

Funded by credit cards? Sarawak Report editor laughs off allegation
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Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown laughed off allegations she receives substantial funds to run her whistleblower site.

She denied that the blog was funded by anonymous credit cards as alleged by a new online site, Open Source Investigations (OSI).

"Oh, I have two prepaid credit cards? Where are they?" she responded in jest.

"They have to put up with the fact that in the world of internet, it doesn't cost that much to do investigative journalism.

"I can go online and find out a lot (of information), I can be in contact with people and I can write. It doesn't cost that much," she said, when met at the second Asian Investigative Journalism Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal on Thursday.

She asked for those who made these accusations to be more specific.

OSI in March claimed 80 percent of Clare's funds came from two prepaid credit cards, which allowed her to travel "lavishly".

"Those funding sources come with deep pockets. Rewcastle-Brown herself has admitted that it costs around \$15,000 a month to run the site," said OSI.

It also claimed Rewcastle-Brown travelled extensively in 2014 and 2015, across Europe, Asia and Australia.

"I have done some travels that's largely been funded by my radio project, for which I did have a grant from European-based donor, whose interests were rainforests and human rights issues," she added.

"My journey here was paid by the conference who invited me," said Rewcastle-Brown, who was invited to talk on corruption investigations.

She said she is willing to reveal the source of *Sarawak Report's* funds and its expenditures.

"Yeah, unlike (Malaysia Prime Minister) Najib (Abdul Razak). I have a company, I have my accounts. You can go to Companies House (the British Registrar of Companies). Have a look," she said.

"And frankly, you can ask my husband because he moans that I can really be out doing a job that earns some money, but he means it very nicely.

"The idea that somehow I am running a multi-million operation, you know, the truth can actually be quite cheap," she said.

Rewcastle-Brown founded *Sarawak Report* in February 2010 to highlight deforestation and corruption in Sarawak. She set up *Radio Free Sarawak* on December 2010.

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