

# Mosley in storm over racist leaflet

Matthew Moore Media Correspondent

Max Mosley is facing questions about whether he lied to the High Court after the discovery of a racist political leaflet published in his name.

The 1961 document links leprosy, venereal disease and tuberculosis to “coloured immigration” and argues that Jamaicans should be sent back home.

Mr Mosley, the former Formula One boss turned press reform campaigner, was questioned about the leaflets during his 2008 High Court privacy case against the *News of the World*.

Under oath, he said that he did not recall putting out election literature urging voters to send black people home. He also explicitly denied that any leaflets from the 1961 campaign accused immigrants of bringing leprosy, syphilis and TB, saying: “That is absolute nonsense.”

Confronted with a copy of one of the leaflets last night, he rejected the “offensive suggestion” that he lied under oath and appeared to question if it was genuine. “If it is genuine, it doesn’t reflect my views today,” he said during a combative live appearance on *Channel 4 News*. “This was in 1961. I ceased to have any involvement in my father’s movement in 1963.”

Asked by the presenter Cathy Newman if he had committed perjury during the 2008 High Court hearing he dismissed the question as “stupid”. “Perjury is saying something you think is untrue, you know is untrue. I said something that I knew in my own mind was true,” he said.

The *News of the World*’s legal team did not have a copy of the original election literature so had to rely on a newspaper article’s account of its contents. During the court hearing Mr Mosley repeatedly questioned whether any such leaflet actually existed.

A copy of it, marked “published by Max Mosley”, was unearthed by *The Daily Mail* and passed to *Channel 4 News*. Its contents appear to contradict Mr Mosley’s evidence.

The leaflets were published while Mr Mosley was working as election agent for Walter Hesketh, a parliamentary candidate in Manchester’s Moss Side, a community that was home to many recent West Indian immigrants. Mr Hesketh was standing for the Union Movement, a far-right political party founded by Mr Mosley’s father, Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader.

The copy of the leaflet found at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford urged voters to “give the coloured people a fair deal by sending them back to good jobs and good wages at home in Jamaica”. It went on: “Protect your jobs — coloured immigrants are forming a large pool of unemployed — they will be used to lower your living standards. Protect your health — there is no medical check on immigration. Tuberculosis, VD and other terrible diseases like leprosy are on the increase. Coloured immigration threatens your children’s health.”

The leaflet’s contents have emerged



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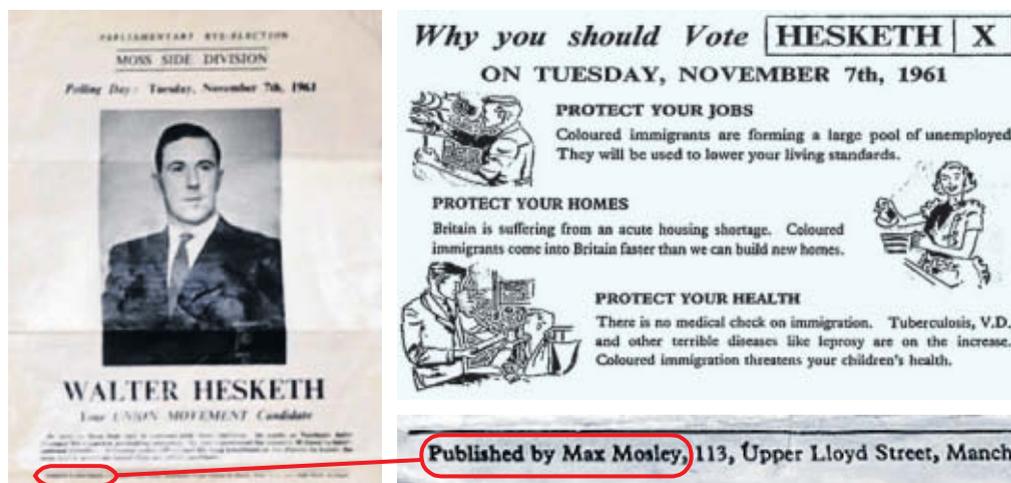
Max Mosley, standing in front of a picture of his father, Sir Oswald, denied putting out the literature in 1961, while under oath in a privacy case against the *News of the World* in 2008

sex party because the personal data on which they are based has been kept longer than necessary and has not been processed fairly or lawfully.

The leaflet’s discovery will put pressure on Tom Watson, the deputy Labour leader, to return more than £500,000 in donations he has received from Mr Mosley, who he describes as a friend. As shadow culture secretary Mr Watson is leading Labour’s policy on press regulation. The party is committed to holding the second stage of the Leveson inquiry into relations between the press and police.

Mr Watson said: “My views on press regulation are well known and have not changed. The views expressed by Max as a young man are not the views he holds now, just as the Rothermere family [*Daily Mail* owners] no longer uses its newspapers to support fascism.”

Mr Mosley released a statement saying his political views had changed since the early 1960s. He said: “My record in motorsport demonstrates that I do not tolerate racism. It appears that this historical investigation is yet another misconceived attempt to intimidate and deter me and others from supporting the vital reforms needed to protect ordinary people.”



Mr Mosley was the election agent for Walter Hesketh, a far-right candidate in an area of Manchester heavily populated by West Indian families

weeks after Mr Mosley sought to use data protection law to force newspapers including *The Times* to stop publishing widely reported details about his sexual life.

The privacy campaigner is also trying to ban newspapers from asserting that he personally funds or bankrolls *Impress*, the state-recognised press regulator. *Impress* has an agreement to receive more than £3 million from a charity backed by a Mosley family trust.

Mr Mosley, 77, was asked on *Channel 4 News* if the leaflet’s existence informed his decision to use data protection law to seek to gag the press. “Obviously not,” he replied. He conceded that the views expressed in the leaflets were

“deeply offensive” and said some, but not all, were racist. He declined to apologise to Manchester’s West Indian community at the time. “I’ve never been a racist, I’m not a racist,” he added.

Mr Mosley won £60,000 damages from the *News of the World* after the judge in the 2008 case ruled that the tabloid had breached his privacy by reporting his orgy with prostitutes. The judge also ruled that Mr Mosley’s activities did not involve Nazi role play as the paper had claimed. The *News of the World*, which closed in 2011, was owned by the same company as *The Times*.

Mr Mosley does not deny taking part in the orgy but argues that newspapers should remove articles mentioning the

## What was said then: the 2008 High Court case

**Mark Warby, QC for the *News of the World*:** Did you put out leaflets as agent for Mr Hesketh urging voters to send the blacks home?

**Max Mosley:** Not as I recall.

**MW:** Was it not part of the political agenda of the Union Movement to get the blacks sent home?

**MM:** No. As I said, not as I recall. I think the policy

at the time was to offer financial inducements to people to go home, a slightly different thing.

**MW:** And is there any trust in one of the articles that you will have read that leaflets were put out alleging that coloured immigrants brought leprosy, syphilis and TB?

**MM:** That is absolute nonsense.

## What is said now: last night’s television interview

**Cathy Newman, *Channel 4*:** You said in the trial that the claim leaflets were put out alleging immigrants brought disease was “nonsense”. Did you get it wrong or did you lie under oath?

**Max Mosley:** I wouldn’t dream of lying under oath. I was asked about that leaflet, and I said to the barrister,

if that leaflet existed if you had it, you’d produce it. And of course they should have produced it.

**CN:** This is the quote: “Coloured immigration threatens your children’s health.” You’re saying that’s not racist?

**MM:** I think that probably is racist, I will concede that.



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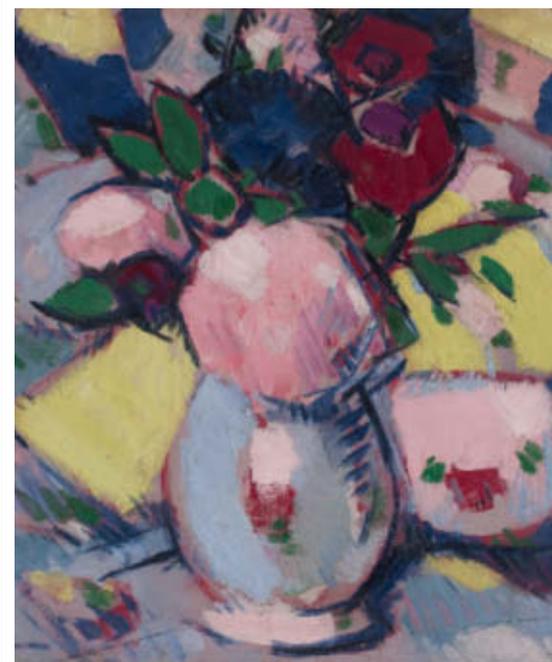
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