

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

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MAGGIE CARVER

I, **MAGGIE CARVER** of 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8XZ **WILL SAY** as follows:

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

- 1 I am the Chairman of ITN and UBM's representative on the board. I have 20 years experience of working with boards both in executive and non-executive roles including eleven non-executive directorships. My working life began in investment banking followed by a number of roles in the media industry. I was the Managing Director of Channel 4 Racing and outside broadcast company Global Broadcast, as well as Chairman of SDN Ltd a UK digital terrestrial television multiplex operator. I have also been a non-executive director of Channel 5 and programme producers RDF Media plc. I currently own and manage with my husband a retail mobility business serving the elderly and disabled (Carvercare Mobility Group) and I am a non-executive director of the British Board of Film Classification and the Eden Project. I am the non-executive Chairman of ITN which in addition to its production of ITV News and Channel 4 News for customers ITV and Channel 4 respectively is involved in film archive, multi-media, production and consulting. I joined ITN as a director in December 2008 and became Chairman on 22nd July 2009.

- 2 I am aware of the legal and regulatory framework within which ITN and its main customers work, the Ofcom code and the ITN compliance manual. I have previously worked with Anglia Television and Meridian Broadcasting which were part of the ITV network. The ITN board delegates responsibility for editorial matters to our CEO who delegates to the experienced editors of the ITN produced ITV News and Channel 4 News services and advice is available at every level from our compliance team. The non-executives and I expect information to be drawn to our attention as required. The board meets every two months. Solicitor James Scorer, the Director of Business Affairs and Company Secretary, updates us on issues concerning our regulator Ofcom and any legal claims which we discuss. I am in regular contact with ITN's CEO by telephone and we meet every month or so to consider if there are issues which need to be escalated to the board. In addition to our six board meetings a year we also have, with ITN's wider management team, a strategy day and a December meeting.

- 3 As above (2). I also regularly spend time at ITN to talk to members of the various businesses, sometimes sitting in on Channel 4 and ITV News editorial meetings and generally being available to staff to discuss issues and potentially identify any problems. At editorial meetings I am there as an observer/listener and do not interfere with editorial policy. I believe the editorial meetings are conducted in a lawful, professional and ethical manner.
- 4 As Chairman, I have a role in ensuring that ITN's corporate governance works. I am aware of the ITN Compliance manual, the ITN Health & Safety manual and the Ofcom Code which aim to ensure that these aspects of corporate governance are effective at ITN. I believe that the documents referred to above (which are updated as appropriate) are adhered to in practice to the best of my knowledge.
- 5 I believe that the documents referred to above are adhered to in practice to the best of my knowledge and that the tradition of ITN's editors being actively involved in our news coverage supports this adherence.
- 6 I am not aware that practices have changed.
- 7 The responsibility for checking information lies with the newsrooms, editors and compliance team.
- 8 It is not the board's role to monitor stories on a day to day basis. This is something that the editors (who are giving witness statements to the Leveson Inquiry) are tasked to oversee and do. The continuing good reputation of ITN is important to the board. In the perhaps unlikely event that I would need to be consulted on a particular issue I am contactable pretty much on a day to day basis.
- 9 I believe that ethics does and should play a role in broadcast news and the media and that independence and integrity are important in this context.
- 10 I have not felt any financial pressure with regard to matters covered by the Terms of Reference.
- 11 To the best of my knowledge these issues, to the extent that they exist at all, did not come to the attention of the board apart from the CEO updating the board on 27 July 2011 about the Leveson Inquiry's existence and remit. The board is not employed to influence editorial decisions and does not. But we would not turn a blind eye if we saw or heard of editorial behaviour that was or could be considered to be unlawful or unethical. I have not had concerns brought to my attention.
- 12 To the best of my knowledge, this issue did not come to the attention of the board.
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- 16 To the best of my knowledge, this issue did not come to the attention of the board.
- 17 Editorial meetings are collective. The CEO frequently attends them and I occasionally attend them.
- 18 To the best of my knowledge, I am not aware of this.
- 19 To the best of my knowledge, I am not aware of this.
- 20 I refer to paragraph 8 above.

ITN is not prepared to waive legal privilege.

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

Signed:

Maggie Carver

Dated:

16 September 2011