

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005**

**INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES AND ETHICS OF THE PRESS**

**CHAired BY THE RT HON LORD JUSTICE LEVESON**

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**FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF LLOYD WILLIAM EMBLEY**

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I, **LLOYD WILLIAM EMBLEY**, of The People, MGN Limited, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Editor of The People, which is published by MGN Limited ('MGN'). MGN is part of Trinity Mirror plc ('Trinity Mirror').
2. I am making this statement in response to a notice dated 5 August 2011 pursuant to section 21(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005 (the 'Notice'). A copy of the Notice is annexed hereto at pages 1-4 of Exhibit LWE-1.
3. I understand that the Notice has been sent to me in connection with Part 1 of the Inquiry chaired by The Right Honourable Lord Justice Leveson into the culture, practices and ethics of the press (the '**Inquiry**'), the Terms of Reference for which were published by The Right Honourable Mr David Cameron MP, Prime Minister on 20 July 2011 (the '**Terms of Reference**'). The Notice requires me to provide evidence to the Inquiry panel in the form of a witness statement and to provide any documents in my custody or under my control as specified in the Notice.
4. Where the contents of this statement are within my own knowledge they are true and where the contents are not within my own knowledge I indicate the source of my belief and believe them to be true.
5. I am not authorised to waive any privilege on behalf of Trinity Mirror and nothing in this statement is intended to constitute a waiver of privilege on behalf of Trinity Mirror.
6. I understand that Trinity Mirror has been asked to provide certain documents as set out in the Notice. Insofar as I refer to additional documents, these are included in Exhibit LWE-1 to this witness statement, which is now produced and shown to me. I believe Exhibit LWE-1 to contain true copies of the documents to which I refer in this witness statement.

**Overview of statement**

7. The Notice is addressed to me as the Editor of The People. As such, unless otherwise stated, I refer in this witness statement to the period since November 2007 which, as detailed below, is when I assumed the position of acting Editor.
8. The Notice asks me to cover a number of matters and issues. In order to present my evidence in a way which I hope will be helpful to the Inquiry, I deal with them as set out below. In doing so, I refer to the matters as 'Matters', using the numbering in the Inquiry's

Notice. I have also been mindful of the Inquiry's request for additional evidence and of Part One of the Terms of Reference:

- (A) Who I am, my career history and role (Matters 1, 9 and 10)
- (B) Ethics (Matter 8)
- (C) The People newspaper
- (D) The system of corporate governance relating to me as Editor (Matters 2, 3 and 5)
- (E) Adherence to the system in practice (Matters 4 and 19)
- (F) Editorial decision-making (Matter 18)
- (G) Sources of information (Matters 6 and 7)
- (H) Private investigators and other external providers of information (Matters 11 to 15)
- (I) Expenses / remuneration of external providers of information (Matters 16 and 17)
- (J) Documents

**(A) Who I am, my career history and role**

9. In this section I address Matter 1, which asks me to cover who I am and to provide a brief summary of my career history in the media, before addressing Matters 9 and 10, which relate to the financial and commercial pressures and incentives that I am subject to.
10. I was appointed as the acting Editor of The People in November 2007 and promoted to the position of Editor in May 2008.
11. I started my media career as a trainee reporter on a local weekly title called the Daventry Express. I worked there for four and a half years and rose to the position of Deputy Editor. I left the Daventry Express to work for an evening paper called the Northants Evening Telegraph as Sub-Editor and later as the Head of Production. In January 1994 I joined the Daily Mirror as a Sub-Editor and subsequently held a number of different positions, including Deputy Chief Sub-Editor, Assistant Night Editor, Night Editor and Assistant Editor. These were all production roles.
12. There are two main editorial strands to a newspaper: the gathering of content (stories and pictures) and the production. The key roles of the production team are: deciding where to place stories in the paper (in consultation with the editor); deciding how to project the

stories (writing the headlines, selecting the pictures, drawing the pages, rewriting the copy to fit the projection); checking facts and details (for example geographical or numerical mistakes); taking information feeds from a number of sources (staff reporters, agencies, PA etc). The production team then selects the right angle for the paper and writes the story accordingly, ensuring every story that appears in the paper is written in the "house style".

13. In my role as Editor of The People I am ultimately responsible for the newspaper and the stories that are published in it. It is important to me that we produce a top quality newspaper. I encourage a culture of openness in the newsroom as I believe that is fundamental to achieving this aim.

Financial / commercial pressure and incentives

14. Matters 9 and 10 ask me to cover:

*9. The extent to which I, as an editor, felt any financial and / or commercial pressure from Trinity Mirror or anyone else, and whether any such pressure affected any of the decisions I made as editor (such evidence to be limited to matters covered by the Terms of Reference).*

*10. The extent to which I, as an editor, had a financial incentive to print exclusive stories.*

15. The only financial or commercial pressure that I have felt from Trinity Mirror is in relation to The People's budget. I manage a relatively small team and budget. That pressure necessarily affects the decisions I make as Editor, but not in relation to any of the matters covered by the Terms of Reference. I have never felt any pressure in relation to editorial content or editorial decision-making.
16. I do not have any financial incentive to print exclusive stories. I am eligible for an annual bonus, which is subject to a maximum cap, based on the overall operating profit of Trinity Mirror, the financial performance of Trinity Mirror's Nationals Division and my own personal performance. To be eligible for part of my bonus, The People must stay within its budget.
17. As editor I want to produce exciting and engaging newspapers and I want them to sell well but I also have a responsibility for the overall financial performance of the title. Buying an exclusive story doesn't always guarantee a circulation lift so a sense of balance is required. In terms of the title's profit and loss account, the biggest impact I have is managing costs.

**(B) Ethics**

18. Matter 8 asks me to cover the extent to which I consider that ethics can and should play a role in the print media, and what I consider 'ethics' to mean in this context.
19. I consider that ethics do play a role in the production of a newspaper. As explained below, I seek to ensure that my team and I act in accordance with the Editors' Code of Practice (the 'Code'), which is enforced by the Press Complaints Commission (the 'PCC'), at all times. I understand that Trinity Mirror is producing a copy of the Code to the Inquiry (Category B, Tab 1).
20. I believe that I owe an ethical responsibility to the readers of the newspaper. Our staff are expected to behave with respect, common sense and common decency. When dealing with members of the public our staff should identify themselves as reporters and the newspaper for which they work - unless they are dealing with criminals or putting themselves at risk in an undercover investigation. A recent and typical example of ethically correct behaviour followed the distribution of a picture of grieving relatives of one of the miners who died in Wales. On questioning the agency which supplied the picture we established that the relatives did not complain but did ask for no further pictures to be taken. With that information we made the decision not to publish at all. To stress - this was not a picture taken by a People photographer (in fact we do not have any photographers on staff) but one circulated by an agency.
21. As far as I am aware, the majority of the print media industry conducts itself in accordance with the Code and the law. I am mindful that under Part 1 of the Terms of Reference the Inquiry will consider the extent to which the current policy and regulatory framework has failed, including in relation to data protection, and the extent to which there was a failure to act on previous warnings about media misconduct. In my opinion, the regulatory framework has been subjected to recent criticism as a result of a series of events that happened some time ago (and which also led to the establishment of this Inquiry). In my experience there has not been a failure to act on previous warnings about media misconduct.

**(C) The People newspaper**

22. In order to assist the Inquiry and to provide context for the matters I address below, I would like to provide some additional information on The People.

23. The People was launched in 1881 and first published as a tabloid in 1974. The newspaper has a website, people.co.uk. The People is a Sunday paper.
24. The People currently sells more than 800,000 copies each Sunday. The paper is read by more than 1.8 million people. The average age of our newspaper readers is 52. The readership has always had a northern bias, although since mid-2011 we have seen an increase in the number of readers in the south of England.
25. In terms of content, I see The People as a classic 'red top'. The paper provides a combination of news, showbusiness and celebrities, football coverage and real-life stories. One of the unique features of The People is its focus on real-life stories, and our weekly magazine, Take it Easy, is the only real-life magazine provided free with a newspaper.
26. During my time as Editor, The People has launched and run a number of campaigns to highlight issues that are important to our readers.
27. For example, The People has been campaigning for three years to end the scandal of fuel poverty. We secured personal assurances from the CEOs of the Big Six power giants to address the issue, and by working with the industry were able to offer readers £3 million-worth of free energy saving devices - 118,000 standby savers, 50,000 shower gadgets and 500,000 light bulbs – over the course of the campaign.
28. Our campaign was publicly endorsed by then Prime Minister Gordon Brown in October, 2008 - and we produced an eight-page energy saving supplement in partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change ("DECC") and British Gas, fronted by the then Energy Secretary Ed Miliband.
29. Our most notable achievement was to get data sharing between the Department for Work and Pensions and the energy industry. It means that 800,000 of the nation's poorest pensioners will get a £120 rebate on their heating and lighting bills this winter. We did this by working in partnership with the then Pensions minister Mike O'Brien to get an amendment included in the Pensions Bill.
30. As another example, in July 2011 we launched the 'Save the Great British High Street' campaign, which asks the coalition government to take immediate action to support small businesses on British high streets.
31. One of the decisions I made as Editor, with the support of Trinity Mirror, was to re-launch the paper as politically independent, it having historically supported Labour. I took this

decision because rather than being a political mouthpiece I wanted to focus on the readers; for me, the readers are more important to us than any political allegiance and this is why we are proud to be independent. I believe this was the right decision for The People and it has differentiated us from other tabloid newspapers. For example, I believe that prior to the 2010 General Election, we were the only tabloid newspaper to carry full length interviews with the leaders of the three main parties.

32. I understand that under Part 1 of its Terms of Reference the Inquiry will consider the contacts and relationships between national newspapers and politicians and the conduct of each. I therefore provide the following additional evidence.

33. As explained, The People is proud of its political independence and Westminster is aware of the newspaper's stance. I have had meetings with a number of politicians during my time as Editor, including the leaders of the main political parties. In general, such meetings are over a cup of tea or coffee. On one occasion, before the 2010 General Election, I attended a lunch with David Cameron (and Andy Coulson, then the Conservative Party's director of communications and strategy), along with Trinity Mirror's Chief Executive Sly Bailey and the Editors of the Sunday Mirror and the Daily Mirror, Tina Weaver and Richard Wallace. The People's highly-regarded Political Editor has more than 25 years experience working in Westminster and he has also had meetings with politicians and their advisers.

34. I also understand that under Part 1 of the Terms of Reference the Inquiry will consider the contacts and relationships between national newspapers and the police and the conduct of each. I therefore provide the following additional evidence.

35. I do not have any contact with the police and, as far as I am aware, neither does anyone within my team. If a story being worked on requires police reaction we will make contact through the relevant force's press office.

**(D) The system of corporate governance relating to me as Editor**

36. I now address Matters 2, 3 and 5 which ask me to cover certain issues relating to corporate governance at The People, namely:

2. *how I understand the system of corporate governance to work in practice at The People with particular emphasis on systems to ensure lawful, professional and ethical conduct;*

3. *what my role is in ensuring that the corporate governance documents and all relevant policies are adhered to in practice, and if I do not consider myself to have been / be responsible for this, to tell the Inquiry who I consider to hold that responsibility;*

5. *whether these practices or policies have changed, either recently as a result of the phone hacking media interest or prior to that point, and if so, what the reasons for the change were.*

37. As set out above, the UK newspaper and magazine publishing industry has the Code, which is enforced by the PCC, an independent self-regulatory body. Members of the public can address complaints to the PCC if they feel that the Code has been breached. The PCC investigates complaints and, where it finds breaches of the Code, it seeks to resolve them through mediation. In cases where the PCC is unable to resolve the complaint, it may uphold the complaint against the editor of the newspaper in question. Editors, myself included, take PCC rulings against them seriously.
38. I understand that I must act in accordance with the Code and I must make certain that my staff do the same. Each member of staff is provided with a copy of the Code and is instructed by me to read it and abide by it. New copies are provided whenever the Code is revised. As the Editor, I am ultimately responsible for compliance with the Code. I therefore consider that my role in Trinity Mirror's corporate governance system is to ensure that what is published in The People complies with the Code. Of course, in our work we must also comply with the law.
39. Although I am ultimately responsible for the stories that are published in the newspaper, the process of selecting and checking those stories is a collaborative one. I hold a daily conference attended by the heads of department at which we discuss the stories on each department's content list. These lists are produced by each department head in consultation with their staff. Following the daily conference I meet with the Deputy Editor and the two Assistant Editors and we start to plan the paper. We discuss in further detail factors such as whether a story will still be newsworthy by the time of publication, the amount of space that a particular story warrants and where stories should be located within the newspaper.
40. Once a story is written and filed by a reporter it is then analysed by the relevant department head (news, features, sport or magazine). Initial questions about where a story came from (i.e. was it from a celebrity agent, a tip from a contact such as a union official, a call from a



member of the public) take place between the reporter and their desk head. Where a story has been provided by an agency we regularly go back to that agency for further information.

41. The story is then filed to the "backbench" which is where the senior production journalists sit (myself and the deputy editor have seats on this desk as well as our offices). The production team will assist with checking the facts of the story and ask questions of the desk or the reporter if they feel the story is missing any information. This may result in information being removed or further information being added. An important function of the production process is for the story to be looked at with fresh eyes. A good sub-editor will approach a story from a potentially sceptical position. It is part of his or her responsibility to doubt and to question.
42. Trinity Mirror's lawyers are closely involved in the production process and one of the in-house lawyers attends the daily conference. The lawyer will raise any legal issues with me and throughout the production process I will have regular discussions with the lawyer.
43. In addition to expecting me to run The People within the Code and the law, Trinity Mirror imposes constraints on my editorial spend and the amount of expenditure that I am authorised to approve for purchases, contributions and expenses.
44. I am accountable to Trinity Mirror which has ultimate control over my position.
45. In addition, the Board of Trinity Mirror requires me to sign an annual Risk Management Certification to declare that I am responsible for the risks to my business objectives and that internal controls exist so that at any given time they provide me with assurance that these risks are appropriately identified, evaluated and managed. The Risk Management Certification also requires me to bring any matters to the attention of the Board that qualify the declaration or in respect of which it is not applicable. I have attached copies of the Risk Management Certifications I have signed for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 at pages 5-8 of Exhibit LWE-1.
46. I am not aware of any changes to these practices, either recently as a result of the phone hacking media interest or prior to that point.

**(E) Adherence to the system in practice**

47. Matter 4 asks me to cover to the best of my knowledge, whether the documents and policies that I have referred to above are adhered to in practice.

48. To the best of my knowledge, the law and the Code are adhered to in practice.
49. In relation to the sourcing of stories and information, I am not aware of any alleged or actual breaches of the law at The People during my time as Editor. In 2010 there was an internal issue involving certain People staff logging into the picture desk queues of other papers in the group. This was carried out without my knowledge and on being informed of it I recommended swift disciplinary action. The company held an inquiry and appropriate disciplinary action followed. This was an isolated event made possible by the use of a shared computer system.
50. The People has a strong track record of compliance with the Code in practice. Inevitably there are situations in which people disagree with the way in which we have interpreted and applied the Code and our decision to publish stories. The People has a prominent letters page (usually page 14) which gives readers a right to reply. If a mistake has been made and where appropriate we will carry a correction or apology (usually with agreed wording and prominence).
51. Matter 19 asks me to cover whether I or The People, to the best of my knowledge, ever used or commissioned anyone who used 'computer hacking' in order to source stories, or for any other reason. I have never had any involvement in 'computer hacking' and, to the best of my knowledge and save with respect to the internal issue described above, I am not aware of it occurring at, or under the commission of, The People.

**(F) Editorial decision-making**

52. Matter 18 asks me to explain, in respect of editorial decisions I have made to publish stories, the factors that I have taken into account in balancing the private interests of individuals against the public interest in a free press. I have been asked to provide a number of examples and to explain how I have interpreted and applied the public interest.
53. On June 20, 2010 we published a front page story (with accompanying exclusive picture) about cabinet minister Chris Huhne having an affair with one of his aides. Although a spokesman for the Lib Dems told us that they regarded this as a private matter we decided to publish because there was a public interest. Mr Huhne was in the cabinet, was an elected MP, had been married for 26 years and was a father of five. We believed there was a public interest in the electorate knowing about the affair and the potential for Mr Huhne to be compromised because of his actions. Before going to press we spoke to Mr Huhne and his aide about their year-long affair and he issued a statement admitting the relationship and

announcing he was separating from his wife. The focus of our story was the fact of the relationship. We did not publish personal details as opposed to professional details about the aide.

54. On February 15, 2009, we ran a front page story about a 13-year-old called Alfie Patten. Alfie had been featured on the front page of The Sun with the headline "Dad at 13" along with a picture of his "girlfriend" and "their baby". The story received considerable attention, including comments from the Prime Minister Gordon Brown ("I think all of us would want to avoid teenage pregnancies"), then Children's Minister Ed Balls (he said it was an "awful" and "unusual" case, adding: "I want those kids to be safe and also the young child as well, and I want us to do everything we can as a society to make sure we keep teenage pregnancies coming down") and then Conservative leader David Cameron ("It is really worrying in our country today you've got children having children and obviously we all hope that these very, very young children will grow up and be good parents, but frankly parenthood isn't something they should be thinking about. That's what's gone wrong and we've got to put it right.")
55. We followed up The Sun story because we were convinced Alfie did not look capable of fathering a child. The "girlfriend" insisted he was the dad and the local authority had accepted that this was the case. We suggested that Alfie should demand a DNA test (something the local authority had deemed unnecessary). I WANT A DNA TEST was the headline on our story. In the end, a test was done and the results proved that he wasn't the father.
56. This real-life story touched on issues of ethics, privacy and the Code but I believed that we were right to publish, not only in the public interest (based on the failure of the local authority) but also in the interests of both Alfie and the baby. Without our story it is quite possible that a DNA test would never have been done and a 13-year-old boy would have wrongly believed he was a father.
57. In June 2011 we carried a story and pictures under the headline Pole Dancing Aged 3. I believed there was a public interest in the story because of the continuing debate about the sexualisation of children. Child protection charity Kidscape described our findings as "deeply disturbing" and posing "a huge risk". However, on the grounds of what I believed was ethically correct and in the specific children's interest we blacked out or pixelated the faces of all the young dancers and their parents.

**(G) Sources of information**

58. Matters 6 and 7 ask me to cover the following issues:

6. *where the responsibility for checking sources of information (including the method by which the information was obtained) lies: from reporter to news editor / showbiz editor / royal editor to editor and how this is done in practice (with some representative examples to add clarity); and*

7. *to what extent an editor is aware, and should be aware, of the sources of the information which make up the central stories featured in The People each Sunday (including the method by which the information was obtained).*

59. Stories come from a number of sources. A number of stories featured in The People come from news agencies, ranging from the Press Association to smaller regional agencies. Celebrity stories are often provided by a celebrity's agent, although he or she might not want to be identified as the source. There is a small number of specialist agencies that provide us with real-life stories. These may also be sold to us by publicists or sourced by our reporters - for example when a story appears in the news and we see the opportunity for a follow up feature or an interview, we will send staff reporters to the location to knock on doors and talk to the local people. Some stories are provided by freelance journalists.

60. Responsibility for checking sources lies at a number of levels. Where the responsibility lies in respect of any particular story depends on the nature of the story and its prominence in the newspaper. In cases where the nature of the story makes it higher risk, or where it is intended that the story will be a large feature, I would usually question where the story has come from and how it was obtained. Where the story will only be three or four paragraphs long, I would trust that the source has been checked at a lower level (responsibility for which would rest with the news or features desk), although as mentioned, I am ultimately responsible for what is published in The People.

61. The People spends a larger proportion of its budget on photographs than on stories. There are a number of sources for photographs, but the majority come from a small number of agencies that are known to us. We are therefore generally satisfied that they are genuine photographs although we do scrutinise them ourselves to ensure that the photographs are of who they purport to be and were taken where and when they purport to have been taken. Pictures being considered for publication are shown at the daily editorial conference (we have a computer mounted on the wall allowing everyone to see). We discuss their news

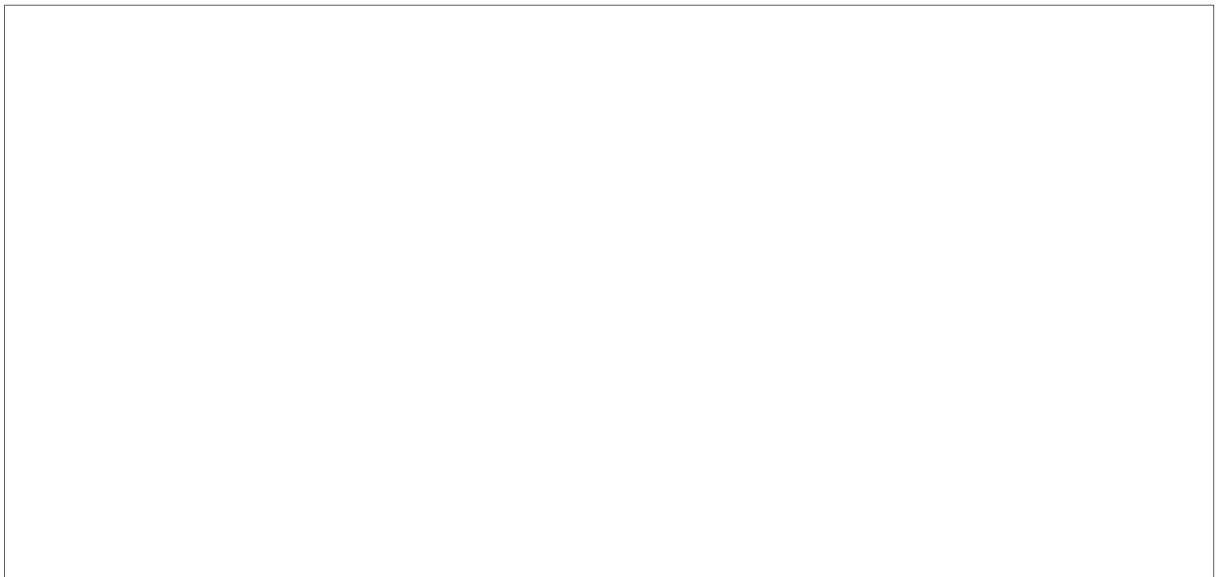
value and, in many cases, the source (usually a picture agency known to us) and where the picture was taken. Since I have been editor at The People the staff know (because it has been explained to them by me and the paper's lawyer) that we need to make an assessment on whether the subject of the picture had a reasonable expectation of privacy. When appropriate, we would also discuss the public interest value of a picture and whether a picture was suitable for publication on grounds of taste.

62. In general, I am aware of the sources of information that make up the central stories featured in The People each Sunday. However, there could be some circumstances in which a reporter would not tell me his or her source. In those situations (as in all situations) I would carefully assess the risk of publishing the story. The risk assessment would be based on wishing to adhere to the Code and the law, and then other factors including the amount that is being paid for the story (if there is a payment), the reputation and track record of the journalist, and the potential commercial consequences of publication. As mentioned above, Trinity Mirror's lawyers are involved in the production process and any legal issues can be raised with them. The final decision can sometimes be a matter of gut instinct based on years of experience.
63. As the Editor, I am ultimately responsible for what is published in The People and as such I must ensure that sources of information are legitimate. I trust my team to do a professional job and, on larger stories, I will carefully assess the risks associated with the story before making a decision on publication. If there was ever any doubt on this matter, the convictions of Clive Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire in 2007 sent a message to journalists that transgressions of the law would be discovered and prosecuted. As explained above, I encourage an open culture in The People's newsroom.
64. I set out below some examples that describe the process of checking the source of the information and the decision on whether to publish the story
65. In July 2011, we were approached by an agency with a tip about a man who had fathered lots of children with different mothers. The source of the tip was the man's mother, who wanted to stop her son Jamie's feckless ways. We spoke to the mother, Lorraine, to gain a synopsis of the story. Lorraine gave details of as many grandchildren as she could, including children's names, mums' names and dates of birth and also some pictures of some of the children. She also informed us that one mum, Paula Ryan, was prepared to go on the record with her side of the story. We then interviewed both Lorraine and Paula. We also did birth certificate checks on the information we had been given. Jamie was named as the

father on six certificates. We were unable to access three certificates as Lorraine was unaware of the mothers' names. Five did not include Jamie's names on the certificate. One baby is yet to be born. We approached all of the mums where Jamie was named on the certificate to ask if they wanted to speak to us on or off the record. We also approached the mums of those where Jamie was not named as the father and asked them the same question. The reporter also approached the mum-to-be. Many of the mums did not want to speak on the record but were happy to confirm Jamie was the father and gave us details which backed up Lorraine and Paula's stories. The mum-to-be did not want to comment either on or off the record. The reporter then approached Jamie and asked him if he wanted to give us his story. He did not.

66. I decided the story should be published but that we should only use the names of the mums who were happy to be identified – Paula Ryan and Kelly Anne Dulley. Their children were also named and pictured – Samantha and Cayden. We did not name the mums or children who did not state categorically that they were happy to be named. We blacked out all these names in the story. We did have pictures of some of these children and I took the decision to use the images but to pixelate them all. A copy of the relevant pages from The People on 7 August 2011 is annexed at pages 9 – 12 of Exhibit LWE-1.

67.



**(H) Private investigators and other external providers of information**

68. I now address Matters 11 to 15, which ask me to cover the following issues relating to private investigators and certain other external providers of information as sources:

*11. whether, to the best of my knowledge, The People used, paid or had any connection with private investigators in order to source stories or information and / or paid or received payments in kind for such information*

*from the police, public officials, mobile phone companies or others with access to the same; and if so, details of the numbers of occasions on which such investigators or other external providers of information were used and of the amounts paid to them;*

*12. what my role was in instructing, paying or having any other contact with such private investigators and / or other external providers of information;*

*13. if such investigators or other external providers of information were used, what policy / protocol, if any, was used to facilitate the use of such investigators or other external providers of information (for example, in relation to how they were identified, how they were chosen, how they were paid, their remit, how they were told to check sources, what methods they were told to or permitted to employ in order to obtain the information and so on);*

*14. if there was such a policy / protocol, whether it was followed, and if not, the practice that was followed in respect of all these matters; and*

*15. whether there are any situations in which neither the existing protocol / policy nor the practice were followed and what precisely happened/failed to happen in those situations, and what factors were in play in deciding to depart from the protocol or practice.*

69. To the best of my knowledge, during my time as Editor, The People has not used, paid or had any connection with private investigators in order to source stories or information.
70. Nor has The People, as far as I am aware, paid or received payments in kind from the police or mobile phone companies in order to source stories or information.
71. In relation to public officials, The People occasionally invites politicians or Members of Parliament to be guest columnists or to provide commentary pieces for the newspaper. I am not normally directly involved in this process, which would be dealt with by our Political Editor and is in any event very rare. Trinity Mirror only makes payments to contributors when they are specifically requested and accordingly, in some circumstances, the newspaper pays a small fee to politicians for their contributions. There is a record of every payment made for a story, although it is not broken down by reference to the

occupation of the recipient of the payment. We would not make such payments to Ministers or frontbenchers. Similarly, The People may on occasion make payments to members of the military for a first person article on a specific subject. Patrick Mercer is an example of an MP and former member of the armed forces who has been paid for writing first person pieces for The People. I have attached an example of one such article at page 13 of Exhibit LWE-1.

72. As far as I am aware, The People has not paid or received payments in kind from any other public officials.
73. In relation to other external providers of information, The People uses freelance journalists. We have a small number of staff reporters so we use freelancers as and when required. The use of freelancers is managed by the desk heads.
74. The People does on occasion use the services of search agencies to obtain publicly available information such as birth and death certificates, divorce records. Employees are aware that search agencies may only be used for publicly available information. As explained, The People is a small team with a small number of reporters and so search agencies are occasionally used as an efficient means of supporting our resourcing.
75. In using search agencies the Newsdesk or Features desk would contact the agency to request a specific item (e.g. a birth or death certificate) in relation to a named individual and the agency would then invoice The People for that service. Invoices clearly state the service provided and the fact that it is a public search. Invoices are logged on the accounts payable system and my authorisation is required for the payment.

**(I) Expenses / remuneration of external providers of information**

76. Matters 16 and 17 ask me to cover:

*16. the extent to which I am aware of protocols or policies operating at The People in relation to expenses or remuneration paid to other external sources of information (whether actually commissioned by the Sunday Mirror or not), other than 'official' sources, such as the Press Association; and*

*17. the practice of The People in relation to payment of expenses and/or remuneration paid to other external sources of information (whether actually*



*actually commissioned by The People or not), other than 'official' sources, such as the Press Association.*

77. Trinity Mirror has a protocol for the approval of payments to external sources of information. Depending on the level of payment, payments must be authorised by a manager, the Deputy Editor or me. Beyond my authorisation limit, I must seek approval from the Managing Director of the Nationals Division, Mark Hollinshead. I cannot now recall any occasion on which such approval was required. Staff on The People do entertain their sources and would generally reclaim this as an expense from Trinity Mirror.

(J) **Documents**

78. The Notice includes a request to me to provide any policies or protocols to which I have referred and any details or documents relating to 'expenses' paid to private investigators and / or other external sources of information. I have interpreted 'expenses' as referring to 'payments' for information or stories. I understand that Trinity Mirror is providing documents within this category. To the best of my knowledge having checked, I do not myself hold to hand documents responding to the Inquiry's request.

Signed...



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**Lloyd William Embley**

Dated: 14 October 2011