

In the matter of the Leveson Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF COLIN JOSEPH THOMAS MYLER

I, Colin Joseph Thomas Myler of will say as follows:-

1. There is now produced to me a paginated bundle of documents marked Exhibit "CJTM2" to which I shall refer in the course of this statement.
2. I received a letter, dated 14 November 2011, from the Deputy Solicitor to the Leveson Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press ("the Leveson Inquiry"). A copy of the letter is exhibited at pages 1 to 3 of CJTM2. I have been asked to provide a supplementary witness statement to the Leveson Inquiry answering a number of questions. My answers to those questions are set out below.
3. Save where otherwise appears, I am able to make this statement on the basis of facts and matters within my own knowledge and which I know to be true. This statement relates to my time at the News of the World. Where I refer to some other source of information, I believe that information to be true.

What is the name of the investigator who was arrested and then later cleared of wrongdoing?

4. The investigator was Derek Webb. The reason I was made aware that we were working with Mr Webb was because he had been arrested in relation to activities that he had carried out for another newspaper. I temporarily prohibited reporters from working with him until the outcome of those criminal proceedings was known. The case eventually collapsed and I believe that Mr Webb did work for the newspaper again but only once he had been cleared of any wrongdoing and I had been reassured of his impeccable background as a police officer, and that there was nothing about his previous work for the News of the World which would give rise to any concerns. He also became a member of the National Union of Journalists.

Did you ascertain the nature of the work he was doing for News of the World, and during which period?

5. Although I may have been told at the time, which I believe was in 2008, I do not now recall the nature of the work that Mr Webb was carrying out for the News of the World on that particular occasion, except that I knew he had been retained to conduct surveillance activities.

Were you aware that Mr Webb was undertaking surveillance work on behalf of News of the World?

6. I am aware that newspapers often use private investigators to carry out legitimate investigatory work. It was, and is, a fundamental tool of investigative journalism, and the News of the World like many other newspapers therefore used investigators. I was made aware by Ian Edmondson (the News Editor) that Mr Webb was carrying out surveillance activities for the News of the World. I believe that Mr Edmondson told me that Mr Webb was a specialist in surveillance activities because of his background as a police officer. I believe, as has now become apparent from press reports, that Mr Webb did carry out surveillance work for the News of the World again following the temporary prohibition against working with him which I had instructed.

Did you ever instruct him to undertake any surveillance work? What was the purpose of that surveillance work?

7. I did not instruct Mr Webb to undertake any surveillance work and I have never met or spoken to him.

Were you aware that others in News of the World were instructing him to carry out surveillance work? If you were, who at News of the World was providing such instructions?

8. I was aware that Mr Edmondson had used Mr Webb's services and it is very likely that other members of the News Desk would have instructed him. The Managing Editor's department (headed, first by Stuart Kuttner and then by Bill Akass) would have been responsible for authorising and processing the payment of Mr Webb's invoices.

James Murdoch indicated to the Select Committee on 10 November 2011 that Tom Crone and/or Julian Pike may have instructed Mr Webb to carry out surveillance on two lawyers (Mark Lewis and Charlotte Harris). Were you aware of this surveillance or of these instructions? Was this surveillance in respect of "lawful and legitimate inquiries" in your view?

9. I was not aware that either Mark Lewis or Charlotte Harris were the subject of surveillance, and I was not aware of instructions having been given for their surveillance. Since I was not aware that this surveillance had occurred, I am not in a position to comment on whether it was in respect of lawful and legitimate inquiries.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

Full name Colin Joseph Thomas Myler

Dated 24 November 2011