

**G. Brown**  
**First Statement**  
**"GB1"**  
**30 May 2012**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE,  
PRACTICES AND ETHICS OF THE PRESS**

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**EXHIBIT "GB1"**

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**This is the exhibit marked "GB1" referred to in the witness  
statement of Gordon Brown dated 30 May 2012.**

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 24 December 2009 11:01  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: [REDACTED]

please send by e mail direct to RUPERT MURDOCH

RUPERT

Afghanistan and foreign policy

I welcomed our conversation about foreign policy issues when you were in London - but I thought I should draw to your attention the latest attack today from the Sun on our foreign policy: it is yet another attempt to justify the Sun's summer campaign alleging my lack of leadership over Afghanistan. The article states: 'Her (Mrs Manning's) comments echo the The Sun's Don't You Know There's A Bloody War On campaign, which calls on PM Gordon Brown and his Government to pull their heads out of the sand and offer real leadership during the conflict'

Title: Hero girl's mum: Ministers 'thick'

Story: THE mother of the first woman soldier killed in Iraq has slammed the Government - branding ministers THICK. Elsie Manning accused the Ministry of Defence of failing to support grieving families. She hit out as fury erupted after Gordon Brown was told he will not give evidence to the Iraq war inquiry until AFTER the general election. Mrs Manning said: "The MoD are not interested. To them, our kids are numbers. If only they would listen to us, answer our questions. We actually went to see Des Browne when he was defence minister, and asked quite a few questions. He came out with a stupid quip like, 'Well I don't know anything until I'm told'. I mean, how thick are these people?" Her daughter, Staff Sgt Sharron Elliott, 34, died when her boat hit a bomb mounted on a bridge near Basra in November 2006. Mrs Manning, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, said: "The parents are more or less forgotten. After the inquest, some families have heard nothing since." Asked what support she had been offered by the MoD, Mrs Manning replied: "None whatsoever." She said her local MP, Foreign Secretary David Miliband, has "never once knocked on my door". But she praised the Army - saying it is always there for families.

Her comments echo the The Sun's Don't You Know There's A Bloody War On campaign, which calls on PM Gordon Brown and his Government to pull their heads out of the sand and offer real leadership during the conflict. Asked if she thought Sharron had died for a good cause, Mrs Manning said: "No. The inquiry has just highlighted it was an unnecessary war."

Iraq inquiry chief Sir John Chilcott put off appearances by the PM and Mr Miliband to make sure the hearing is not used for "political advantage" before voters go to the polls.

Tories, who feared ministers had nobbled the probe, blasted the move.

Mrs Manning spoke out as LANCE Corporal Christopher Roney, 23, from Sunderland, who had a five-month-old son called William, was named as the second suspected friendly fire victim in Afghanistan.

I wish Wendi you and Chloe and Grace a happy Christmas Gordon