Annex 2 to Chris Atkins’ Supplementary Statement to Leveson Inquiry

Transcript of secretly filmed meeting between Chris Atkins and The People Journalist Sarah Jellema, 26th March 2009

[Tape starts with irrelevant conversation re the weather]

3. CA d’you live nearby, or...
4. SJP I kind of live all over the place... I’ve, for the last six months my job is quite heavy sales orientated so I’m permanently on the road. And I’ve got friends where I can crash out, so...
5. SJP I know that kind of life. Not really knowing where to go.
6. CA You wake up in a different bed each morning.
7. SJP Takes you a while to sort of orientate yourself.
8. CA What city am I in... I was doing a bit of Googling, have you been at the People long?
9. SJP Well, I was taken on originally as part of the Mirror training scheme. So I’ve been all over the place. So the People officially since, October. But it’s a really small team now. With Mirror group for a while but with the People...
10. CA So, so the bit... are you kind of allied with the Sunday Mirror, the Mirror, or do you just work in the same building or?
11. SJP Well, aligned — we’re officially aligned but obviously ... there’s more than that, the Sunday Mirror and people in direct competition
12. CA Yeah I was gonna say...
13. SJP So yeah everyone ... it’s kind of really weird situation because people are friends and things, and everyone knows each other.
14. CA Yeah yeah yeah ...
15. SJP So we are allied to a certain extent have their own stories and then you see they have separate stories against us...
16. CA Right – healthy internal competition basically
17. SJP Yeah exactly so well er
18. CA Right right right ...
19. SJP It’s still an exclusives game very much
20. CA Right right right... yeah yeah ..
21. SJP So - has anyone else arranged to meet you?
22. CA I’ve .. to be honest with you there were some calls but you were sort of the most kind of quick off the mark to be perfectly honest so ..there have been a few people going ‘yeah yeah yeah’ and I was like ...
23. SJP Too late...! You snooze you lose.
24. CA Yeah yeah you ... exactly so I think that just... just... yeah I liked .. I just sort of liked the sound of what you said and it seemed like .. ‘cos for us not so much the mechanics (?) ... or maybe someone saying to me you know (?) “oh go to the ‘Screws’ cos they always pay the most” “and it’s like”
25. SJP There’s always promise to pay the most

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27. CA Oh really?
28. SJP Mmm it usually is – I mean a lot of our staff have previously come from the News of the World and the reason they moved to the People is just because of the way you have to deal with people who come from News of the World promised them a lot and when they don’t get that.
29. CA Really?
30. SJP As you just said, the contracts themselves are actually
31. CA Not worth the paper they’re bloody written on
32. SJP written the newspaper’s lawyers ...
33. CA Who’s gonna sue Murdoch.yea yeah
34. SJP So erm yeah the News of the World – they can offer more money
35. CA Yeah yeah
36. SJP They will pay more if it’s big and they think it’s worth it – I mean you know if someone turns round and says it’s a thousand pounds for the story - they’ll go yeah ok
37. CA Yeah
38. SJP I mean it turned out you get paid in installments
39. CA And some don’t happen and
40. SJP Yeah well...so just kind of ..
41. SJP Yeah yeah
42. SJP I’m not saying they’ll always do it but just sometimes – we’ve had quite a few people come to us and say the News of the World ’ve messed them around
43. CA Screwed them over and then you guys sort of pick up the pieces
44. SJP Yeah exactly or even, erm, just because they’re taught to play a lot harder they’re letting people choose a lot more than we have
45. CA Right right
46. SJP ... they do have bigger budgets
47. CA Because they’ve got a bigger checkbook
48. SJP Yeah and people will tend to as people said to you go straight there
49. CA Yeah yeah
50. SJP Because they feel they’ll get best deal there – and so they can sort of pick and choose from what’s there more than anything else,
51. CA To be honest with you it’s not so much, I mean obviously we could use the money but, the crucial thing is the confidentiality, that she. I mean - I work in property so everyone hates us anyway, but, she’s a nurse, she’d not just lose her job she’d never ever work again. I mean that’s her life. We’d rather not do it if there was a hint of a hint of a hint that...that could come out. We’d rather take less money in something we trust than more money and have that fuck up.
52. SJP Yeah. And also, you’re more likely to get more money with us because we’re more likely to use it in a bigger way than the News of the World would, because they’ve got loads of stories fighting to get in their front...we might give this, a double page spread whereas in the News of the World you’d get a page...so, you always get paid based on the size...
53. CA Yeah, it’s the size, and how close it is to the front.
54. SJP Yes, exactly, gosh it’s so nice...some people just ask ‘how much are you gonna pay me’.
55. CA Yeah, like ‘give me a million pounds’.
56. SJP They want it signed right there.
For Distribution to CPs

59. **CA**

I don't know how you want to proceed, I mean how, I mean what I want to do is get a feeling for you and if you're serious and you want to do it. And almost build a plan of how, hypothesize, how would this work. In an ideal world.

60. **SJP**

Well - were you wanting me to do a one-time story or do something that takes in other things as and when?

61. **CA**

I mean, I don’t wanna … I think the problem with overdoing it in terms of the number of stories is that it’s … if in every month there’s a story about one of their clients – then someone’s gonna go ‘Hang on a minute… this is a …’ – so I think fewer rather …fewer bigger pay offs basically rather than, you know, one a month – but certainly there’s room to do more, more than one ‘cos they do have …I didn’t know actually… it was only when she started reading out names to me …I was like “fuck” you do deal with some quite big people. So you know I think they even have a… I assume they have a reputation amongst the celebs as this somewhere you can go that takes …maybe it isn’t even the best surgeon, but you know no-one will find out

62. **SJP**

Is it a Harley Street type …

63. **CA**

It’s West London – she doesn’t want me to say anything at the moment which might identify her at this stage – she’s a bit paranoid. Yeah if one… it’s a West London er clinic and they’re - apparently some of these things are just consultations at this stage – but even when they do consultations they will – if the fees right – they will go to hotel or the celeb’s flat or house for that afternoon so you won’t even know, you won’t know, you won’t even see them

64. **SJP**

Wow…(?)

65. **CA**

Yeah yeah the Merc coming up the high street – so they will go to them

66. **SJP**

Ah I didn’t know that- which why you can’t get photographers packed outside the clinic any more.

67. **CA**

So, it’s stuff like that. This is a world I don’t know particularly well... Then she

68. **SJP**

Right

69. **CA**

I don’t know. But she’s now saying “Right I want to do it”

70. **SJP**

Well obviously it’s very legally dodgy, a lot of it … Heather Mills recently sued The Sunday Mirror as they accused her of having a boob job. We’ve been told that story as well and I think it’s true actually… but she’s a very litigious celebrity anyway…erm so a lot of the stuff we might not be able to use but there’s sort of …I was batting round with my news editor who spoke to you before – Tom

71. **CA**

Yep yep
72. SJP — Sort of ideas about how you might do it - ideas of maybe a spread of silhouettes of people hinting who might have done it without actually giving names... Or with some celebrities you might be able to get an agent to say 'Yes it might boost her appeal or something ' 
73. CA ___ Something to get their name in the papers?
74. SJP ___ Yeah if it's going to be - really obvious. But if it's someone like Heather Mills, Victoria Beckham..., who would rather die than have people know they've had work done, rather than eating healthily. So it would all depend, I mean, if you saw the Fern Britton story, you can just expose people like that. It really does depend on the people, what they've had done, and what the lawyers say... it would be dealt with by the lawyers, so... Obviously as well, the first thing we want to know is what back up we have. If worst came to worst. In this case we wouldn't have your ex as backup.
75. CA ___ Yeah, absolutely not.
76. SJP So, that would make it tricky and it would be down to whether you would be willing to stand up and say those kinds of things, but I mean, this is all...
77. CA ___ Well, is there anything else that would work as... cos she's an administrative nurse, I mean she's on... that's what she sees, what she sees is the admin.
78. SJP Well, that's the thing, especially with upcoming things or anything like that, if we know that it's going ahead then we can have evidence from elsewhere really.
79. CA ___ Yeah yeah yeah.
80. SJP If it's things that could easily have been spotted by paps or something like that... we don't need anything else because we've got pictures before and after, this is what she used to look like... the paper will always fight its own battles rather than [inaudible]... sources, because otherwise no one would want to talk to us.
81. CA I suppose, I think the point is if I was going to go her, because she is very... very nervous about this, it's one of those things where y' know, the more I go in very heavy and push it then she'll back off, but at the same time I also want to go in and say, we need A, B, C, D, E and all being well, if they print it, you're gonna get X, and I want to keep it very simple for her. So.
82. CA She will get what we ask her to get and I've said 'Look that's gonna make the story run or not' and I just don't want...
83. SJP ___ Cos a lot of it is just for the legal record
84. CA ___ Yep
85. SJP ___ it's not going to go in the papers ....
86. CA ___ No no
87. SJP ___ Purely for them to know this is genuine you can go ahead ...
88. CA ___ So you need something to prove that it was ...
89. SJP ___ Yeah I'm sure they'll want something - I have no idea what
90. CA ___ Yeah
91. SJP ..they'll want ... it will be something written or whatever. Just something for the file. I'll find out on that sort of basis
92. CA ___ Yeah
93. SJP ___ I'm sure they'll want something ... I'm not sure what exactly
94. CA ___ Some kind of documentary proof, yeah?
95. SJP ___ Yes - just so we're not having that time with them on the Saturday. I mean were you thinking of something for this weekend or for something that might take a bit longer ...
It's gonna take a bit longer

Ok

It's gonna take, this would be a slow burner and I think, cos, she's just sent me out on a sort of initial fact finding mission really, so that's the...and as I said I want to go back with how it's going to work, approximately, or an idea of how it's going to work, an idea of what the money would be per thing and as I said what she needs to do, what she's gonna cough up and then, if I can go to her with that, and you can sort of spin whatever plates you need to and then maybe we can meet again in a week or so and I can let you know and then we can start putting some meat on the bones.

That sounds like the best plan, I was hoping you weren't going to say this weekend otherwise that would make next Friday and Saturday absolutely...

No no, you're safe.

That's absolutely fine.

Even if this runs in two months, we'd rather this runs in two months and it's completely sweet and tucked and no one knows, that's music to my ears. And it's less about the money, I just can't be arsed with the hassle and her finding out or whatever...

If we're talking an ongoing situation, then the payments, they will try and look after you a bit more, to keep you ticking over. Basically, the money goes in monthly. A lot of people always expect it to be in their account the next week, [inaudible]

It took about a month to come through.

What they usually do, if they're stories which are ongoing and potentially we're working on things in the meantime we tend to feed you through money week by week so.

If it's just one thing they'll try and do more payments - sometimes if it's over budget they'll try and split it into separate ....

Presumably there'll be something in writing to ... yeah yeah

Exactly - which we can do however you prefer it done - whether you want a contract or whether you want an email plus... or want faxes signed by ...

Yeah yeah - as I said I'm more a handshakes person than that stuff - but yeah something that's in writing somewhere - and all of it done with me and not with her - yeah – it's ...

Yeah I mean again if it was a splash story you might get £10 grand - if it was a spread it would be near the front of the book it might be £20,000 - it really does depend. If it's just occasional little tips you want to do in standard side columns then it's £100 to £200 or something like that. If you want to do a mixture... whatever works best for you really

Yeah yeah - so if fewer and bigger in a sense I think that's - like because each one is gonna be a ball-ache – just holding her hand and going 'I don't know why I'm doing it' – ‘Yeah - here's the money’ – so

Like you say you've spoken to her about it before and she was a bit .....and could quite easily go ...

Absolutely – and she, to be honest with you, she may well – so don't get your hopes up too much – I might come back to her and say it's time to step up and do this and she might go ‘Err ....’ God, you know what it's like so...
112. SJP: What I want to make her feel is as secure as possible...that’s the thing again because people think it’s sometimes hard to move to - I don’t like saying - a lesser paper but you know what I mean - but a smaller kind of paper. Because they really want to hold on to their contacts so they will move heaven and earth to make sure that that contact is happy - and, you know, to go through all these motions - whereas I heard of someone who was involved in Heather Mills come to me after she’d dealt with The Sun I think it was, and they turned round to her... she’d been doing stories and it got to the point that they wanted a document she couldn’t get...

113. CA: Yeah

114. SJP: And they turned round to her if you don’t get it we’ll speak to her lawyers and tell them she’d been doing the stories.

115. CA: No...

116. SJP: ... and she freaked out understandably just because she wouldn’t get them.

117. CA: ...this thing that they suddenly decided that they wanted

118. SJP: She was terrified and actually I’d heard about it through other people - apparently she was a really good contact great value... she was petrified. People like that make our lives so much harder so I can really understand people being jumpy.

119. CA: Yeah

120. SJP: Some papers will do that.

121. CA: There’s something about the Screws, I don’t know what it is, there’s just something about it. I just thought... The Sun as well, I was just scared of all that.

122. SJP: Yeah, they’re very powerful corporations.

123. CA: I don’t know what it was, I’d just rather take a few grand less and just sleep safe.

124. SJP: The last thing you want to be doing is dreading the morning...

125. CA: The knock at the door, or she’s like... I mean, I work in property so I don’t have much of a conscience, but if she did lose her job and career over, that would, I wouldn’t forgive myself so, know I’d rather it didn’t go ahead if there was a risk of that.

126. SJP: I would prefer that anyway, I’d prefer to make sure that it’s all legally sound, that I don’t want to get lawyers phoning my phone on a Sunday morning [inaudible]

127. CA: Yeah and as I said because they do seem to have a quite decent clientele list it’s like have a look and say ‘well maybe not that one ‘ you know in terms of... I don’t know, I don’t... from my point of view. I don’t care who you run as long as we get the most money and it’s the most secure in a sense so I don’t, you know that some people are massively litigious and some people you’d just love to write stories about so erm...yeah. Do you want me to... do you wanna... ok – well, one of the ‘Girls Aloud’ has had a consultation for a boob job.

128. SJP: Ok

129. CA: Mr. Hugh Grant has had a face tuck of some sort – don’t know when – can’t say when.

130. SJP: Because he was getting a bit jowly...
For Distribution to CPs

131. CA Yeah well that’s – I don’t exactly know what – but something on the face has been done to Mr. Hugh Grant … OK … Rhys Ifans has had a tummy …

132. SJP Who sorry ..

133. CA Rhys Ifans

134. SJP Ok yeah

135. CA Tummy … or …

136. SJP I know you said you didn’t know Hugh Grant but the others’ dates and things like that ?

137. CA I don’t – not…not ..

138. SJP Would you be able to find out?

139. CA Presumably yeah – this is only a sort of …

140. SJP Yeah

141. CA A toe in the water - a sample package as drug dealers call it. $So Mr. Guy Ritchie - chemical peel - whatever that is – as I say I’m no expert on this

142. SJP When you have one of those you can’t leave the house for a few days after one of those. It takes the skin off the face.

143. CA Yeah

144. SJP I just love stuff like this – for my own interest

145. CA Yeah I know but that’s the thing - she did read out a bunch of names that I’d never heard of - so it may be that I don’t really watch television – I don’t really read the papers that much so it might be that there were some people that have – and I didn’t recognize that you have … I don’t know so there might be some checking or you might have to tell me .. I don’t know - it could be that there are some big names on there for you I didn’t recognize - so …

146. SJP Yeah

147. CA I’ve missed erm you’ve got - sort of - the filter of me I’m afraid. Now this is quite funny – I laughed my head off when I heard this - Trudi Styler went in and they did a consultation and they said we’re not touching it. We can’t because she’s had so much done they were like

148. SJP Ha… so that’s Trudy Styler.

149. CA So she hasn’t had anything done – they were like

150. SJP She can’t ..

151. CA Not that she can’t – they were like we’re not , we’re not going in there … basically

152. SJP Because it’s too…

153. CA Because she’s had too much – it might fall off … I don’t know. And apparently - this is quite recently - there’s been a consultation with Ricky Gervais for face work. And now apparently they – in these consultations they sit – they have like a big laptop and lots of images. They say – not exactly ‘who do you want to look like?’ but they talk about the nose and they say ‘right’, so they show all these images of other celebs basically – that they say ‘do you want it to be that nose or?’

154. SJP Other celebs that had work done or …

155. CA No no just faces – just faces yeah – they go: ‘Well, I quite like this and I quite like that - and.’

156. SJP So they can say ‘Well I want Brad Pitts’ nose’

157. CA Yes it is almost like that. Anyway apparently Gervais was going through and it’s David Hasselhof he wanted …and this they were all pissing themselves in the office about this …so ..
158. SJP You wouldn’t want The Hoff’s nose...

159. CA I know, I know or it might have been his ears or his nose or his pecs
   – I don’t know – this is all scraps I’ve kind of gleaned but er ..she said ‘They
   wouldn’t be interested in that, would they?’ I went ‘yeah, yeah , yeah , yeah ‘ I get
   that – that’s a headline. So that’s just kind of what I’ve gleaned – so Gervais and the
   Girls Aloud girl are both consultations, as in ‘not done’?

160. SJP Yeah

161. CA And the others - the others are all ‘had done’ – at some point – and
   Trudi ..

162. SJP Trudi..

163. CA Yeah Trudi they turned her down

164. SJP Erm so (mutters through notes) ...do you know which Girls Aloud it
   was ?

165. CA I do – but she told me not to tell you

166. SJP I really want to know - Is it one of the more popular ones or the
   less popular ones?

167. CA By process of elimination – you can …

168. SJP It’s 2 and 2 isn’t it

169. CA Yeah exactly so – er yeah but it is – she swore not to tell you – but
   she said ‘That’ll be enough, that’ll be enough, that’ll be enough’

170. SJP I mean yeah they love Girls Aloud at the office, let’s say we’re
   looking at Cheryl We’d be looking at - if we could say it and get through the lawyers
   – that’s one. And even for any of the others, they’d all make a story – but definitely
   for Cheryl

171. CA So Cheryl would ..that’s interesting

172. SJP As you can imagine cos she’s really famous. But with any of them
   for stuff like that...they all look fine. At the end of the day there’s been talk about
   Cheryl’s weight for a while, she’s never even admitted to having her teeth done –
   which is very obvious when you see photos of her and now they’re all like
   Hollywood smile and so there has been talk about Cheryl about whether she’s had
   any work done. But yeah certainly – I mean all of those ..you can normally try and
   spin that into a story. I mean you’re usually safe with stories like that because there
   are so many leaks from inside that camp anyway that that can come from anywhere –
   and they would probably... usually they reference it by which ones have said stuff
   about their diet, you know, whether they felt it was something they had to do to fit in
   with them... or whether it was to get the big break when they were younger. They
   would probably link all that together so that actually it would feed in nicely but the
   story would expand to the point where It’s not obvious this is the source...

173. CA Yeah yeah

174. SJP You know just he was so much younger ...

175. CA Yeah well exactly – he was out with Elle McPherson wasn’t he? Or
   one them

176. SJP And especially she’s now dating a twenty year-old or something
   ...yeah all of those names are fantastic erm ...

177. CA And what sort of – just out of interest- what sort of money do you
   think for ...
178. **SJP** I would say – it’s funny because your editor can change their mind so fast. I mean with Jade – God bless her finally we’re at an end now – it looks like the front pages are being freed up.

179. **CA** Right, right – she did take residence there didn’t she?

180. **SJP** Yes she really did – and Kerry does her best to take residence every week as well but – I think they’re all … I think Hugh would probably make the front – and again depends on the details and what we could use. Again if we could name everyone… even if it wasn’t Cheryl you could do a teaser on the front and people wouldn’t know until they got inside.

181. **CA** So you wouldn’t even put the name on the front you’d go ‘Girls Aloud’?

182. **SJP** It would depend. If it was her…

183. **CA** She’d be front...

184. **SJP** But if it wasn’t they’d do a teaser, and everyone would be like “ooh is it Cheryl?” And even if it’s not, they’re all attractive girls who actually, there doesn’t seem to be anything wrong, so it’s a bit surprising that they would need anything. Rhys… I’d expect to get at least a page out of that [inaudible]. I know it’s all very ifs and buts, and I could come back to you…

185. **CA** But you’re look, five to ten grand for each one approximately ...

**SJP** I would definitely think so.

186. **SJP** It always helps to be linked on to something new that they’re doing in the news.

187. **CA** Yeah

188. **SJP** But all these people – apart from Hugh… OK he hasn’t been in the news for a while...

189. **CA** He’s Hugh Grant

190. **SJP** Yeah – he hasn’t been in the news for a while but you remember who he is. I think they’d all be interested in everyone of those – umm

191. **CA** And for that would you want something – just so I can tell her that it’s not just her word – there’s got to be – there’s got to be something?

192. **SJP** What as in some kind of ...

193. **CA** Proof – some back up?

194. **SJP** I would definitely go for that I think. Guy Ritchie and stuff… maybe not if it’s not that drastic then… maybe not him (points to celeb) he’s not that litigious. He seems to just let the media run its course. I don’t know how Rhys fans reacts to stuff. Again it will be how much we can get out of the story in terms of… obviously and we’d need all of the nitty gritty we could get.

195. **CA** Yeah

196. **SJP** And back up documents if they were available. If there were any that she thought it’s not worth it for the amount on the story that she would make, then that’s fine. They might want to conjoin them all. We can go through each one individually cos I said they might they might want them all - do a splash on maybe one person and (inaudible) a spread …

197. **CA** I think the thing is if you did that then it’s really… that’s almost what we’d want to avoid. We’d rather have three over a year, and someone’s going ‘is that just… you know’. I’m going to have to talk all this through with her. I mean, you know, she’s not the only person who works there so it’s like, y’know, she is a nurse.
but an administrative nurse so she's y'know quite trusted there so. But anyway, the
more we can put them off the scent the better.

198. SJP With something like, at the first consultation stage, we could work
around that to get to a point where we could get our own evidence that would be
... that obviously the ideal situation, if we y'know, because paps are outside these
people's houses anyway so that would be nothing unusual and you know you can
always say [inaudible]. You can kind of work around it that way and [inaudible]. And
again, celebrities aren't stupid but at the same time

199. CA It's like, yeah, the wider the circle of people it could have been, the
better that's.

200. SJP We'd always have to put call's into their agents or whatever. From
that point of view, we can say 'we have pictures of this, I know for a fact that you
[inaudible] and not even mention anything else... it wouldn't be the first time these
kind of stories have come out, so, I'm sure they wouldn't be too...

201. CA Won't be the first, won't be the last.

202. SJP [Inaudible]

203. CA Obviously there'll be some angry looks in the office and some stern
emails, but d'you know what I mean, if they can't prove it then...

[Inaudible] So, just brazen it out.

204. SJP No I think -- especially -- I mean I think -- between you and me I'm
not supposed to say this to you but I think you're doing the right thing, if they had
everything it'd be like kids in a sweet shop...saying let's just do everything and then
they'd get a bit carried away and it's someone losing their job could be expected

205. CA Well, is expected

206. SJP Whereas now they know that something else is coming - their brains
kick in a bit more. It's not Tom - who's just moved to the desk from being a reporter
so is still very much with the reporter.....

207. CA ... on the side of the source, yeah

208. SJP Whereas it's people that have sat on the newsdesk for a while get
carried away and go into conference with themselves

209. CA They go a bit mad up there - yeah

210. SJP Exactly, all the way up there in Canary Wharf. It's the altitude.

211. SJP She's been there, for ages now?

212. CA She's been there a while, yeah.

213. SJP So that's good as well, if they have newer people...

214. CA They'll probably point the finger, yeah... But then again, I don't
know what it is, she'd probably fallen out with her boss or something that means
she's turned around and..

215. SJP So we need to get this done before she makes up with her boss.

216. CA Absolutely. Absolutely. You know there is...

217. SJP He gives her a pay rise.

218. CA I knew her, we made out, so I knew her quite well. We're still really
good mates, but... so I just kind of, this is really unlike her, to do this, it's really
unlike her, so there must be something so I just wanna get in and get it. I know I keep coming back to the documentation but it’s like if you need...I just wanna go in, [inaudible] you can take a while to even [inaudible] right, while she’s in this mood, go ‘right, bang bang bang bang, I need X, Y, Z. Get me [inaudible] and when the story gets run you will get a very large cheque. Just leave it to me, I will not fuck you over’.

SJP And will she have access to the dates and times...

CA She’s an administrative nurse, that’s what she does...

SJP So she can do that.

CA To be honest, I didn’t think to say that. She called me from home anyway, obviously she’s not going to call me at work, but she called me and so I was like ‘OK, just go through the names and de de de’ so I didn’t think to say like ‘when?’

SJP That’s fine, we don’t need to know that now, but obviously that would help. Dealing with all that. With the consultation ones, they probably would want [inaudible] just so it’s all bang to rights, no one can deny it, we know exactly [inaudible]. If you can get the [inaudible] surgery, and all this stuff. Obviously with certain people, I mean if he’s had a facelift, then he’s going to have to take himself off somewhere so it would be [inaudible]

SJP Apparently the word they say, apparently they say they’re rehearsing. When people say, they’re rehearsing a new film, they’re going to rehearse a new film, that apparently is not filming it yet, when they’re not filming it yet, cos the filming hasn’t started, but for the week or two before, they go on rehearsal and they accept that someone is around or they’re off, but everyone else knows how that is a Bond film or whatever it is that hasn’t started filming yet, so that apparently that’s the thing.

SJP So yup, I think they would be very very keen. So... I can speak to them, and find out how much money we’re talking. [inaudible] I don’t want to name a sum...

CA No no no, it’s ball parks, it’s all ball parks...

SJP I spoke to them before I came down and they wanted names... I know when we tried with the Heather Mills story when we knew what was going on, I know that what they wanted to do then was get them pictures and just something that could reliably prove that she was no longer ‘natural’ shall we say,

CA I don’t think that woman has ever been natural but there’s ....

CA _Em ...-

SJP Again with her they were very very careful. And I think because of her now it ended up with her suing them or whether she just put in a PCC for a complaint for a breach of privacy,

CA Right right right

SJP Which – getting a PCC isn’t great, but a lot of papers just kind of brush it aside – all it is a little apology, somewhere in the paper – you get a slap on the wrists if you get reported by the PCC, but there’s no money

CA Oh really –

SJP Yep – it’s a really odd situation

CA So it’s a slap on the wrist
And the PCC is run by the newspaper editors. Really.

Yes – like self-regulating.

Right of course – yeah I remember reading about this.

It’s really odd. And that’s why a lot of people are saying it’s not enough now to have that but while that’s still there...

So it – even if something is shown to be kind of wrong in the way you got the information and all that – it goes to the PCC – little apology slap on the wrist –

Yeah

We’ve still got our money you’ve got your circulation.

Yes. And your name for a PCC means something to some people.

Oh really

You just… they’re arguing a point but it’s over privacy so you’re just arguing against that point – they’re not saying it’s inaccurate – they’re saying you’ve invaded their privacy. They’ll say “well, because you trade off your body you’re this that and the other…this is why it’s in the public interest to put that into the paper” – inaudible – so in that situation it’s all theoretical rather than what would be needed. So they will tend to take more risks if they think a PCC will be involved.

Right right right

But sometimes some celebrities surprise you how they’ll react to certain things you say – it has to be as watertight as possible – but the lawyers will certainly give me a general insight into documents in erm...

Well so she’s got her fingers on that stuff so

Yep I would be able to let you know that tomorrow or Saturday

Alright

Friday is quite a quite busy day because the lawyers are all about and everyone’s around.

Yeah Yeah

I can sort that out with them, and let you know and then what would be – when would you’d be able to get hold everything … by Saturday?

What – the documents?

Yes the medical (?) documents

Yeah I mean you’re after records – I don’t know but that’s what she does – the thing that I think she was most annoyed about was that she wasn’t doing that much nursing and was doing too much admin – in a sense – but that will work quite well for us erm – so I don’t think it will be long – it’s not like weeks. I think getting her to say yes it’s yes yes yes – and letting whatever the button-pressing things is that is more to tease – but at the moment she’s in that mood and I know what she’s like – so it’s kind of like ...

Taking advantage of that one ...

Yeah

While she’s in that … yeah I can understand that erm – and because you’re a friend of hers as well ...

Yes she trusts me – so – you know – let’s just get her the time she needs – I’ll tell her to get the docs and then we’ve got em then it’s like if she turns on the ‘oh I’m not sure…’ or …it’s we’ve got em in a sense

Exactly – once we’ve got them all on file – the lawyers are happy
Yeah I think - I think you’re right – I think we start with that – and then Yeah yeah
Do it story by story or however Yep
And ... obviously she will know all the details about all the actual celebrities themselves, she’ll know exactly what was done.

She’s done all the - she’s started even talking medical terms to me and I was like you know – I’m writing this down – there’s not enough room on the page, you know . I’ve been - I don’t know much about medicine so – or women’s bodies – so I- yeah just – I just went – tummy, face, name I recognized -boom, boom, boom - but yeah – she can give bloody chapter and verse and she can draw you a diagram presumably – so

Brilliant. Yes so or I mean – some of them should be quite straightforward I would hope

Erm but yeah – just because newspapers are jumpy now with what they’ll say about people. we’ll have to see if we could put a name on that, see if it would be really think it would be worth approaching to see if she would ...

And the other thing as well is if there’s - ‘cos she – she’d shoot me - I also said I wouldn’t say this – but she knows that it’s - perhaps it’s a very very - cos they are so obsessed with secrecy - I mean really, really obsessed with secrecy - she didn’t tell me where she works for years even the name of it -erm - but there’s - apparently - it’s a very very very tightly knit circle – presumably it’s the same with newspapers because it’s the same people kinda going round and round in circles – so it could be that there’s also information that she could find out from other circles about other people ‘cos she’s mates with like - you know, cos they kind of, they go out and drink together – it’s like a really weird clique – they go and drink together so it’s like - I know she goes to drinks with people at the other surgeries because they all just move around the same little kind of gang – it’s almost like you tell me who you , you know, who you want to or who’s interesting because I don’t know who interests or what sells papers but you know I can say to her ‘ By the way keep your ear open for …’ –know what I mean? I know I said Girls Aloud are hot but are there – who would you like to …

Yeah – I think everyone would love to actually nail Heather Mills with something that she can’t come back on them for – but it’s whether people still willing to take the risk that

But she just pissed off all the newspapers so much that everyone’s got a personal vendetta against her – let’s just have her completely banged to rights on something. Lots of people… like Kerry Katona. Another way of looking at it, is the last people you’d expect. Or a funny one – like Ricky Gervais. I think things like that will always do well. There’s no sort of celebrity of the moment. If Simon Cowell popped in, stuff like that. He’s obviously had stuff done.

Eeen I can see that

But again, a very powerful man. It’s always worth trying anyone. I mean one minute Danielle Lloyd isn’t very famous, then the next minute she’s a bit more higher class. [inaudible] It’s one of those things – celebrities come in and out of
favour like anything, so, your best bet is just to hand over the details. I'll speak to them, and if they say 'why didn't you get that?' I can come back to you. And she could...

280. CA: cos then it's more. Weirdly - she actually had less of a problem with that. That's almost kind of gossip that she picked up on the circuit. I say circuit - it's like 5 people, do you know what I mean? Rather than queerring her own pitch, in a sense, then it wouldn't go to her cos it's not kind of her... I just thought I'd throw that out as well.

281. CA: So what do you want to - do you want to give me a call tomorrow or

282. Yes I'll give you my card as well (inaudible) actually you've got the switch board number on there as well so that'll be just ask for me...

283. See, there's no mad rush, cos I can't really take calls when I'm in meetings, or trying to sell people stuff so I'll probably have to say, oh I'll call you back, call you back.

284. When is the best time to catch you?

285. I was just not in London. I mean, to be honest with you, three days ahead I don't know what city I'm going to be in, we're so mental at the moment so, but I'm always on the phone, I don't often sleep, and email as well so that, that's fine.

286. What's your email?

287. I was just going to, and I thought no, just keep it off, because someone I know got in trouble for something on a work email thing. They were just doing something a bit, I think he asked someone for some coke or something. On a work email. They didn't look too kindly on that, funny that. I'm not sure whether this is less problematic, but I'll set up a Gmail. As I said, I'm in London half the week, I just never know which half. So, I kind of believe in doing stuff face to face, so if I can pop by we can just go for a drink and we can just chat and do it that way.

288. That's fine, yes just email.

289. CA: I was just going to, and I thought no, just keep it off, because someone I know got in trouble for something on a work email thing. They were just doing something a bit, I think he asked someone for some coke or something. On a work email. They didn't look too kindly on that, funny that. I'm not sure whether this is less problematic, but I'll set up a Gmail. As I said, I'm in London half the week, I just never know which half. So, I kind of believe in doing stuff face to face, so if I can pop by we can just go for a drink and we can just chat and do it that way.

290. That's fine. I mean, I have nothing going on at the moment, but in terms of if at some point you wouldn't mind going on tape stuff.

291. What, me recording?

292. Yep, just us going through names and stuff I mean again just (inaudible) they always just want us to do...

293. To be honest with you, I'd rather not. I'd rather not. I can say to her 'get me some docs.' I'd rather in a sense do that.

294. I think (inaudible).

295. Then also, cos that's come from the organization, that could have come from anywhere. They wouldn't be able to prove that that's her. But if you've got my voice and they go, 'oh didn't he go out' ching ching ching, you know, someone's going to make a connection. So, yeah, I'd rather not do that.
298. SJP Exactly, and that’s exactly [inaudible].
299. CA There’s two other irons in fires I might have as well, but I won’t talk about them now. I mean there’s one I might retire on actually, but it’ll be a while.
300. SJP I can completely appreciate that you’re gonna want to see how the first story goes. And then you know, go from there. So that’s no problem at all. Their main concern is always exclusivity.
301. CA That’s fine. If I’m going to talk to five journalists, that’s five more people who know me, who know her.
302. SJP [inaudible] there will be something in there that says, provided its…
303. CA Yeah, that’s fine. As I say, if I shop it round that’s problematic because it means more people can know about it, more people can find out who she is.
304. SJP And if everyone runs the story no-one’s going to pay you
305. CA And she gets found out and fired, so it’s a total lose-lose, so you know…And you know for now if you just keep who I am, my name and as many details as possible to you, obviously that stuff got to bounce, but in terms of our situation that’s kind of…
306. SJP Yes, that’s fine, but in terms of any other kind of details, get Tom to put you straight on to me. That’s absolutely fine [inaudible] we’ll take it from there.
307. CA As I said, let’s go through the ones that are most profitable. Even if that means, I know they’ll hate it, but if it means ditching two of them, or three of them or four of them, you know just getting one and in four months we’ll do another one, you know, they’ve had it done, they’re still going to have had it done in four months’ time. The thought of a double page spread, saying ‘look at all these people’ someone’s going to work it out.
308. SJP Yeah, no that’s fine. If there’s any—if it gets to the point where there’s anything I don’t think I can handle, in terms of money and things like that, you’re better off talking to Tom, he’s…
309. CA If I can come back next week and have a drink together, I don’t know if that helps, I mean, I do sales and I do everything face to face. I don’t really do anything, everything I do’s face to face.
310. SJP [inaudible] apparently has a secret love child, I think it could be true [inaudible] his girlfriend back in the 60s.
311. CA So he’s going to be like fifty or whatever, it’s not really a child anymore, it’s a love middle aged man.
312. SJP [inaudible] get some DNA or something, pay all those years of child support.
313. CA I was gonna say, yeah there’s a bill waiting isn’t there. Oh my God.
314. SJP [inaudible]
315. CA Something like that is just a gift for the headline writers though isn’t it, they just get [inaudible] lyrics for every song he’s ever done, and just go something about daddy or something. Yeah.
316. SJP That sounds fine to me. You got any exciting plans?
317. CA A friend of mine I haven’t seen I’m going out drinking tonight, but I’m so tired I’ve been up since six so I’m absolutely exhausted, so I might just go and
get a couple of hours’ kip then go out. You know how you think it’s Friday, I’ve got 
that feeling.

318. SJP I’m still not used to working Tuesday to Saturday. And everyone gets 
all excited on a Friday.

319. CA Once you go to press, you just all go to get pissed?

320. SJP A lot of people do just go out and get absolutely slaughtered on a 
Saturday night, but the last few weeks has been [inaudible], watch, it’s the most morbid 
things in the world, you just [inaudible]. It was just a lot of people...

321. CA Just waiting for [inaudible] to die?

322. SJP And every Sunday paper was doing this?

323. CA What [inaudible] watch?

324. SJP It was the most morbid thing. It was the lowest of the low, when 
you’re just literally sat in an office waiting for someone to die.

325. CA Surely, you know, with Clifford, surely he could have arranged it so 
she, you know, dies on her schedule, you know.

326. SJP [inaudible] there’s a lot of speculation that she’s the new Elvis.

327. CA She will rise and be shopping in Dagenham or something. I know 
people who are saying. I don’t believe, you know, I want to check her pulse.

328. SJP I know, everyone’s like that [inaudible]. With stuff like that, it has 
been a long week the past few weeks, but now it’s usually late nights on a Friday! 
[inaudible] Sunday we wait for any lawyers.

329. CA Really? What so it hits the stands and that’s...oh God.

330. SJP But first editions come out about ten o’clock on a Saturday night. 
Erm, but just some agents obviously [inaudible]...

331. CA Yeah yeah, evening in court. I considered it, I considered at one point 
doing it. It sounds really interesting going into all this...

332. SJP [inaudible] But now, with property, we’re 
not a fucked as other people, but it’s not, the boom time it was. Let’s see how it goes. 
I mean, the writing and that sort of stuff I could do, but going round and finding 
stories, getting people to do a deal, that bit I quite like.

333. CA [inaudible] But now, with property, we’re 
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I mean, the writing and that sort of stuff I could do, but going round and finding 
stories, getting people to do a deal, that bit I quite like.

334. SJP [inaudible].

335. CA I know people at the top of banks, I know people who are lawyers, I 
know people who work - top film directors. I went to the Baftas last year with a mate, 
so, I’m grubbing about at the bottom. But as I said there’s a few I’m kind of going, I 
want to retire on that one, but we’ll see how this goes.

336. SJP [inaudible].

337. CA Well with stuff like that, if you could. There was a guy on the news 
today who’s written a book called “How I caused the credit crunch”. And God, there’s 
some stuff I could, there’s some stuff, but I’d be bang to rights as well, that’s the 
problem, I mean I’d go down with the ship. But I mean I’ve seen some things that 
would just...I mean everyone as doing it, everyone was doing it, and I thought I 
could do it. But something like this is nothing to do with me. I mean Hugh Grant... 
what the fuck’s, I mean I’m not going to get covered in this one, but anything in that 
whole bond, property thing I would just be first against the wall.

338. SJP Always good to keep the ear to the ground. So I will give you a call 
in the morning.

16
339. CA  Well, as I say, no mad rush. I want to get her something. strike while
the iron's hot.
340. SJP  Yeah, well I think out lawyers and desk(?) will be keen on that as
well.

[Rest of tape irrelevant].

The following week Jellem called Chris Atkins (who she thought was Maurice Case) and left
a message on the voicemail of the mobile phone. The message said that they were very keen
to do the stories. She had consulted with her newsdesk and legal team and they had asked her
to ask us to provide a copy of the appointments book of the surgery, or similar, to prove that
the celebrities had been in and what they were in for.