

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

WITNESS STATEMENT OF TOM BRADBY

I, **TOM BRADBY**, of ITV News, Westminster Press Gallery, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA **WILL SAY** as follows:

I have recently received a letter from Kim Brudenell, the Solicitor to the Inquiry, dated 5 August 2011, which contains a series of numbered questions. I have responded to each of those questions in the equivalently numbered paragraphs below.

- 1 I am the Political Editor of ITV News which is produced by ITN. I have been in my current post since 2005. I joined ITN as an Editorial Trainee after leaving Edinburgh University in 1990 and moved to ITV News as soon as my training was complete. I worked initially on "News at Ten" but was then made Political Producer in 1992. Since then I have been Ireland Correspondent (1993-1996), Political Correspondent (1996-1998), Asia Correspondent (1998-2001), Royal Correspondent (2001-2003) and UK Editor (2003-2005). For all my professional life I have been employed by ITN.
- 2 I follow the guidelines set out in the ITN Compliance Manual and the Ofcom Code which regulates us. I have reported to David Mannion and now Deborah Turness, the Editor of ITV News. I have access to ITN's lawyers if required and support from my colleagues.
- 3 I am responsible for making sure that what I do conforms with the ITN Compliance Manual, Ofcom Code and the law and is ethical.
- 4 To the best of my knowledge they are and I comply with them. I seek to produce ethical journalism and if I have any doubts about any issue I am able to consult to all intents and purposes immediately with our Head of Compliance, John Battle, or an experienced duty lawyer and my Editor.
- 5 ITV News' reputation as an independent news organisation, beholden to no-one and operating to high ethical standards is the most valuable asset we have. The practices used and ethics of the news room have not changed substantially in the 21 years I have been here at ITN. Our culture of ethical and responsible journalism is strong and has remained so in my experience.
- 6 As Political Editor I am only directly responsible for what I put on air, like other reporters. I check sources of information. I ensure that I am satisfied that the story I am reporting is accurate, fair and balanced. I do have a broader interest in and influence on how ITV News

covers politics generally but direct responsibility for our editorial line generally lies with the Editor. I have worked closely with David Mannion and Deborah Turness on political stories and how they are presented to our viewers.

7 If I am reporting a story I am therefore responsible for what sources are used. If one of my colleagues here at Westminster was reporting a sensitive story that was likely to prove controversial I would probably be involved in discussing the sources in conjunction with the Editor. I am the Team Leader as the senior political journalist and have what can perhaps be described as a consultative role in ITV News' politically stories generally (i.e. those that are not mine).

8 Ethics should play a part in journalism. Our journalism should be in the public interest.

9 I have never felt under any pressure to do anything I did not consider ethically right. Executives at ITN's ITV News have always been supportive of me in this regard.

10 I have no such financial incentive to provide exclusive stories as my remuneration package is determined by my general performance over the year. As Political Editor I am frequently on air reporting upon or discussing political stories.

11 I do not use private investigators and I do not pay sources and am unaware of anything like this at ITV News.

12-15 Not applicable to me.

16-17 Not applicable to me.

18 I have only published stories that have come from legitimate sources (usually private conversations with individuals working in the public sector in one role or another) about matters of public interest. As a political journalist my reports do not unnecessarily intrude into the private life of individuals in the way that, perhaps, a reporter who does stories on celebrities might.

19 No.

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

Signed:
Tom Bradby

Dated: