



From the National Court

**MOTOR SPORTS COUNCIL NATIONAL COURT
SITTING TUESDAY 03 MARCH 2020**

**Chris Mount
David Munro
Steve Stringwell (Chairman)**

J2020/04 Frank Lyons Disciplinary Hearing

The National Court panel sat as a Disciplinary Tribunal to consider whether Mr Frank Lyons had acted prejudicially to the interests of Motor Sport Council, and motor sport generally, contrary to General Regulations A.10.1.3, A.10.1.5, H.6 and C.1.1.4 and related and associated policies and guidelines issued by Motorsport UK and International Sporting Code Art.12.1.1.c and Art 12.1.1.d and 12.1.1.f.

It was alleged that, between or about 17 October 2019 and 22 October 2019, Mr Lyons published abusive, derogatory and homophobic cyber abuse concerning persons who have an official capacity on the Historic Commission of the Federation International de l'Automobile.

The case concerned the publication of a number of comments made by Mr Lyons on a Facebook thread during October 2019. The National Court heard evidence about the background to the publication of the comments but concludes that the comments themselves undoubtedly caused distress to the persons referred to in the Facebook thread and to other who read them.

The National Court panel is mindful of Motorsport UK Social Media and Anti Bullying Policies and recognises that everyone is entitled to be in motor sport without being victimised, harassed or caused distress in any way.

The National Court panel is satisfied that this is a case of cyber bullying as it involves the use of communication technology to cause deliberate upset.

Having heard evidence from Mr Lyons about the posting of the comments, the National Court panel concludes that they were clearly made in anger. Mr Lyons had asserted that the comments were not intended to be homophobic, abusive, or derogatory but the National Court panel is less concerned with his motivation than the effect of the publication on others.

The National Court panel are in no doubt that the publication of the comments was prejudicial not only to Motor Sport Council, but also to motor sport in general, and they were hurtful and insulting.

The National Court panel recognises Mr Lyons' contribution to Historic Motorsport but behaviour of this type cannot be tolerated.

Accordingly, the National Court panel orders that Mr Lyons competition licence will be suspended for a period of 2 years from the date of this hearing, with the second year being

suspended provided that no similar offences occur during the suspension. In addition, Mr Lyons pay (i) a fine of £5,000; and (ii) £2,000 toward costs.

The decision is set down at 14:10 on Tuesday 3 March 2020.

Steve Stringwell
Chairman
03rd March 2020