

FDA Witness Statement to the Leveson Inquiry

This statement has been prepared by Jonathan Baume, the General Secretary of the FDA.

1. Since 1997 I have been the elected General Secretary of the FDA. I joined the FDA as Deputy General Secretary in 1989, previously working at the TUC specialising in employment law and equality issues.
2. The FDA is a trade union and professional association for the UK's senior public servants. Our membership is over 18,000 and includes government policy advisors, diplomats, tax professionals, economists, statisticians, lawyers and other professionals across government and the NHS.

With reference to the Metropolitan Police Service, our membership is small in relation to other organisations; therefore our comments are quite limited.

FDA's role is to

- Promote efficient public services
- Encourage debate on the future of civil and public services
- Speak up for members in the press and other media
- Brief politicians in UK Parliaments and Assemblies
- Work with government to improve civil service skills

FDA also

- Negotiates pay for members covering over 100 employers, including submitting evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body
 - Negotiates terms and conditions
 - Provides professional help to members on workplace issues including appraisal problems, grievance and disciplinary matters, contractual matters, discrimination
3. As the General Secretary my role is to provide strategic and policy direction for the FDA on issues of concerns to members individually and collectively with their employers and the Government.
 4. A person is qualified for membership of the FDA if he or she is:
 - i. Employed by a government department or agency in unified grades 7 or above, or the equivalent of these grades.
 - ii. Employed within the health service at band 8 or above
 5. There are currently 51 FDA members of Metropolitan Police Service Staff and Senior Staff.

6. FDA does not represent any staff from police forces other than the Metropolitan Police Service.
7. This is not an issue which impacts on FDA members.
8. FDA does not issue any guidance to its members in relation to dealing with the media
9. FDA members do not seek guidance from the FDA in dealing with the media, unless there is a public dispute with their employer.
10. We do not have sufficient information to provide a comment.
11. I am not aware of any particular challenges faced by members.
12. This is not an issue which the FDA has experience of, therefore not in a position to comment.
13. This is not an issue which the FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to comment.
14. FDA is not aware how common 'off the record' conversations with the media are.
15. This is not an issue which the FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to comment.
16. FDA doesn't give guidance to members concerning 'off the record' conversations with the media
17. FDA members do not tend to seek advice on 'off the record' conversations with the media.
18. This is not an issue which the FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to comment.
19. Over the last 5 years, I am not aware of any FDA member who has been investigated following an allegation of leaking information to the media or private detectives.

General Matters

20. This is not an issue which FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to provide any comment.
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25. This is not an issue which FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to provide any comment
26. This is not an issue which the FDA has been involved with or has experience of, therefore not in a position to comment.
27. This is not an issue which the FDA has been involved with or has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to comment.
28. This is not an issue which FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to provide any comment
29. This is not an issue which FDA has experience of, and therefore am not in a position to provide any comment
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