

Complaint Ref: 313/07

Ms Teresa Kearns  
Complaints Officer  
Broadcasting Complaints Commission

January 31 2008

Dear Ms Kearns

In reply to the comments of Director Niamh Sammon:

**My complaint is that my contribution to the documentary was edited to give it the opposite meaning, thereby misrepresenting my widely known and publicised views on the Coolacrease land issue, to the detriment of my reputation and social standing in my community.**

Ms Sammon admits that she misrepresented my views, but not only does she not apologise for this she justifies it on the grounds that she knows better. I find her conduct unethical and her arrogance breathtaking.

My view is straightforward. The fact that the first three people to be allocated farms were ex-British soldiers disproves the land grab theory of her documentary. Her theory is further disproved by the fact that two or three ex-IRA men were able to receive land only after it had been rejected or given up by other people.

Ms Sammon agrees that the first part of this is correct. Yet she edited my contribution in a way which caused the second part to advance her theory and contradict mine.

She did this even though she claims that she can prove her theory by means of documentation which she did not disclose.

Even if I am wrong and she is right – which I do not accept – what she has done is grievous professional misconduct.

In her comments Ms Sammon makes reference to the Release Form. In signing this form I did not give her licence to portray me as a liar contradicting on-screen my well-known views.

Yours sincerely

Paddy Heaney  
Cadamstown  
Birr  
Co. Offaly

