

# Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

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## Former RAF Dean secures libel win against Associated Newspapers

Professor Joel Hayward, the former Dean of RAF College Cranwell and a prominent and respected academic in the fields of international politics and modern conflict, has secured substantial damages, an apology and costs from Associated Newspapers in respect of false allegations made against him in articles published in the Mail on Sunday and Daily Mail and on the MailOnline website in August 2011.

Associated Newspapers apologised for publishing untrue allegations to the effect that the beliefs of Professor Hayward, who is a Muslim, had prevented him from fulfilling his duty of impartiality and fairness as a teacher in the RAF and had caused him to show undue favouritism to Muslim students and to spend too much time on Islamic activities as opposed to his professional and academic obligations. The apology was published in the Mail on Sunday on 13 October 2013, and on MailOnline, where it remains accessible, on 13 October 2013.

This settlement follows the publication of an apology by the Daily Star last year concerning similar false allegations it had made about Professor Hayward.

Speaking today, Professor Hayward said:

*"It was completely devastating for me to read the false allegations that were published by Associated Newspapers and by the Daily Star, and to be attacked for my deeply-held religious beliefs. It was even more devastating to know that my family, friends and colleagues had read them. Although the matter was dragged out for over a year by Associated Newspapers, which I often felt was using its financial muscle to intimidate me, I am hugely relieved and pleased that they have now done the right thing and settled the case by apologising, and paying me damages and costs.*

*More generally, I can only hope that my case and others like it may result in a more balanced and fair portrayal of Muslims and the Islamic faith in certain sections of the British press in future."*

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