

Edith is in her office. It is around 9:30 am.

The telephone rings.

It is Jane.

“Edith, have you seen The Daily Newspaper today?”

“No.”

“There is an article mentioning LocSARA, on page 5.”

“Ah.”

“It is highly complimentary about LocSARA’s work, but”

“... Yes?”

“Well it is highly critical of the Locomotive device, or rather of the business that produces it, saying that they have used ideas from LocSARA yet not giving any credit to LocSARA.”

“Well, they don’t need to do so.”

“Well I know, but the writer of the article, credited only as Freelance Contributor, really has a go at them about it.”

“Oh dear.”

“I thought that I would let you know in case Gigantic Business contacts you about it.”

“Yes, thank you. Is the article on the newspaper’s website?”

“Well the start of it is, the rest is behind a subscription wall, but what is in the clear is pretty hard-hitting!”

“I’ll ask one of the staff to go out and try to get a copy. Thank you for letting me know. As you say, Gigantic Business might contact me about it. By the way, we had nothing to do with it. I have given instructions not to make any public comment at all about the Locomotive device.”

“Bye then.”

“Bye”.

Edith telephones her secretary and asks her to try to get a copy of The Daily Newspaper.

Edith sits back and tries to think it out, knowing what she knows about the way that the Locomotive device allows LocSARA’s localizable sentences to be used with it.

‘Whoever wrote the article in The Daily Newspaper has well Gigantic Business did not mention LocSARA that is true but Gigantic Business, or someone working there, has done LocSARA an enormous favour - whatever the motive for having done it. What

to do? If not asked, then say nothing. If asked, well care needs to be taken not to say anything that could cause anyone to lose their job. What to do?

Edith is just about to ask John to her office to discuss the situation when the telephone rings.

The receptionist asks Edith if she would accept a call from a lady who claims to be telephoning from Gigantic Business but refuses to state her name, just keeps saying that she is telephoning from Gigantic Business.

Edith agrees to accept the call.

“Hello, Edith Gatford, how may I help?”

“I’m ringing from Gigantic Business. The Managing Director would like to meet with you, bringing the Company Lawyer with him. He has booked a conference room at a hotel not too far from your establishment and would like to meet with you at 2:30 pm today.

“The hotel is called The Golden Astrolabe.”

“Ah yes, I know The Golden Astrolabe Hotel.”

“Can I tell him that you will be there at 2:30 pm today for the meeting?”

“What is the purpose of the meeting please?”

“I am not authorized to say. The Managing Director said that you would know.”

“Ah. Very well, 2:30 pm today in a conference room at The Golden Astrolabe Hotel.”

It is now 10:37 am and so the meeting is less than four hours away, and Edith wants an hour for lunch, no point rushing lunch and causing problems.

Edith calls the solicitor who normally helps with work for LocSARA. Thus far that work has been non-confrontational, registering the company, complying with legal requirements, drawing up the rules for staff. Fortunately she is available and agrees to meet up with Edith at 2:00 pm to discuss the issue before the meeting.

Edith then asks John to come to her office and they discuss the situation. During their discussion Edith’s secretary brings in a copy of The Daily Newspaper and Edith and John read the article.

“Jane was quite right. It is hard-hitting. It looks like Gigantic Business might think that we are behind it in some way.” says Edith.

“Hmm.” says John.

“It would seem likely that the Managing Director of Gigantic Business blames us and wants something. I suppose it could be damages but they have far more money than we have, so maybe he wants a public apology with legal action for defamation if he does not get it.”

“Ah, yes, quite possibly.”

“Well, I am not, as I am sure you realize, going to apologise for something that we have not done. Indeed, knowing what I know, I would have no reason whatsoever to have done that.”

A pause.

John speaks “There could be a way out of this situation.” and then smiles.

“Ah,” says Edith “what do you have in mind?”