

**THE LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES AND ETHICS OF
THE PRESS**

OPENING SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP LIMITED

1. Telegraph Media Group Limited (TMG) is the publisher of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* newspapers and the *telegraph.co.uk* website.
2. The Telegraph has a long and proud history of high quality journalism. We strive to investigate the facts and to publish responsibly and ethically.
3. TMG has played no part in the events of public concern which have brought about this Inquiry. But we do have a real interest in its deliberations and conclusions. The recommendations made by this Inquiry will apply to the entire newspaper and magazine publishing industry at national and regional level. TMG will be adversely affected if those recommendations result in additional restrictions on press freedom or encroachment upon the vital principle of self regulation.
4. TMG is therefore pleased to have been designated as a Core Participant in Part 1 of this Inquiry, during which it will consider the culture, practices and ethics of the press. We are particularly pleased that this Inquiry is being held under the Inquiries Act 2005, with the opportunity for the press and public to participate in an open process of inquiry into these matters.
5. There is, of course, a widespread feeling that “something must be done” about the criminal practice of phone hacking at The News of the World. The feeling is understandable. No responsible media organisation would disagree and we certainly do not seek to do so. TMG is, however, anxious that this legitimate concern about phone hacking could result in measures which will do long-term damage to our tradition of free journalistic enquiry and freedom to publish. We hope this Inquiry will not be the agent of any such changes.

6. The starting point of the Inquiry - that a free and inquiring press acting in the public interest is fundamental to a pluralistic democracy – gives us encouragement. We also welcome the Inquiry’s appreciation that "any new regulatory system, howsoever devised or organised, could impact adversely on freedom of expression or have a chilling effect on the responsible journalism which is so critical in our democratic society”¹.
7. TMG believes strongly in self regulation - a system of regulation established and supported by the press itself without the involvement of government or the law. This is a fundamental of our press freedom. Interference by the state in the regulation of the press is abhorrent in a free society. That belief is central to TMG's profound interest in Phase 1 of this Inquiry.
8. TMG believes that the events of public concern which have caused this Inquiry occurred following a failure of law enforcement, not of self regulation. TMG nonetheless welcomes the opportunity to take part in the debate about how the industry's self regulatory mechanisms can be strengthened in the light of the public concern in a way which will restore trust and confidence in the media. We believe that this process must take into account the rapid developments in digital media, which are having a profound impact on the industry at every level.
9. While it has served evidence and will be present regularly during the hearings TMG anticipates that most of its involvement in the Inquiry will be in addressing the matters upon which recommendations are sought and putting forward, at the appropriate time and with others in the industry, detailed and constructive submissions on the renewal and regeneration of self regulation, the maintenance of which is vital for the future of a strong and free press.

GAVIN MILLAR QC
ADAM SPEKER

¹ Ruling on the Inquiry's approach to evidence at [34].