

The Leveson Inquiry

Associated Newspapers Limited

Recent Public Interest Campaigns

1. At the directions hearing on 3 April 2012, the Chairman made the following statement:

"on a number of occasions it has been suggested to me that I have not paid sufficient attention to the good work of the press. Perhaps that's an inevitable consequence of the terms of reference of the Inquiry, but in order that nobody can suggest that I have paid insufficient attention to that aspect, I will invite any title that wishes to submit what they perceive to be their top five public interest stories over the last few years, merely to reflect the other side of the coin."

2. The Daily Mail is Britain's foremost campaigning newspaper, whether championing causes, fighting injustice or raising millions from generous readers to help those in real hardship. It is a newspaper that has never been afraid to stand up against injustice, often in difficult and even dangerous circumstances. Success in some campaigns has taken a decade to achieve victory. In others the campaigns have been fought at no small risk to the newspaper and its staff, whether targeting Irish Republican terrorists or risking very damaging legal actions.
3. This submission is provided on behalf of Associated Newspapers Limited in response to the Chairman's invitation and provides some examples of the campaigns that its titles have conducted in the public interest in recent years.

A. Stephen Lawrence campaign

4. When the prime suspects were acquitted of Stephen's murder in south east London in 1997, the Mail took up the case. A front page proclaimed 'Murderers,' and accused the suspects of the crime and printed their pictures.
5. Under a headline: *'The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us'*, the paper effectively challenged the suspects to sue. They didn't.

6. After new DNA developments, two of the suspects were found guilty of the murder at the start of this year.

B. Omagh Appeal

7. Two years after the 1998 atrocity, in despair that the killers were still at large, devastated families approached the Daily Mail in a final attempt to win justice for their loved ones killed in the Omagh bombing.
8. The Mail, which accused British justice of a '*shameful betrayal*', appealed to its readers and received support across the religious and political divide, raising £1.2 million to fund a landmark civil court action. In June 2009, the family finally succeeded when a historic Belfast court ruling awarded them more than £1.6million in damages against the four Real IRA terrorists they accused of tearing their lives apart when 29 people, including the mother of unborn twins, were killed in the outrage.

C. Gary McKinnon

9. The Asperger's sufferer was facing imminent extradition to the USA and up to 60 years behind bars when the Mail took up his fight in 2009.
10. The campaign, '*An Affront to British Justice*' quickly galvanised widespread support to allow the man who hacked into Pentagon and NASA computers looking for the '*existence of little green men*' to be tried in the UK.
11. Gary remains in the UK today while Home Secretary Theresa May considers his case and his plight has already forced a Government review of the controversial UK/US extradition treaty. The campaign scored a success at Westminster when MPs called for urgent reforms of the controversial treaty.

D. Compensation for wounded servicemen

12. In 2007, the Daily Mail highlighted the paltry sums given to injured heroes by the Ministry of Defence and launched a campaign focusing on the case of paratrooper Ben Parkinson, 24, who lost both legs, the use of one arm, his speech and much of his memory in a mine blast in Afghanistan.
13. After a year of campaigning, the government announced it was doubling the maximum pay-out to the worst injured and in 2010 the Government announced it

was raising compensation for thousands of others badly wounded in the line of duty, backdated to 2005.

E. Block Online Porn

14. In April 2012, in response to the Minister for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport apparently reneging on his promise to require Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to restrict access to websites containing pornographic material, the Mail launched its "Block Online Porn" campaign.
15. Since its launch, this campaign has received widespread support from the public, the media and from across the political spectrum. It has also resulted in the Prime Minister recently announcing a consultation on whether ISPs should be required to apply automatic filtering of pornography.

F. And many others

16. Of course these five omit the many other successful campaigns the newspaper has run. Just a few of them are Banish the Bags; Dignity for the Elderly; Osteoporosis; Alzheimer's drugs; Prostate Cancer Awareness; Flood Aid (which raised a world record £16m for victims of the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami); The £6million Kosovo Appeal; the £5.5million Farm Aid; The Battle of Britain memorial; Coming Home; and Money Mail's campaigns to help readers get compensation from the banks, from the tax man and from Building Societies.

RPC

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