



REMOVING NAMES FROM THE ARCHIVE

People regularly ask the editors at *UKrant* to remove names from the archives or to partially or entirely anonymise sources.

In principle, the integrity of our archives comes first, which means that we deny requests like these, even if the articles seem ‘small’ or ‘innocent’.

In this case, *UKrant* refers to, among others, a judgement by the Press Council: ‘Society benefits from functioning, complete, and reliable archives the contents of which cannot be changed.’

There are special circumstances that allow *UKrant* to decide otherwise. In general, this only applies to sources who could get into serious trouble if they’re not anonymous. In cases like that, we might make an exception, but only after careful consideration.

In this matter, *UKrant* does not distinguish between articles on the site or other media (like social media).

You want us to remove your name. What are your options?

If your name is mentioned in the *UKrant* archives and you’d like to see it partially or completely removed or anonymised, you can email the *UKrant*’s editor-in-chief. Please tell us which article your name appears in, when it was published, and explain why you feel your name should be removed.

The editor will consider your request and decide whether to honour or reject it. In the case of rejection, the editor will motivate their answer. In the case of the latter, the editor would like to point to the right to be forgotten in the GDPR.

If your request is denied and you disagree with the editor’s motivation, you can turn to *UKrant*’s editorial board. Please email ukrant@rug.nl. Use the subject line ‘Complaint to editorial board’.



The editorial board will review the issue. Its verdict is binding to the *UKrant* editors. We can't provide any guidelines beforehand, since each case is unique.

If the editorial board decides the complainant's request is justified, there are two possible courses to take:

1. The article is neither removed from the archives nor changed, but it will no longer be indexed. That means the archives will remain intact, but the article in question will no longer be included in any search results (this does not apply to social media posts).
2. The article is changed or removed: the name will be partially or completely changed or anonymised (this does apply to social media posts).

Rob Siebelink, editor-in-chief

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