Hello,

I apologise for contacting you at this difficult time, but I am currently researching the effect that being falsely accused of rape or sexual assault can have on a person’s life, and the lives of their families.

I work for a television production company called Summer Films, and the research is for a documentary that we’re making.

It’s clear that being falsely accused of such a crime can have life-changing effects, especially in this age of social media. Our intention is to produce a sensitive documentary that will raise awareness around issues of anonymity, evidence non-disclosure, and the current imbalances that can occur in these kinds of cases, as well as telling, for the first time, of the devastation that being falsely accused can have on a person’s life and the lives of those around them.

Whilst I am aware that you must be feeling very cautious about speaking to the media in any form, I wondered if you would consider having a confidential conversation with me about the experience you’re going through? This conversation would be purely for research purposes and there would be no commitment whatsoever to take part in our film further down the line. It’s incredibly helpful for my research to hear personal accounts of what people who’ve been accused, and their families, are going through, so that we can make sure we are representing people’s experiences and concerns accurately.

For your reassurance, we do not operate like the tabloid press but we pride ourselves on being thoughtful and sensitive documentary-makers. Our previous BBC productions include *One Night of Ecstasy*, *Death on Campus: Our Stories* and *Car Crash: Who’s Lying?*. Additionally, our creative director, Lucy Hillman, was the executive producer of the BAFTA nominated *Great Ormond Street* for BBC2.

If you would be open to having an initial conversation, please do get in touch. I can be reached on 020 8065 0447 or by emailing matilda@summerfilms.co.uk. Just to emphasise again, any conversation we have would be entirely confidential.

Many thanks for your time,

Matilda Hay