

Michael Buchanan  
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Court Manager  
Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court  
51 Holloway Rd  
London N7 8JA

26 June 2017

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached a written information, which I ask to be placed before the court so that a summons may be issued as commencement of criminal proceedings against the Defendant.

I lay this information as a private prosecutor. Should the court require more information before issuing the summons, my contact details are above. I am available to attend court any time between now and July 13, after which I shall be out of the country for a few days, returning Thursday, July 20.

Signed:

Dated: 26 June 2017

Mike Buchanan

## WRITTEN INFORMATION

### PROSECUTOR/INFORMATION LAID BY:

Mr Michael Buchanan  
<address redacted>

### DEFENDANT:

Dr Joseph Spitzer  
Cranwich Road Surgery  
62 Cranwich Road  
London N16 5JF

An article<sup>1</sup> in the *South African Jewish Report*, dated 8 June 2016, referred to Dr Spitzer as ‘a world authority on brit milah’. Brit milah is ritual Jewish circumcision, performed when baby boys are eight days of age. The article concerned a visit by Dr Spitzer to South Africa, and stated, ‘Dr Spitzer has been a mohel for over 35 years’.

The article referred to Dr Spitzer as the Medical Officer of the Initiation Society,<sup>2</sup> an organization which describes itself as “the oldest Anglo-Jewish organisation. Founded in 1745, it exists to ensure the highest medical and religious standards for Bris Milah (circumcision) are adhered to by our Mohelim (practitioners).”

As at 20 June 2017, Dr Spitzer was still a registered Mohel, according to the website of the Initiation Society.

### Legislation which creates the offences (R.7.3(1)(a)(ii) Crim. PR

Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, contrary to section 47 Offences against the Person Act 1861.

### Description of the offences: (R.7.3(1)(a)(i) Crim PR)

Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin of the penis, often performed for religious or cultural reasons on male minors of Jewish and Muslim parents. It is a far more serious injury than the ‘minor cuts and bruises’ which satisfy the test of Actual Bodily Harm.<sup>3</sup>

Aggravating factors:

Vulnerable victims – most of Dr Spitzer’s victims will have been minors, indeed we would expect that a majority were circumcised at eight days of age, in line with Jewish tradition.

Repeat offences – it would appear that Dr Spitzer’s victims are to be counted in their *thousands*, hardly surprising given that he’s been a mohel for over 35 years. An article in *The Jewish Chronicle* In 2013 included this:<sup>4</sup>

The Stamford Hill-based doctor, who has been a mohel for more than 30 years **and circumcised “thousands” of baby boys**, [my emphasis] said: “It’s up to the parents [of Prince George] if they want to have him circumcised. If they do decide to have it done, I’d be delighted to be of service.”

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sajr.co.za/sa/organisations/2016/06/08/world-authority-on-bris-shares-expertise>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.initiationsociety.net/>

<sup>3</sup> R v Miller [1954] 2 QB 282 per Lynskey J at P292 <http://swarb.co.uk/regina-v-miller-assz-1954/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/bring-me-the-royal-baby-and-i-ll-give-him-the-snip-says-top-mohel-1.47077>

**Particulars of the conduct**

Following the case of B and G (Children) (No 2) [2015] EWFC 3, Lord Munby stated: at para 69, “In my judgment, if FGM Type IV amounts to significant harm, as in my judgment it does, then the same must be so of male circumcision.”

I therefore ask this Honourable Court to issue a Warrant for the Defendant to attend Court and answer the charges.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the content of this written information document is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:

Dated: 26 June 2017

Michael Buchanan