Oxfam sacked replacement Haiti chief after staff complaints

Sean O’Neill Chief Reporter
Paul Morgan-Bentley

The man who replaced Oxfam’s disgraced country director in Haiti was accused of inappropriate behaviour before being dismissed for mismanagement last year, the charity said last night.

Damien Berremond was sacked in September but news of his departure has only just emerged, raising further concerns about a lack of transparency at the charity and piling pressure on its chief executive, Mark Goldring.

Mr Berremond came under internal investigation after complaints were made through Oxfam’s whistleblowing hotline. The charity declined to say whether the allegations of inappropriate behaviour were sexual in nature but it is understood they involved members of staff and not beneficiaries of aid.

A spokesperson emphasised that Mr Berremond’s dismissal was not connected to the 2011 prostitution scandal, exposed by The Times last week. That led to the departure of the country director Roland van Hasselmeirem. Six other men left senior humanitarian roles. Oxfam had kept details of that case, which involved allegations related to the use of prostitutes, downloading pornography and bullying, hidden for seven years.

Officials at the Charity Commission held an all-day meeting with Oxfam managers yesterday. The regulator will announce the scope of its statutory inquiry into the charity’s handling of the Haiti case today.

Penny Mordaunt, the international development secretary, will meet the National Crime Agency today to discuss the situation but was told by a United Nations official that it “shouldn’t be used to shut down organisations”. Oxfam is also facing a crisis among corporate and public authority supporters. The Times has learnt that John Lewis is threatening to cancel a £500,000 aid project if it is running with the charity involving 25,000 women and children.

In response to tweets from ITV News, Oxfam confirmed the dismissal of Mr Berremond. It said the dismissal was not related to sexual misconduct and was not connected to the case in 2011, however, “they were allegations of inappropriate behaviour. As soon as the allegations were reported they were investigated and the individual was dismissed.”

John Lewis threat, pages 8-9

Ready meals and cereals linked with rise in cancer

Warning over too much factory-made food

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Eating factory-made food including cornflakes, pizza and chocolate bars every day increases the risk of cancer by a third of their calories from such processed ultra-processed foods whereas the quarter who ate the least, researchers report in the World Health Organisation has called ultra-processed foods such as bacon and ham as carcinogenic but the new study looked more widely at industrialised ultra-processed foods such as factory-made bread, packaged confectionery, nuggets, burgers, breakfast cereals, instant soups and fizzy drinks. This includes ham and sausages when made with preservatives and additives other than just salt.

Canned salted vegetables are considered to be “processed” foods whereas factory-prepared cooked or fried seasoned vegetables, marinated in sauces with added flavourings are considered “ultra-processed”.

Dr Tousier said that adjusting for the higher sugar and salt content of processed food did not appear to account for the findings. Her theory is that additives, compounds that form during processing or chemicals in packaging could be driving the results. “In Europe Continued on page 2, col 3

Oxfam’s Haiti chief who replaced Pierre de Coubertin was also sacked for sexual misconduct.

The former head of Formula One is seeking to gag the media using a law he personally funds or bankrolls Impress, the state-recognised press regulator, or can exert control or influence over it. Impress has an agreement to receive data protection law to force newspapers to ban newspapers from asserting that they personally funds or bankrolls Impress, the state-recognised press regulator, or can exert control or influence over it. Impress has an agreement to receive more than £3 million over four years from a charity backed by a Mosley family trust.

Mr Mosley’s attempts to use the Data Protection Act 1998 to restrict press freedom in this way are legally unprecedented. The act governs how companies and organisations can handle individuals’ private data but includes a broad exemption for journalism.

Mr Mosley’s lawyers are demanding that newspapers stop “processing data” related to their sexual misconduct. “If successful this would effectively compel titles to remove some online articles relating to Mr Mosley and prevent them from publishing further stories in future. Newspapers would be required to notify readers when articles are amended or deleted.”

One focus of Mr Mosley’s legal claim is the reporting of his 2008 orgy with prostitutes, first disclosed by the World News.

Mr Mosley won £600,000 damages from the now-defunct Sunday tabloid for breaching his privacy by publishing pictures and videos. The judge, Mr Justice Eady, also ruled that Mr Mosley’s activities did not involve Nazi role-play as the paper had claimed. The Continued on page 2, col 5

How one woman cured her chronic insomnia

Deborah Ross

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Lawyers face cap on costs in Northern Ireland negligence cases

Kat Lay Health Correspondent

The government is to restrict lawyers costs in clinical negligence cases.

Ministers will establish a working group to establish how the cap, which would apply to all cases worth less than £500,000, will work in practice. A report will be published later this year.

The programme aims to save up to £45 million by 2020, and reduce the costs of clinical negligence cases to about £1 billion per year. This is expected to reduce the costs of clinical negligence cases by about £1 billion per year.

Lay said the cap would be a "fundamental" change to the way clinical negligence cases are dealt with.

"In our view, there is no current evidence to suggest that the cap would have a significant impact on the costs of clinical negligence cases. We therefore welcome the government's decision to restrict lawyers' costs in these cases," she said.

The government has also agreed to establish a working group to look at the impact of the cap on the NHS.

The cap would apply to all cases worth less than £500,000, including those involving medical errors and negligence.

CROSSWORD

The government is to restrict lawyers costs in clinical negligence cases.

The cap will be set at £500,000, and will apply to all cases worth less than £500,000.

The cap will come into effect in 2020.