrative and subtitles; **it gave the impression to any viewer, that the fair was inextricably involved with the story and that the fair, in this case Hull Fair which only visits the city for 10 days, is responsible for propagating the child grooming.**

It would be an easy conclusion to draw further, by viewers, that the fair and its operators, Showmen and Showwomen from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, are involved with and / or responsible for and / or acquiescing in, facilitating child grooming to take place.

I am at a loss to understand why you chose to include this footage of the fair at two key points (*in fact at all*) in the package,

- as it does not appear in the online versions of the package and
- was not broadcast in the middle-of-the-day broadcasts of the package,
- **but was broadcast with the Fair scenes included earlier and again tonight.**

Nor has the Fair got absolutely anything to do with the issues related to the story, except that you implicate it, by exclusive exposure in the footage; as against any other lifestyle-footage from Hull.

Is it that the fair is seen to be an easy consequence / repercussion-free target to boost the ratings of your issue-heavy piece?

We demand that you:

- 1. take out all reference visually or otherwise of any Fairground scenes, especially Hull Fair, from the package in any future broadcasts immediately;**
- 2. Make an On-Air explanation that the Fair and The Showmen's Guild and its associates, along with Hull Council, who co-manage the Fair are in no way connected with the story that Jason Farrell's report deals with and**
- 3. make**
 - a. both an on air apology for your gratuitous and unnecessary inclusion of such footage (which, we contend, is libellous by implication) and**
 - b. such an apology in writing to us at The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, on behalf of the community of 25,000 law-abiding Showmen and Showwomen, as family-people across the country; who are incorrectly implicated in the wrong-doing described in your story, by association; the result of which has the effect of making the public and society in general incorrectly shun both them and their family businesses, upon which their economic survival depends.**

Yours sincerely.

Philip Paris,

Philip Paris,
President, The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.