

**The Leveson Inquiry**

**Witness statement of Kevin Beatty**

*Career history*

1. I am Chief Executive of A&N Media, the consumer media operation of DMGT plc, which includes Associated Newspapers - publisher of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday, Mail Online and Metro; Northcliffe Media – the UK's third largest publisher of local newspapers and their associated websites; Harmsworth Printing – the group's multi location newspaper printing facilities; and the group's extensive and growing consumer-facing websites such as Jobsite, Findaproperty and Teletext Holidays.
2. I joined the Group in 1996, having previously been managing director of the Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Ltd, at that time part of Mirror Group plc. Before I became Chief Executive of A&N Media, I held a succession of management roles: managing director of The Mail on Sunday; managing director of the Evening Standard and London Metro; chief operating officer of Associated New Media; and managing director of Northcliffe Newspapers. In 2004 I was appointed to the Board of DMGT.
3. I am a board member of the Newspaper Publishers Association and I represent the UK publishing industry on the Board of WAN-IFRA, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers. I am a non-executive director of the Press Association where I chair the nominations committee and am a member of the remuneration committee.

*Editorial responsibility*

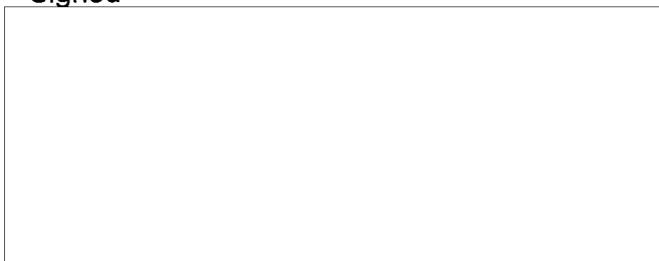
4. As chief executive, I have no editorial function. My fellow directors and I leave the editing of our newspapers entirely to the editors: they have complete editorial independence. They are not asked or required to consider the group's commercial interests when they make editorial decisions. This is not just established practice within A&N Media – it is a policy matter. Almost 60% of our revenue from Mail Newspapers comes from the price our readers pay for those newspapers. The price they pay is a premium price compared to titles such as The Sun. In order to justify that price, our readers need to have trust and confidence in our titles and that confidence depends on the editorial independence of those titles.

*Corporate governance*

5. While the editors have independence in respect of their editorial decisions, they are subject to the same corporate governance policies as everyone else in the group. Those corporate governance policies are set out on DMGT's website. The various committees to which the Board has delegated certain of its powers have authority over the group's activities in those areas delegated to them. In relation to corporate risks arising from editorial activities, including news-gathering, the risk committee is tasked with, among other things, the consideration and management of risk and, where appropriate, the recommendation of changes to existing practices.
6. DMGT also has an Information Security Committee, which includes within its remit the company's data protection responsibilities, including its responsibilities in relation to data held about third parties.
7. As chief executive of A&N Media, it is part of my job to ensure that our newspapers thrive commercially. These are difficult economic times for newspapers and that is therefore a considerable challenge. It is emphatically not part of my job to tell the editors what they should be publishing. We expect our editors to continue to edit our newspapers in a way that makes them successful and popular. That will necessarily mean that they publish big stories, many of which will be exclusive to their titles. We do not, and have no need to, offer them bonuses or other incentives in order to get them to publish such stories. I certainly do not get any financial reward when our titles publish exclusive stories.
8. High ethical and professional standards go hand in hand with the commercial objectives of our newspapers. Newspapers flourish by connecting with their readership and readers will stop buying our newspapers if they do not consider that they can trust the papers to be accurate, to have integrity and meet the same standards they expect of others.
9. I have read the witness statements of Paul Dacre, Peter Wright and Liz Hartley. They have dealt with many of the questions addressed to me which I have not specifically dealt with above and it seems to me appropriate that they have done so rather than me as those questions concern their areas of knowledge and responsibility. I am happy to confirm that their statements seem to me to reflect very well the professional standards and behaviour

that I would expect of our editors and their journalists. I have also read, and agree with, the witness statement of James Welsh.

Signed



Date

25/10/11