

The individual members of the Inquiry Panel has each made their own declaration. However they are agreed that the following statement is common to them all.

“I do not believe I have any conflicts of interest that would prevent me from looking at the evidence dispassionately and fairly. However I will declare any conflicts should they arise in the future and willingly withdraw from any necessary hearings”

Elinor Goodman

I believe I can be a totally independent assessor as I have never been in close contact with any of the people we are likely to interview, and I have always been known for my independence.

My contacts with politicians have been very largely professional, though I was married to Tony Blair’s former economic adviser. I cannot think of any conflict of interest that might arise.

As a political journalist I did know ministers in the last Labour administration and the two Tory Governments before that. I used to have lunch occasionally with ministers and went to some parties at the party conferences. However, I never socialised regularly with Ministers or knowingly met any of the current proprietors of newspapers, or their editors, except very fleetingly Alan Rusbridger. I once had lunch with Tony Blair at Chequers. I was also a guest at a Downing Street dinner hosted by John Major. Many years ago, I played tennis with David Cameron on holiday. The only close friend who might be a witness is the former permanent secretary at the Department of Culture, Sir Hayden Phillips.

Over the last four years I have been working as a freelance journalist for the BBC and the Mail on Sunday, but I had no dealings with the management.