

Response from Anthony De Ceglie, Editor-in-Chief, The West Australian:

What was the decision-making around using the photos? Why do you believe they were in the public interest?

Some have called hypocrisy for reporting Laidley's mental health issues while publishing uncompromising photos of him. How do you square that?

Laidley's lawyer says the media was pandering to prejudice by using the images. Any comment?

Dean Laidley has been a high-profile public figure for more than three decades. His arrest on serious charges while already on bail is clearly a matter of public interest. While these are still only allegations, stalking and drug use are obviously very serious crimes. The images were widely available on social media and the internet. They were not falsified or doctored. No decision in our newsroom is taken lightly and in this case I believed the images served to tell a complete and accurate picture of Laidley's arrest.

Pictures of a high-profile public figure such as Dean Laidley being arrested are always going to be in consideration for the front page - no matter what the alleged offender is or isn't wearing. Our story, headlines and use of pictures were an accurate portrayal of the arrest of a high-profile individual for alleged serious crimes.