Dear Sam,

Your e-mail of 22 April 2020 refers.

1. Your questions regarding the content of our press release stem from your extremely limited knowledge and understanding of the contractual relation between Novus and Lebone Litho. You only have the consortium agreement signed in 2015 and a “Commission Agreement”, concluded in April 2018 at your disposal.

2. It suffices, for present purpose, to only mention that Novus Holdings Limited (previously Paarl Media Group (Pty) Ltd and operationally trading as Paarl Media) and Lebone Litho have been parties to a series of interrelated commercial arms’ length transactions concluded bona fide since, at least 30 August 2011 for the printing and supply of educational books and materials to the Department of Education and DBE.

3. Lebone Litho’s compensation for its legitimate share in the proceeds of the contracts from time to time has always been regulated in terms of contractually set formulas.

4. In all of the relevant contractual arrangements Novus acted as preferred service provider for the printing work of the Department of Education and DBE, respectively.

5. All payments over the period of time since 2011 were made to Novus. In turn, Novus compensated Lebone Litho in accordance with the contractually set formula and the fixed compensation.

6. Lebone Litho performed its contractual obligations as quid pro quo for the compensation paid to Lebone Litho.

7. The reference in the first addendum to “commission” and “incentive commission” is simply the allocation of pricing between the Novus and Lebone Litho and constitutes Lebone Litho’s compensation as its legitimate profit share and also referred to as such in this agreement in very specific terms.

8. Furthermore, regarding other printing work, contrary to the inference attempted to be drawn in your email under reply, the agreements do not refer to additional commission being payable in terms of the agreement, but suggests the relationship is further supported by the agreement and through its existence Lebone will also try and secure additional unrelated work. If the parties cannot agree, the agreement clearly states that in this regard no agreement in respect of such printing work is then concluded.

9. You will not be granted access to the confidential information of the Consortium and its members. This includes the respective contracts referred to.

10. We are not bound by the undertaking that Lebone Litho ostensibly furnished on Novus’ behalf in its earlier response to you to provide any correspondence to you relating to matters that are the subject of correspondence between the legal representatives of Novus and Caxtons.
11. Novus most certainly will not accept the disguised invitation to litigate through correspondence or the press, and all our rights remain strictly reserved. It is indeed disappointing to see that Caxton apparently chooses to precisely do this, and caution you not to allow yourself to be misguided in such disingenuous fashion.

Novus will be governed in accordance with appropriate governance principles and legislative requirements and acts accordingly.

Regards

Melonie Brink
Group Company Secretary
Novus Holdings

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From: sam sole <solesam@gmail.com>
Sent: 22 April 2020 11:51
To: Melonie Brink <Melonie.Brink@novus.holdings>; Neil Birch <Neil.Birch@novus.holdings>; phumla@telkomsa.net; kieth@lebonelitho.co.za; keith@lebonelitho.co.za; Paul Jenkins <paul@jenkins.co.za>; Leukes.C@dbe.gov.za; Mweli.M@dbe.gov.za; Mhlanga.E@dbe.gov.za; tom.n@dbe.gov.za; mabua.s@dbe.gov.za; sehlabelo.p@dbe.gov.za
Cc: Staefaans Brümmer <stefaansb@amabhungane.org>; Sally Evans <sallye@amabhungane.org>
Subject: Re: Novus Lebone Caxton & DBE

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

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