## WEBBER WENTZEL

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Mr John Hempton

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www.webberwentzel.com

Your reference

Our reference
D Milo / L Pillay
3026081

Date

6 August 2018

Dear Sir

## Request for retraction of allegations made on social media

- 1. We act for Dr Stuart Theobald and Intellidex (Pty) Ltd ("our clients").
- 2. We address this letter to you on behalf of our clients and as a result of defamatory statements which you have made in relation to our clients on Twitter.
- 3. On 3 August 2018, a tweet was posted by you using the Twitter handle @John\_Hempton. This tweet is attached as annex "A".
- 4. The tweet alleges that our clients accuse other companies of being conflicted while our clients "take bribes".
- 5. Our client denies the allegations contained in the tweet. The allegations contained in the tweet are defamatory of our clients and were made with the intention of defaming our clients and to injure our clients' reputation.
- 6. The allegations made in your tweet were intended by you, and were understood by those who read the tweet, to mean that our clients:

Senior Partner: JC Els Managing Partner: SJ Hutton Partners: BW Abraham RB Africa NG Alp OA Ampofo-Anti RL Appelbaum DC Bayman AE Bennett AP Blair DHL Booysen AR Bowley JL Brink S Browne MS Burger RI Carrim T Cassim SJ Chong A Christie KL Collier KM Colman KE Coster K Couzyn JJ Daniels CR Davidow JH Davies PM Daya L de Bruyn PU Dela JHB de Lange DW de Villiers BEC Dickinson MA Diemont DA Dingley G Driver HJ du Preez CP du Toit SK Edmundson AE Esterhuizen MJR Evans AA Felekis GA Fichardt G Fitzmaurice JB Forman C Gabriel CP Gaul KL Gawith OH Geldenhuys MM Gilson SJ Gilmour H Goolam CI Gouws PD Grealy A Harley JM Harvey MH Hathorn JS Henning KR Hillis XNC Hlatshwayo S Hockey CM Holfeld PM Holloway HF Human AV Ismail ME Jarvis CM Jonker S Jooste LA Kahn M Kennedy A Keyser M Kyle J Lamb L Marais S McCafferty MC McIntosh SJ McKenzie M McLaren SI Meltzer CS Meyer AJ Mills JA Milner D Milo NP Mngomezulu S Mogale M Moloi LE Mostert VM Movshovich RA Nelson BP Ngoepe A Ngubo ZN Ntshona MB Nzimande L Odendaal GJP Olivier N Paige AMT Pardini AS Parry S Patel GR Penfold SE Phajane TC Phala MA Phillips D Ramjettan GI Rapson Z Rawoot K Rew G Richards-Smith NJA Robb DC Rudman S Rugan M Sader H Samsodien JW Scholtz KE Shepherd AJ Simpson N Singh-Nogueira P Singh J Smit MP Spalding PS Stein MW Straeuli LJ Swaine JM Swanepoel Z Swanepoel A Thakor A Toefy PZ Vanda PP van der Merwe SE van der Meulen CS Vanmali JE Veeran D Venter B Versfeld MG Versfeld DM Visagie J Watson DP Wild KL Williams K Wilson RH Wilson M Yudaken Chief Operating Officer: SA Boyd

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- 6.1 are corrupt;
- 6.2 lack integrity; and
- 6.3 accept bribes in return for producing its reports.
- 7. You made the allegations maliciously, recklessly and/or negligently, without due consideration of the true facts.
- 8. As a result of the allegations contained in your tweet, our clients have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm to their reputation.
- 9. In light of the above, our clients demand that you:
- 9.1 delete the tweet from your Twitter account;
- 9.2 retract the allegations contained in the tweet; and
- 9.3 post an apology to our clients on Twitter for the allegations contained in the tweet concerning our clients.
- 10. Should you fail to carry out the above by no later than <u>Tuesday 7 August 2018</u>, our clients will exercise their rights in law.
- 11. Our clients' rights are reserved entirely.

Yours faithfully

## **WEBBER WENTZEL**

Dario Milo
Partner

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Sent electronically without signature