

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

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF DAVID BROWN

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I, David Brown, c/o Charles Russell LLP, 5 Fleet Place, London, EC4M 7RD, will say as follows:

I have received a letter from Nicola Enston, Deputy Solicitor to the Inquiry asking me to produce a short witness statement and reminding me of the powers of the Chairman under Section 21 of the Inquiries Act 2005 to issue a Notice requiring the production of such a statement from me.

- 1 I worked as a journalist for the national newspaper The People from 1995 to 2006. After termination I had cause, assisted by my then solicitors, to prepare a first witness statement for my Employment Tribunal case. A copy of that confidential witness statement dated May 2007 was supplied to the Leveson Inquiry (not by me) and also leaked (not by me). The statement had been prepared for my upcoming unfair dismissal Employment Tribunal hearing but the matter was concluded in 2007 before that hearing between myself and my ex-employers in a confidential settlement which I have honoured throughout.
- 2 That 2007 statement was true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- 3 I cannot independently verify the general matters that I raised in the second half of my statement and have no other relevant matters which I could add now. The statements about phone hacking were largely based on anecdotal information. I was not involved in any hacking (or phone screwing as it was often called). The only story that I was personally involved in which I believe had any element of phone hacking was the one where I was sent to Stockholm to doorstep a man who I was told had contacted Ulrika Jonsson on her mobile phone. I do not know who hacked the phone and cannot remember specifically who sent me as it must have been over six years ago. Furthermore, I would also like to point out that the Information Commissioner referred to the use of Steve Whittamore by The People (among other publications) in his What Price Privacy? report in 2006.
- 4 I entered into a compromise agreement in 2007 which I have respected and, if asked, would not be prepared to waive legal privilege.
- 5 I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed ..

Dated .. 28/11/11 .....