

<p>1 Thursday, 12 January 2012                  2 (10.00 am)                  3 (Proceedings delayed)                  4 (10.07 am)                  5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Good morning.                  6 MR JAY: Two preliminary matters, if I may.                  7 First of all, the running order for today. The                  8 first witness will be Nicole Patterson, then                  9 Dawn Neesom, then Hugh Whittow, then Peter Hill, then                  10 Paul Ashford and then Richard Desmond.                  11 Secondly, I need to, as it were, read into the                  12 transcript statements from the last two or three days,                  13 which we are taking as read.                  14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.                  15 MR JAY: By which I mean we have read. In relation to the                  16 Independent and the Independent on Sunday, these are the                  17 statements of Louise Ann Hayman, John Mullin and                  18 Stefano Hatfield.                  19 In relation to the Financial Times, John Ridding,                  20 Lisa MacLeod, Scott Henderson, Tim Bratton and                  21 Alison Fortescue.                  22 In relation to Associated News, it's Kevin Beatty                  23 and James Welsh.                  24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's important that we do this                  25 because that's the indicator to the public that these</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 A. Not the magazines.                  2 Q. Thank you. You've also provided six exhibits to your                  3 statement, some of which we will look at in due course.                  4 As for your career, Ms Patterson, you qualified as                  5 a barrister, then worked at the criminal Bar?                  6 A. Yes.                  7 Q. You then went to the Express in 2002. You returned to                  8 the Express after maternity leave and time off in 2006,                  9 and then after a diversion, if I can put it in those                  10 terms, to a firm of solicitors, you returned full-time                  11 to the Express in 2008 and now you're head of legal,                  12 have been since May 2011?                  13 A. I started as a night lawyer in 2002 when I was there                  14 until -- in 2006 I started a three-day week.                  15 Q. Thank you.                  16 A. And then left and then came back full-time.                  17 Q. Thank you. We, of course, have read your statement                  18 carefully. I'm just going to alight on a miscellany of                  19 points, certainly by no means all of them.                  20 Can I ask you about paragraph 8 and the example                  21 you've given us about the Sunday Express running a piece                  22 on baggage handlers at Gatwick Airport and an                  23 application form for security clearance had to be                  24 completed. I was interested in the sentence:                  25 "I advised the reporter on how to complete the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 statements are now considered part of the record of the                  2 Inquiry, and will be available on the website for all to                  3 read.                  4 MR JAY: Thank you.                  5 The first witness, therefore, is Nicole Patterson,                  6 please.                  7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.                  8 MR JAY: Who is under tab 8.                  9 MS NICOLE PATTERSON (sworn)                  10 Questions by MR JAY                  11 MR JAY: Your full name, please?                  12 A. Nicole Patterson.                  13 Q. Thank you. In file 1 of those bundles in front of you,                  14 you'll find under tab 8 a copy of your witness statement                  15 dated 16 September of last year.                  16 A. Mm-hm.                  17 Q. You've appended to it a statement of truth and you've                  18 signed and dated it; is that correct?                  19 A. Yes, that's correct.                  20 Q. So you explain you're the head of legal at Express                  21 Newspapers. Does that include all the Northern &amp; Shell                  22 titles?                  23 A. The four newspapers, the Daily Express, Sunday Express,                  24 Daily Star and Daily Star Sunday.                  25 Q. Yes, but not the magazines, I understand?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 application form as honestly as possible."                  2 Could you help us a little bit with that, please,                  3 because presumably a degree of dishonesty was involved?                  4 A. That was what I was trying to avoid.                  5 Q. Okay.                  6 A. That's what I said to him:                  7 "If you apply for the job as a baggage handler, you                  8 have to complete the application form as it is."                  9 That was my advice to him. As I said, I don't know                  10 what happened to the -- whether any story was -- whether                  11 any story came out of it or whether in fact they did do                  12 that, but that was always my advice.                  13 Q. Did you see -- presumably you did see the application                  14 form?                  15 A. I saw the application form, but I don't know whether he                  16 completed it and I don't know whether he actually                  17 applied for a job. It was just something that they were                  18 asking my preliminary advice upon.                  19 Q. Okay.                  20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Would you expect to be involved in                  21 the merits of -- the use of subterfuge in any particular                  22 case? Would that fall as part of your responsibilities?                  23 A. If they came to me for advice on anything they were                  24 planning to do, then yes, but I was never asked to                  25 advise on it. That was the only thing --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, no, no, just generally.  2 A. Mm.  3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I mean, that's part of your remit?  4 A. Yes, it is.  5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Because we've seen a number of  6 lawyers and some say, "Yes, that's within my remit", and  7 others say, "No, no, that's editorial, not within my  8 remit".  9 A. It is within my remit if they come and ask me about it  10 but I can't do anything if they don't ask me about it.  11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, even I recognise that. Yes.  12 MR JAY: If a form had been completed, which you don't know  13 whether it had been --  14 A. No.  15 Q. -- would you expect, however, to have been asked for  16 your advice on the final version of the form?  17 A. Yes, I would.  18 Q. Did you say that to the journalist involved? Make that  19 point clear to him or her? Presumably a him in this  20 case.  21 A. Well, he was asking me about completing it, "What should  22 I do, how should I say this, what should I say to that?"  23 and I gave him my advice and away he went, but I didn't  24 see whether he had in fact completed it or applied for  25 the job.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 A. No. When I say "large or unexplained", the largest  2 unexplained payment I think we came across was about  3 GBP 1,500 or 1,600, which in terms of our spend is very,  4 very small.  5 Q. Apart from carrying out a financial investigation, which  6 you detail quite clearly in your statement, has your  7 investigation extended further, for example interviewing  8 journalists who were working at the paper at the  9 material time, interviewing editors? Can you explain a  10 bit more what's been going --  11 A. Not formal interviews, but we -- I asked the news  12 editors and editors as well, and deputy editors, for  13 names of search agents or private investigators that  14 they had used, then we used those names to search in our  15 accounts, but the names that we had, you see in my  16 statement, they're companies Express Locate and  17 SystemsSearches, and that was all I had.  18 Q. Right. Can I ask you about the five agencies. This is  19 paragraph 18. The second one, JJ Services, is that  20 Mr Whittamore's company?  21 A. I believe it is.  22 Q. It's clear from documents we are going to look at that  23 your company was engaging JJ Services in 2004 and 2005;  24 is that right?  25 A. Mm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Q. Thank you. Can I ask you about the internal  2 investigation which was carried out or is still being  3 carried out into phone hacking, blagging and related  4 issues?  5 A. Mm.  6 Q. This starts at paragraph 15, Ms Patterson, at our  7 page 01533. You decided to carry out an internal  8 inquiry. The first meeting took place on 26 July and  9 you'd been leading it?  10 A. Yes.  11 Q. You tell us at least at that stage it was still at  12 a very early stage. We're now some months on and  13 presumably things have advanced. Is that so?  14 A. Well, we haven't found any evidence to suggest that  15 anybody was doing any phone hacking or anything of that  16 nature, no.  17 Q. Okay. It's not entirely clear how far back you're  18 going. Are you going to 2005 or are you going to the  19 year 2000, which is when Northern &amp; Shell acquired these  20 titles?  21 A. We went to the year 2000.  22 Q. Thank you. In paragraph 16 you say:  23 "I have been particularly concerned with any large  24 or unexplained payments."  25 Have you found any such payments?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Q. Is JJ Services still being used?  2 A. I don't know the answer to that.  3 Q. How do you know the methods deployed by any or all of  4 these search agencies, in particular if they are illegal  5 methods?  6 A. I don't.  7 Q. But in terms of your remit, Ms Patterson, an internal  8 inquiry into, amongst other things, blagging, it might  9 be said you ought to be approaching these agencies to  10 get an explanation of how they carry out their business.  11 Would you agree?  12 A. You might say that. We -- the way that it operated was  13 that the news editor of the day went into morning  14 conference with the editor, picture editors and  15 everybody, everybody concerned with the production of  16 the newspaper. They would decide on the agenda for the  17 day, on the stories that they wanted to cover, what was  18 in the news, what was coming up. The news editor would  19 then -- as I understand it, the news editor would, as it  20 were, divvy up who was going to be covering what story,  21 and the reporters would go and they would do what  22 they -- what they -- how -- do their own research.  23 As I understand it from the news editors and  24 reporters, as they have told me, we don't have systems  25 to -- search systems and that kind of thing internally,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 and they would ask for details of how to contact people 2 or addresses or whatever it was, but I -- at the time 3 that we were looking at, I don't think anybody had 4 really asked, "How do you do this? How do you find your 5 information?" They were -- as far as we were -- well, 6 I can't say as far as we were aware because until we 7 started having a look at this, I didn't even know that 8 we used these search agencies.</p> <p>9 Longmere Consultants, Searchline, SystemsSearches 10 and Express Locate are all names of search agencies that 11 I know that are used by law firms to find and serve 12 people with papers, and totally legitimate as far as 13 I was aware, and I'm not sure that when you employ 14 anybody that you ask in great detail whether they -- how 15 they go about doing what they do. You employ a company 16 to do something for you and you expect that they would 17 do it within the law. You expect that. Not that you 18 don't care. You expect it.</p> <p>19 Q. Maybe one hopes that, Ms Patterson? 20 A. Well, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't say that. I would say if 21 I employ a company to do something for me, then I expect 22 that they would do it professionally and within the law.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you know the nature of the information these search 24 agencies were obtaining for Northern &amp; Shell? 25 A. No. No, I don't. Sometimes the search was -- just the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 report. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And we know that JJ Services was really the focus of 4 both reports? 5 A. Mm. 6 Q. Did you carry out more detailed enquiries in relation to 7 the activities of JJ Services in 2004 and 2005 of both 8 the financial records and the journalists? 9 A. No, we didn't. In the table that appears in the second 10 report, I think as a group we were mentioned in I think 11 about 63 searches that we had asked Steve Whittamore to 12 do. I'm not sure what -- over what period that was. It 13 was prior to 2005, certainly. 14 We tried to marry up to the two, but, as I said, 15 it's almost impossible to do that. 16 Q. We'll spend a little bit of time, but not much, looking 17 at the exhibits. I should ask you about the last 18 sentence of paragraph 20, because some words are clearly 19 missing. Maybe if you can just add them back in for us. 20 Just look at that sentence, please. It doesn't at the 21 moment make complete sense. 22 Is it something along the lines: 23 "If the work is more time-consuming, the fees will 24 not be a set fee but will be subject to negotiation, and 25 the vast majority of these fees are below £500."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 subject matter of the search is detailed and sometimes 2 it says "confidential enquiries" but it's impossible to 3 marry up a story with a search. We tried as much as we 4 could, but even when we were able to marry up the dates 5 and stories, it's impossible to tell from the article 6 that appeared in the newspaper what information was 7 gathered.</p> <p>8 Q. Well, one could ask in those circumstances the 9 journalist involved, if still at the paper, to assist, 10 could one not? 11 A. One could ask the journalist to assist when we had 12 a look at the lineage sheets and I went to the 13 journalist and said, "What was this for?" -- you know, 14 it's so far back, they don't remember. More often than 15 not, it was GBP 75, GBP 80, GBP 100. It's very little 16 money, according to our kind of spend. So they would 17 just be basic computer searches for names and addresses, 18 things like that. That's as far as we were able to take 19 it. 20 Q. Okay. You presumably had in mind the two reports from 21 the Information Commissioner, "'What price privacy?' and 22 "'What price privacy now?'" 23 A. Mm-hm. 24 Q. The papers in the Express Group do feature in the 25 Information Commissioner's table in the second reform</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 Is that how -- 2 A. I have no knowledge of how the fees were negotiated. 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: We're trying to understand the 4 sentence, actually. 5 A. Oh. Possibly, mm. 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's your sentence. 7 A. It is. Always when one writes a statement, when one 8 reads it back, sometimes it's like this. 9 It did appear from the searches -- the financial 10 searches that we did into our records, that there were 11 a lot of similar amounts, GBP 75, GBP 83, whatever. So 12 I took it from that that that was a similar type of 13 search each time that they were asking for from 14 a particular database and sometimes there are fees that 15 were a little higher, sometimes there were fees that 16 were more than £1,000. So I took it from that that if 17 the fee was a little higher, that it was a different 18 type of search or it was subject to a negotiation, that 19 kind of thing, but I had no hand in doing those 20 negotiations. 21 MR JAY: Let's just see if we can deduce anything further 22 from the exhibits. Maybe we can't. If you could go, 23 please, to NP2, which is under tab 10, and the first 24 page, 01549. Here we're looking at Express Locate 25 International Limited, an invoice which was paid on 31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

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<p>1 January 2005. We can work out the rest. It's just the 2 VCHR line description, that is the subject of the 3 article, is it, or the story? 4 A. I believe so. 5 Q. But I think that's all we can deduce. We can't work out 6 what the service provided was? 7 A. No. 8 Q. If you look a little bit lower down, four lines down, 9 the story is: 10 "Liar love rat exclusive." 11 A. Mm-hm. 12 Q. That could cover a multitude of sins -- well, actually 13 only one sin but a multitude of targets. 14 A. Multitude of potential targets, yes. Well I wouldn't 15 call them targets; subjects. 16 Q. We'll gloss over one or two of the others. Middle of 17 the page, celebrity enquiries, all very vague. We do 18 get some names two-thirds of the way down, Jade Goody, 19 Big Brother. That might have been for the Star, wasn't 20 it, because we can see STR? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. We can work that out anyway probably from the subject 23 matter. And then Charlotte Church. 24 We can see a bit more about JJ Services -- 25 A. That could relate to New! and Star magazine, possibly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 The other thing that's interesting is the amounts of 2 some of the invoices. Go back to 01558, and about 12 3 entries down you see the amount GBP 2,287.50. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. That may be for a number of different searches, but -- 6 well, perhaps you can help us with that? 7 A. I'm afraid I can't. I have really no idea what it was 8 for. 9 Q. Mm. Is he still working for Northern &amp; Shell? 10 A. Well, the last search or the last entry was -- what date 11 was the last entry? 2010? 12 Q. Yes. 13 A. I don't know the answer to that. 14 Q. Someone might say there's at the very least a cloud 15 hanging over him, as he has a criminal conviction. 16 You're still using him. Why not find out from him what 17 methods he deploys? 18 A. It's a matter for the news editor and the editor. It's 19 not something that is within my remit, I'm afraid, and 20 I can't speak for them. 21 Q. No, you can't. Have you drawn these matters to the 22 attention of the news editor and the editor? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And what advice -- you don't have to tell us the advice. 25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 not the Daily Star. 2 Q. Fair enough. Move forward please to 01558. This is 3 JJ Services. We know Mr Whittamore's company was 4 JJ Services. It's possible this is a different 5 JJ Services, but it's doubtful. 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's unlikely, given it says 7 "JJ Services (Whittamore)". 8 MR JAY: Oh, does it? 9 A. Yes, unlikely. 10 MR JAY: Then the possibilities are dwindling. I didn't see 11 that, actually. Oh yes, it does, in very, very small 12 writing at the top. 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's why I've taken off my glasses. 14 MR JAY: Yes, one does need to. I can't really read that. 15 A. This is my search. 16 Q. It's your search? 17 A. It's my search, so the accounts department would have 18 been searching under the name of Whittamore or 19 JJ Services. 20 Q. What's quite interesting, though, is the dates. The 21 earliest date, at least on this search, is 31 January 22 2005. He's still carrying out services last year. If 23 you go to 01560 -- 24 A. Mm. 25 Q. -- you can see the last item there is 30 July 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 Q. But I think what you can tell us is whether this is 2 being pursued with Mr Whittamore? 3 A. I can't tell you that. 4 Q. Okay. You can't because you won't or because -- 5 A. No, because I don't know. 6 Q. Okay. NP3, page 01589. These, I think, are lineage 7 sheets, is this right? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. In a sentence or two, what is a lineage sheet? 10 A. A lineage sheet is -- I'm not sure I can do this in 11 a sentence or two. It's what -- whoever is responsible 12 for the accounting on the day on the newspaper on the 13 news desk. So it could be the news editor or one of his 14 deputies, and every time there is any type of expense 15 that is not a cash expense that doesn't result in 16 a receipt, it goes on lineage and then it's written down 17 and then recorded by the managing editor's office. 18 Q. Thank you. I think what you've tried to do here is to 19 ally entries in the lineage sheet with particular 20 stories. 21 A. Mm. 22 Q. You haven't got very far, we understand why, and there 23 is such a story, is there, at the next page, page 01590? 24 A. Mm-hm. 25 Q. Just trying to work out which -- well, it doesn't -- oh</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

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<p>1 yes, we can see. It's the one "Girls' gang killers face 2 life". We can see that in the lineage sheet. 3 A. It's very difficult to tell from the lineage sheet, 4 marrying up the article, what information was gleaned or 5 what they asked Express Locate to do. 6 Q. The same applies to JJ Services, because we can see 7 JJ Services further into the lineage sheets. 8 A. Mm-hm. 9 Q. But we glean as much or as little from examining those 10 as we have already done. 11 Further analysis, I think, of the lineage sheets is 12 under tab 12, NP4; is that right? 13 A. Mm-hm. 14 Q. To summarise it, is that equally inconclusive? 15 A. It is. The writing on the sheet here is -- I believe 16 it's one of our accounts department, and we asked them 17 to marry up the amounts with the entries that had gone 18 into the computer, and they tried to get what they 19 could, sometimes they couldn't find anything and 20 sometimes -- sometimes they could. We were searching 21 our records for days trying to marry these things up. 22 But as you can see, there isn't a great deal of 23 information on there. 24 Q. No. And then NP5, again, Ms Patterson, in a nutshell 25 what is this?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 doing anything other than simply searching for 2 information. But, as I say, I can't say what they were 3 doing. 4 Q. Someone advising you might say, "Why not write to each 5 of these five companies and seek a detailed explanation 6 from them as to the nature of the work they tended to do 7 for your company, the methods they've deployed in each 8 case and the sources they attain in order to provide the 9 information". 10 A. Mm. 11 Q. That someone advising you may be me in posing the 12 question, but could you not have taken those steps 13 before giving your evidence? 14 A. We didn't. 15 Q. You haven't, okay. 16 In relation to phone hacking, I think yesterday's 17 witness told us that what she did was to look through 18 the records to see whether there's any reference to 19 Mr Mulcaire or any company associated with him. Have 20 you done that? 21 A. When I asked the questions of the editors and news 22 editors, the name never came up. Any company associated 23 with him didn't either, so -- 24 Q. I'm sure that was the position, but it's a question of 25 what the financial records might or might not have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 A. This is just an explanation of some of those things that 2 we did find. We asked them to have a look at certain 3 names that were perhaps of interest, so you can see at 4 1693 there's a mark A, which says: 5 "Natasha Murat." 6 That's a day rate, so £240 would have been a day 7 rate. I don't know what that really means. 8 But the accounts department then prepared this -- 9 the managing editor's office actually prepared this 10 sheet for me: 11 "Search for possible connection to Robert Murat." 12 What type of search that would have been I really 13 can't tell you. A computer search? I just -- I don't 14 know. 15 Q. It looks as if your internal inquiry is not getting very 16 far thus far; is that right? 17 A. We've done what we can. In my statement I did try to 18 put it into a bit of context. I think our total spend 19 on these types of searches in the ten years that we did 20 was about £115,000. I had a look yesterday with the 21 managing editor, and in 2008 we spent 9 million on 22 pictures. So in terms of our total spend, these -- 23 they're very small amounts for very little work is what 24 I'm saying. So £240 for a day rate, I'm just not sure 25 what they would have been -- if they would have been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 shown. Have you undertaken an analysis of the financial 2 records, even a cursory one, to see whether relevant 3 names come up? 4 A. No. No, because I wasn't even told that we'd ever used 5 anything in connection with Glenn Mulcaire, so ... 6 Q. Okay. Can I ask you finally some more general 7 questions, please. Paragraph 28. The circumstances in 8 which you queried the source and the veracity of the 9 information, can you tell us a little bit more about 10 that, first in the context of accuracy libel, which is 11 presumably your first concern, and then in the context 12 of privacy, Ms Patterson? When do you query a source? 13 A. Every time I think that there might be a problem with 14 the information I've asked them "Where is it from? Who 15 gave you this material? Where did you get it from?" 16 Q. But what alerts you then to any suspicion that there 17 might be a problem? 18 A. I don't fact check, because if I was fact checking, 19 I would be there all day and that's for the journalists 20 to do, but if I read a particular story and there is 21 a fact and I wonder whether it is true or not, or if it 22 isn't true would lead to a problem, then I ask them, 23 "Where did this come from? Can you be sure of this? 24 Where did you find it? How did you come across this 25 information?" and I expect them to go back and I expect</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 an answer before I clear it.</p> <p>2 Q. Thank you. That's very clear. So that's tackling the</p> <p>3 first question and perhaps paramount question of</p> <p>4 accuracy.</p> <p>5 A. Mm.</p> <p>6 Q. But when it comes to privacy issues, what, if anything,</p> <p>7 do you do in that context?</p> <p>8 A. It depends whether it's information or whether there are</p> <p>9 photographs. If there are photographs, I ask who took</p> <p>10 them, where did they come from, how did they come to be</p> <p>11 taken, is it a member of the public that sent it in,</p> <p>12 where did you get it from, what are the circumstances.</p> <p>13 All of those questions I ask.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 A. But of course there are certain photographs that we have</p> <p>16 that are taken on yachts, especially in the summer</p> <p>17 season, and there are all sorts of people who parade</p> <p>18 around on yachts and some of them want to be</p> <p>19 photographed and some don't, so there are all those</p> <p>20 considerations to be taken into account as well. It's</p> <p>21 a very fine balancing act.</p> <p>22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Just before you leave photographs,</p> <p>23 you said, "I don't fact check", which I quite</p> <p>24 understand, "but if I see a fact and if it's not true,</p> <p>25 there would be a problem". Does that mean that when</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 legal problem, then obviously you want it to be accurate</p> <p>2 but you're not going to be bothered about asking</p> <p>3 questions about it?</p> <p>4 A. It's not that I'm not bothered about it.</p> <p>5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sorry, that's a poor choice of</p> <p>6 words. You would not be concerned to make further</p> <p>7 enquiries about it.</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is that fair?</p> <p>10 A. That is fair, because I expect that when I'm presented</p> <p>11 with a story or some copy for legalling that the</p> <p>12 journalist will have done their job and that those facts</p> <p>13 will be correct, and if there is a legal problem with</p> <p>14 any of them, then I ask them, "Where did it come from?"</p> <p>15 How did it come about?"</p> <p>16 MR JAY: I think the issue is not just the legal problem as</p> <p>17 regards accuracy, which I've described as the first</p> <p>18 problem; it's the second and possibly third problems</p> <p>19 which arise in the context of privacy and perhaps wider</p> <p>20 ethical issues and the code. It's the extent to which</p> <p>21 you, if at all, investigate those matters. Do you see</p> <p>22 the point, Ms Patterson?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>24 Q. And what do you do? You've told us in the context of</p> <p>25 photographs, I understand your answer, but what about in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 you're asking questions about facts, you're asking</p> <p>2 questions about facts which might generate a legal</p> <p>3 problem?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So if it's a general story, which is</p> <p>6 unlikely to generate a potential claim in libel, then</p> <p>7 that would not concern you? I understand it, but I'm</p> <p>8 just trying to get to grips with what you do.</p> <p>9 A. Of course I am concerned with accuracy, but if someone</p> <p>10 presents me with a story which says anything, you know,</p> <p>11 "There are 5 million people standing outside this</p> <p>12 building", I wouldn't necessarily ask them to go out and</p> <p>13 count them. You know.</p> <p>14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. That's not a bad example in one</p> <p>15 sense, but you may not necessarily make a decision</p> <p>16 whether it's true or accurate or not in that sense, but</p> <p>17 there isn't a legal problem with that fact.</p> <p>18 A. Mm.</p> <p>19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So is that a fair description of the</p> <p>20 line?</p> <p>21 A. Mm.</p> <p>22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: If you see a legal problem with the</p> <p>23 fact, you'll want to analyse it?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: To fact check. But if there is no</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 the context of the printed word?</p> <p>2 A. Give me an example. What do you mean?</p> <p>3 Q. Well, there will be stories about celebrities which</p> <p>4 might involve health issues or might involve personal</p> <p>5 matters, intimate relationships, which may appear in</p> <p>6 certain of your titles, more likely in title X rather</p> <p>7 than title Y. It's whether you address your mind not</p> <p>8 just to whether the story's true, but whether the</p> <p>9 correct public interest, private rights balance has been</p> <p>10 conducted?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, of course I do.</p> <p>12 Q. How do you do that?</p> <p>13 A. Well, if there's a story about somebody's medical</p> <p>14 history or something like that, we absolutely say,</p> <p>15 "Under no circumstances should you print that</p> <p>16 information", or -- but obviously there are a lot of</p> <p>17 stories that we get through celebrity PRs and there are</p> <p>18 a lot of things that come to us from the celebrities</p> <p>19 themselves, which in any other circumstances might be</p> <p>20 considered private, again that's another fine line that</p> <p>21 we have to balance. Although it may appear to somebody</p> <p>22 reading the paper that perhaps it shouldn't have been in</p> <p>23 there, if it's come from the person themselves, then --</p> <p>24 but that person is never going to say that it would come</p> <p>25 from them. So --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 Q. That's a straightforward example, because the only 2 fetter, if the stories come from the celebrity himself 3 or herself, the only fetter would be, I suppose, taste. 4 But if the story has not been sourced from the celebrity 5 himself or herself, a third party, it might have been 6 paid for, what is your approach to that? Particularly 7 in the context of intimate relationships, privacy 8 issues. 9 A. We're talking about kiss-and-tell now, are we? 10 Q. Well, for example, yes. 11 A. We just don't do that. We don't do that any more. If 12 it's private information, it's private information, and 13 that's the advice I give. 14 Q. Okay. So it's not the policy of any of the Express 15 titles to print stories, is it, which bear on the 16 private lives of celebrities? I doubt whether you would 17 go that far? 18 A. I can't say what the policy of the title is. That's not 19 a matter for me. I'm the legal department and the 20 policy of the titles is down to the particular editor. 21 If I am asked for my legal advice, I give very strident 22 legal advice. 23 Q. Which in general terms is what? 24 A. Which in general terms is, "If it's private information, 25 it's private information, and you shouldn't do it."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. One or two witnesses cover how that works, but 3 I understand you are at the centre of it. So in your 4 own words, how does that committee work, please? 5 A. All of the editors and group editorial director are part 6 of that committee, but in essence how it works is the 7 complaints filter directly through to the legal 8 department. The legal department will deal with the 9 complaints. If it's a financial settlement, then that 10 goes elsewhere to the -- one of the group managing 11 directors in negotiations with myself. And any apology 12 or correction is dealt with by the legal department and 13 the particular editor concerned. 14 We haven't yet had -- I was going to say an 15 opportunity, but that's not the right word. A reason to 16 convene as a whole, because we haven't had really 17 anything that needed that level of discussion. 18 We have had an amplifications and clarifications 19 column in the Daily Express I think for -- well, 20 certainly since I've been there, since 2002. Anything 21 that needs amplifying or correcting goes in there, and 22 any other apology will be subject to negotiation with 23 myself and the editor and the complainant, and that's 24 how it works. 25 Q. Thank you. And the amplifications and corrections</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. I've asked this general question of others in 2 your position. To what extent in percentage terms is 3 your legal advice followed? Is it generally followed or 4 not? 5 A. I would say it is generally followed. 6 Q. How often in a year would your advice be overruled or 7 not accepted, rather? 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Not so much overruled. Presumably 9 you advise on risk. 10 A. Yes. 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And you say, "This is the risk of 12 taking this step", and -- 13 A. Well, not very often. I think we -- I am a bit more 14 strident than that. I would never -- I don't think 15 I would say to an editor, "The risk is 75 per cent". 16 I don't think we work like that. 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You're prepared to say this is 18 just -- 19 A. "Don't." 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: "Don't"? 21 A. Yes. 22 MR JAY: All right. Two other questions. First of all, 23 we've seen from other evidence in relation to the 24 Express titles that following its departure from the PCC 25 there was an in-house internal complaints committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 column, is that on page 2? 2 A. No. In the -- if it's simply clarifying something not 3 potentially -- well, not -- I was going to say not a big 4 problem, but just simply a matter of a word that's wrong 5 or something, it goes on our letters page, and it's 6 always -- it's been there for about 20 years, that 7 column. 8 If it's something more serious, it will go on a page 9 to be negotiated between the legal department and the 10 editor and the claimant's solicitor or the claimant, if 11 they don't have a solicitor. 12 On the Daily Star, our apologies page is on page 2. 13 Q. Thank you. And finally this question: did you advise in 14 relation to any of the McCann stories? 15 A. Yes, I did. 16 Q. Which, of course, culminated in legal action? 17 A. Yes, it did. 18 Q. I'm not going to ask you about that. The focus has been 19 on a number of stories between September 2007 and 20 January 2008, as you know. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Did you advise in relation to all or just some of those 23 stories? 24 A. If I was on duty at the time, I would have advised as 25 and when.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

7 (Pages 25 to 28)

<p>1 MR JAY: I can't ask you, I think, what you did advise --                  2 A. No.                  3 MR JAY: -- unless privilege is waived, and you're not the                  4 person who could waive privilege. I don't think I can                  5 press that question further.                  6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. Could I just ask                  7 a slightly different question -- sorry, Mr Jay, have you                  8 concluded?                  9 MR JAY: Yes, I have, sir.                  10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: A slightly different question. You                  11 talk about your contact with the Press Complaints                  12 Commission and the code, but to what extent do you                  13 consider your clients bound by the terms of the code?                  14 A. Absolutely bound.                  15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Why is that?                  16 A. Because as journalists we abide by -- we state that in                  17 the newspaper. We abide by the Editors' Code. We still                  18 do.                  19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And that's irrespective of your not                  20 being members of the Complaints Commission?                  21 A. Yes. On the back of all four titles, we have a section                  22 that says, "We, as a newspaper, abide by the Editors'                  23 Code."                  24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.                  25 MR JAY: Thank you very much, Ms Patterson. The next                  Page 29</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it's 1993.                  2 Q. Then you joined the Star first of all in 1997 and you've                  3 been the editor since 2003?                  4 A. That's correct.                  5 Q. So you were working under two editors at the Sun?                  6 A. Yes.                  7 Q. Kelvin MacKenzie and I think Stuart Higgins, is that                  8 correct?                  9 A. Yes.                  10 Q. In terms of culture, I have asked this general question                  11 of editors, you've been in the industry for 25 years or                  12 so?                  13 A. Oh.                  14 Q. Nearly.                  15 A. Yes.                  16 Q. How does the culture differ, if at all, as between the                  17 Sun and the Star?                  18 A. Obviously the Sun is a fantastic paper, it's the market                  19 leader, it's a much bigger paper than the Daily Star,                  20 and it's a more full-on environment.                  21 Q. Yes. What do you mean by that?                  22 A. It's a more fast-paced active environment with a lot                  23 more staff and it's just -- it's quite a scary place to                  24 work, I thought.                  25 Q. Okay. And how, if at all, has the culture at the Daily                  Page 31</p>
<p>1 witness is Ms Dawn Neesom, please.                  2 MS DAWN NEESOM (sworn)                  3 Questions by MR JAY                  4 MR JAY: Thank you. Your full name.                  5 A. Dawn Neesom.                  6 Q. Thank you. Your witness statement is located in the                  7 first of those three files under tab 19, Ms Neesom.                  8 Dated 16 September. It has one exhibit. You've signed                  9 it and appended to it a statement of truth, so this is                  10 your true evidence. You are currently and have been                  11 since 2003 the editor of the Daily Star newspaper; is                  12 that correct?                  13 A. Yes.                  14 Q. In terms of your career, Ms Neesom, I think there's one                  15 correction and one addition you'd like to make?                  16 A. There is. I started my career as a contributor to local                  17 newspapers. My first full-time job in journalism was on                  18 Women's Own magazine, which isn't mentioned here. That                  19 was in 1988. Then I went to work on the Sun and then                  20 the Daily Star.                  21 Q. You left Women's Own in 1992. You went to the Sun as                  22 a features writer?                  23 A. Yes, it was 1993, I think. It was 1993, sorry.                  24 Q. The precise dates don't matter but it's right that                  25 you're punctilious.                  Page 30</p>	<p>1 Star changed since you became its editor?                  2 A. I've tried -- obviously the Daily Star readership is                  3 quite male-dominated still, I think it's about                  4 65 per cent male, and what I've tried to do is tried to                  5 make it more female, without making it too girlie, as it                  6 were, and losing the core readership, so I've tried to                  7 tone down some of the more masculine, laddish elements                  8 of the paper.                  9 Q. Thank you. One witness, it was Mr Peppiatt, described                  10 the Star as a right-wing tabloid. Is that a label which                  11 you're comfortable with?                  12 A. We are a tabloid newspaper, and we're not the Guardian,                  13 that's for sure.                  14 Q. Thank you. In terms of your staff, you do fairly say                  15 you're the leanest-staffed daily tabloid newspaper.                  16 That's paragraph 46.                  17 A. Yes.                  18 Q. That may or may not be a fact which satisfies you, but                  19 it's a reality. But in terms of its impact, if any,                  20 what is the impact of having so few staff?                  21 A. I think it makes everybody more focused, because it is                  22 a very small team and you have to -- you do work a lot                  23 harder. The staff on the Daily Star are fantastic,                  24 there's a great group of very young journalists coming                  25 through there, and I'm very proud of all of them, but                  Page 32</p>



<p>1 they do work incredibly hard, and I think it does focus 2 your mind to be more accurate and more open about what 3 you're doing. 4 Q. But some would say it works precisely in the opposite 5 way. Because people are under such pressure and there 6 are not enough of them, accuracy is sacrificed. Would 7 you accept that? 8 A. No. We always try to employ people that pride accuracy 9 above all else. 10 Q. How do you achieve that ambition? 11 A. We try to -- we -- I like to pride myself on the fact 12 that the Daily Star gives young journalists from the 13 provinces the opportunity to get a foothold in Fleet 14 Street, which is quite difficult to do these days. 15 Sometimes it's a casual basis. So we try to recruit the 16 best that we can, and, you know, I'm very proud of the 17 people that we do have working for us. 18 Q. I'm sure you would want to recruit the best you can 19 because that's what everybody wants to do, but how do 20 you go about doing that? 21 A. The actual recruitment process is organised by the news 22 desk, who work very closely with local agencies and 23 local newspapers. 24 Q. Is it the Star's policy to recruit casual journalists 25 before they move on to being staff journalists?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 your stories come from freelancers? 2 A. Most of the stories we publish in the paper come from 3 probably the staff journalists. 4 Q. Okay. 5 A. We don't have a very big freelance budget. 6 Q. What are your training programmes, if any, for your 7 staff journalists? 8 A. We don't particularly have an in-house training 9 programme as such at the moment. However, that is 10 something that I am working on with Nicole to change. 11 We do rely on most of the people we employ as 12 journalists to be trained and to know how to do their 13 jobs. 14 Q. So by definition the same answer you would give to your 15 casual journalists, if that can be a fair way of 16 describing them? 17 A. Yes, most of them are qualified journalists, yes. 18 Q. But what about wanting your journalist to write 19 according to the Daily Star brand? 20 A. Mm-hm. 21 Q. So far as there is a brand. How do you achieve that 22 objective? 23 A. I think it's quite -- as I say, it's a very small staff, 24 we're all sitting on the same news floor. I think most 25 people are aware of what the Daily Star is about as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 A. I think that would be a policy common to a lot of 2 newspapers. 3 Q. So how does that work? Are they on temporary contracts 4 and if they meet the grade, they're then formally 5 recruited? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. So it's a sort of probation period of 12 months, is it? 8 A. It depends on whether staff vacancies become available. 9 I think we have, off the top of my head, I think it's 10 about five staff reporters, news reporter jobs, so they 11 come up quite rarely, so they are highly sought after. 12 Q. So out of the 80 staff what percentage are staff 13 journalists and what percentage are casual journalists? 14 A. On the news reporting desk, it's about half and half. 15 Q. Thank you. And then elsewhere, is it about the same or 16 different? 17 A. Some departments are more staff than others. Like our 18 production team are probably more staff contracts, 19 they've been there a longer time, they're more 20 experienced journalists. 21 Q. Thank you. And what about freelancers? Is it the 22 policy of the Star to use those? 23 A. We do use freelancers, yes, in common with most titles. 24 Q. Yes, and it may be difficult, but if one is looking at 25 news, for example, what percentage of your output of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 a newspaper. I think you come and work for the Daily 2 Star, you know what it's about, and it's quite clear 3 from the minute you walk onto the news floor what our 4 priorities are as stories. 5 Q. Okay. So they absorb the culture and brand of the paper 6 fairly quickly -- 7 A. Very easily absorbed. 8 Q. -- if their antennae are twitching in the right way? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Is that right? Okay. Can I ask you about paragraph 6, 11 please, Ms Neesom. You say it's your role to ensure 12 that standards are being met? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. I think there may be at least two questions. The 15 Editors' Code of Practice and the PCC code is, as we've 16 heard, one of the relevant standards you apply; is that 17 correct? 18 A. Yes, indeed. 19 Q. How is that enforced if, as we know, the Star is not 20 part of the PCC? 21 A. The fact that we are not part of the PCC hasn't really 22 made much difference to the way we operate because we 23 have always adhered to the Editors' Code of Practice and 24 we continue to do so. 25 Q. But how is it enforced?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 A. It's just expected of the staff and it's enforced by                  2 people not being very happy with them if they mess up.                  3 Q. So is it your practice that if you identify a potential                  4 breach of the code in a story which is put up to you --                  5 A. Yes.                  6 Q. -- you immediately alert your journalist to that fact?                  7 A. Yes, of course.                  8 Q. What happens if a story is published, because this must                  9 happen, which you haven't, as it were, blessed, since                  10 you're not going to be able to approve all the stories?                  11 What do you do then?                  12 A. If a story is published that has breached the code?                  13 Q. In your view.                  14 A. The journalist concerned will probably be warned by the                  15 news desk that they have done something wrong.                  16 Q. You say "would". Let's imagine there isn't a complaint,                  17 but you spot such a story --                  18 A. Yes, the journalist --                  19 Q. -- and you form the judgment that there may have been or                  20 was a breach of the code. What do you do about it?                  21 A. I personally probably wouldn't talk to the journalist                  22 concerned, but the news desk or my deputy editor would.                  23 Q. Do you give an instruction therefore to the news desk or                  24 the deputy editor to do that?                  25 A. I have been known to pass comment if I'm not happy with                  Page 37</p>	<p>1 media; is that right?                  2 A. Yes, indeed. Very much so.                  3 Q. Could you explain, because it might be said to be                  4 counter-intuitive, particularly when you're fed a story                  5 by the PR team of a celebrity, what's the process, how                  6 does that work?                  7 A. We work very, very closely with celebrities and PRs.                  8 The Daily Star is an entertainment, it's there to put                  9 a smile on people's faces, so we do work very closely                  10 with celebrities and their PRs and if they come to us                  11 with a story and it's a suitable story, we'll discuss it                  12 further and decide whether it's suitable for                  13 publication.                  14 Q. Okay. You say, last four lines of paragraph 10, on the                  15 very rare occasions when a story's source is unclear,                  16 you carry out further investigations. Presumably we're                  17 talking about there the circumstance where the story has                  18 not come from the celebrity --                  19 A. Yes.                  20 Q. -- has not come from the PR team, has not been picked up                  21 from some other media outlet, but may be a more                  22 sensitive source. Is that what you're addressing there?                  23 A. Yes, it is, yes.                  24 Q. What do you do in those circumstances?                  25 A. As I say, we ask what the source is and we try to make                  Page 39</p>
<p>1 something, yes.                  2 Q. Okay.                  3 A. My husband looks at me like that as well.                  4 Q. I'm not sure whether that was referring to me or the                  5 judge.                  6 A. Lord Leveson.                  7 Q. Okay. Paragraph 10, please.                  8 A. Sorry.                  9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm usually responsible for the                  10 jokes.                  11 A. Sorry. Your jokes are much funnier.                  12 MR JAY: You tell us about what the Star is.                  13 A. Yes.                  14 Q. It's not a political paper?                  15 A. No.                  16 Q. It's not an investigative paper?                  17 A. No.                  18 Q. You cover primarily but obviously not solely celebrity                  19 entertainment stories?                  20 A. Yes.                  21 Q. You point out -- and this needs to be emphasised,                  22 I think, and you would wish to do so -- that in the vast                  23 majority of cases, the sources for your stories are                  24 obvious. They come directly from the celebrities                  25 themselves or their PR teams or are picked up from other                  Page 38</p>	<p>1 sure that the source is as reliable as we possibly can.                  2 Q. But does the Star have people who are close to the                  3 celebrity circle who sometimes leak out information to                  4 you which the celebrity himself or herself would not be                  5 happy about, which we've seen examples of? Does that                  6 happen sometimes?                  7 A. It does happen occasionally, but it is quite rare, to be                  8 honest with you. I mean, to be honest with you, a lot                  9 of the time celebrities leak their own stories.                  10 Q. How many sources are required before you would print                  11 a story? Just one or more than one?                  12 A. It depends on the story. Obviously if the subject of                  13 the story is the source concerned, it's just the one.                  14 It depends entirely on the story.                  15 Q. So if the subject of -- if the source does not emanate                  16 from the celebrity himself or herself, would you be                  17 looking for more than one source?                  18 A. Yes, we would.                  19 Q. Is it the policy of the Daily Star to give prior                  20 notification of stories to the subject matter?                  21 A. Yes, it is. I always insist that we do go to -- if it's                  22 a story concerning somebody, we do try to go to their                  23 agent or their PR for a comment on the story.                  24 Q. You try to, but are there circumstances when you print,                  25 having failed to?                  Page 40</p>

<p>1 A. We do our utmost to get through, to contact people, but                  2 obviously people are sometimes not contactable.                  3 Q. Can I ask you, this follows on from paragraph 10,                  4 paragraph 12. It's really the concept of entertainment,                  5 which is in the fourth line.                  6 A. Mm-hm.                  7 Q. Much of its content is intended as entertainment.                  8 A. Yes.                  9 Q. Might it be said that if the objective is to entertain,                  10 there isn't an overwhelming or overriding need to ensure                  11 that the story is true and accurate; would you accept                  12 that?                  13 A. No, no, of course not. To be entertaining doesn't                  14 necessarily mean that you can just make a story up. It                  15 still has to be accurate and true.                  16 Q. It might be said, if I can put the question a slightly                  17 different way, that there might be a kernel of truth,                  18 but to make the story more entertaining, you have to                  19 spin a bit and weave a bit around the edges. Would you                  20 accept that?                  21 A. I think the Daily Star has a certain style of writing                  22 that appeals to the readers and stories are written in                  23 the way we know appeals to the readers.                  24 Q. I'm not sure whether that accepts the proposition I put                  25 to you or rejects it. It might be said to accept it,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 "Much of its content is intended as entertainment,                  2 and therefore ethical questions do not always arise."                  3 What did you mean by that?                  4 A. I think if it's -- some of the small stories we run,                  5 sort of like "So-and-so has a new haircut, it looks                  6 lovely", I didn't see there was an ethical debate to be                  7 had about that.                  8 Q. Okay, I understand. Paragraph 17, please. This is the                  9 issue of the use of search agencies.                  10 A. Yes.                  11 Q. You weren't aware that search agencies were being used                  12 at all, is this right, until their existence was                  13 adverted to you by your legal team?                  14 A. That's true.                  15 Q. Did it cause you any surprise that you didn't know?                  16 A. Yes, it did, to be honest with you.                  17 Q. After all, it might be said you're the editor, it's the                  18 sort of thing you should know?                  19 A. Absolutely.                  20 Q. Why do you think you didn't know?                  21 A. Because I haven't been on the road as a journalist for                  22 a long time, and in my day we didn't really do that sort                  23 of thing, so I -- I don't know. I don't question the                  24 staff on a daily basis as to their hour-by-hour,                  25 minute-by-minute movements, so -- but yes, I wish I had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 but could you help me, please?                  2 A. It's -- well, can you repeat the question again, sorry?                  3 Q. There might be a kernel of truth in the story, but in                  4 order to make it more appetising and entertaining to its                  5 readers, which obviously you are plugged into --                  6 A. Yes, of course.                  7 Q. -- you spin, embroider and weave around the edges of the                  8 story. Does that happen?                  9 A. It's -- I wouldn't quite put it in those words, but as                  10 I say, it's written in a style that we know works for                  11 our readers.                  12 Q. I think it's Mr Peppiatt who said to us that there was                  13 at one time an obsession with a particular celebrity --                  14 that was Katie Price or Jordan. I don't know whether                  15 that celebrity is still an obsession of your readers, it                  16 matters not. But he was talking about a year or two                  17 ago. And in order to make her of continuing interest to                  18 your readers, you had to embroider and repeat and tell                  19 the same story in different ways, otherwise it was no                  20 longer going to be published.                  21 A. I've known Kate since she was 17 years old and believe                  22 me, Kate doesn't need any help in embroidering her life.                  23 She does that quite well herself.                  24 Q. You say in paragraph 12, the use of the word "therefore"                  25 in that sentence:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 known.                  2 Q. One explanation might be, and I just put it to you as                  3 a hypothesis, that if you have an organisation with                  4 a good system of governance, the term we've been using                  5 is corporate governance --                  6 A. Yes.                  7 Q. -- then the individuals at the top, the editor, and                  8 managing editor, would be made aware of the use of                  9 private -- it's not private investigators here, but                  10 search agencies, because that's what the system does, it                  11 brings these matters to your attention, and the fact                  12 that they weren't brought to your attention suggests                  13 that there might be something wrong or inadequate with                  14 the system. As a criticism would you accept that or                  15 not?                  16 A. I think there might be some truth in that. Our system                  17 would throw up things financially, I think, as Nicole                  18 discussed earlier on, and on the lineage sheets those                  19 things would come up. On the Daily Star, the lineage                  20 sheets are always signed by my deputy editor, I don't                  21 sign them, and as I said, the figures seemed to be GBP                  22 50, GBP 70 here and there, so it's not something that                  23 would come to my notice in that way.                  24 Q. Having studied these documents, two points might be                  25 made. You have a financial system?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And you have a staff handbook?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. But that's it. There's nothing much more, is there?</p> <p>5 A. There's not much more, no.</p> <p>6 Q. Have you given thought as to whether the system of</p> <p>7 governance might have to be supplemented in order that</p> <p>8 precisely this sort of issue could be brought to your</p> <p>9 attention --</p> <p>10 A. Yes, absolutely. It's a conversation Nicole and I have</p> <p>11 had several times now. We are looking to how we can</p> <p>12 tighten up how our journalists work and to make sure</p> <p>13 that, you know, everyone is aware of how the paper works</p> <p>14 properly, because I think there have been mistakes in</p> <p>15 the past.</p> <p>16 Q. You may not have come to any final conclusions, but can</p> <p>17 you tell us your emerging thoughts about how the system</p> <p>18 might be approved?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, of course.</p> <p>20 Q. Any system is capable of improvement?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, of course, always.</p> <p>22 Q. This isn't a criticism but just tell us a bit about</p> <p>23 this, please.</p> <p>24 A. The conversation that we've had is that when we have new</p> <p>25 young junior reporters coming into the office, whether</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 to those individuals who are the subject of the story."</p> <p>2 I think you mean "usually"?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Then you say in those circumstances, if I paraphrase,</p> <p>5 there isn't really a balancing exercise because the</p> <p>6 source is the celebrity themselves.</p> <p>7 A. Very often.</p> <p>8 Q. So the only fetter would be considerations of good</p> <p>9 taste, I imagine?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Is that correct?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And that would be a matter of your judgment, would it?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, or if I'm not there, my deputy.</p> <p>15 Q. Then you say there are stories where this is not the</p> <p>16 case, in other words you were talking about</p> <p>17 kiss-and-tell.</p> <p>18 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>19 Q. But I think you want to point out that kiss-and-tell</p> <p>20 stories have dwindled in number, is that right, in</p> <p>21 recent years?</p> <p>22 A. True. I mean kiss-and-tell stories have always been</p> <p>23 more an area that the Sunday titles have specialised in</p> <p>24 rather than the daily titles and I think they are</p> <p>25 decreasingly popular with the readers and I think they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 they be on a staff basis or on a contract basis, we are</p> <p>2 setting up some sort of seminar that we could have with</p> <p>3 them where we talk through how the papers work, the</p> <p>4 codes we abide by. It would be sort of like a couple of</p> <p>5 days where we just talk to them and tell them how we</p> <p>6 work, basically.</p> <p>7 Q. So that is a training programme?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And I understand that, but in terms of the continuing</p> <p>10 running of the organisation, what improvements, if any,</p> <p>11 do you think might be desirable?</p> <p>12 A. As you say, you can always improve a system, so it's</p> <p>13 something we are looking at now on a daily basis, and as</p> <p>14 I said, that's one thing we are going to put in process</p> <p>15 quite soon. And then it would just be monitoring that</p> <p>16 and seeing how that progresses.</p> <p>17 Q. So nothing else? That's the only suggestion that you're</p> <p>18 putting forward to us? Is there anything else you could</p> <p>19 share with us?</p> <p>20 A. At present, that's pretty much it.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. Can we move on, please, to paragraph 24. There's</p> <p>22 one correction you probably want to make to the second</p> <p>23 sentence. You say:</p> <p>24 "As I hope I have explained, when the Daily Star</p> <p>25 pays external sources for information, it is invariably</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 are done less and less. I think the Internet plays</p> <p>2 a large part of this as well, because you can read</p> <p>3 everything you want to read more or less about anybody</p> <p>4 straight away online, and a lot of celebrities do their</p> <p>5 own kiss-and-tell versions on the Twitter sites, which</p> <p>6 is quite astonishing. We can't compete with that, so</p> <p>7 I think it is a dying storyline.</p> <p>8 Q. Is it a question, you think, of public taste changing or</p> <p>9 is it a question that you've really been beaten to the</p> <p>10 start line, that the Internet has published the story</p> <p>11 first and therefore the public doesn't want to read it</p> <p>12 again in the Star? Is it the latter?</p> <p>13 A. I don't think certainly public tastes have changed,</p> <p>14 given the publicity of certain Internet sites and the</p> <p>15 amount of people that follow certain celebrities.</p> <p>16 I think the taste is still there. I just think they are</p> <p>17 reading it online now.</p> <p>18 Q. You say in that context the first priority, the story</p> <p>19 must be accurate?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Because obviously if it isn't it's notionally binned.</p> <p>22 Then you say you weigh up the public interest and the</p> <p>23 interests of your readers. Why is the interests of your</p> <p>24 readers relevant?</p> <p>25 A. Because we love our readers. They're what pays our</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

12 (Pages 45 to 48)

<p>1 wages, basically.</p> <p>2 Q. But it might be said that this is putting too much</p> <p>3 weight on what is of interest to the public, rather than</p> <p>4 what is truly in the public interest.</p> <p>5 A. Ah, that debate.</p> <p>6 Q. Would you accept that?</p> <p>7 A. It's the nature of any newspaper or magazine to appeal</p> <p>8 to its readership, and that is what we judge each story</p> <p>9 on. We want our readers to enjoy the product we are</p> <p>10 presenting them with.</p> <p>11 Q. But would it be fair to say that that, as it were,</p> <p>12 creates a sort of presumption that if you think the</p> <p>13 story is going to interest or titivate your readers,</p> <p>14 that would, as it were, drive the agenda forward and</p> <p>15 lead to the publication of the story, unless it's</p> <p>16 thought to be excessively intrusive of the private</p> <p>17 rights of the subject of the story? Do you accept that</p> <p>18 possibility?</p> <p>19 A. Well, the stories we publish, as I said, we abide by the</p> <p>20 Editors' Code, and we publish stories that we think our</p> <p>21 readers are interested in.</p> <p>22 Q. Mm.</p> <p>23 A. I don't know how else to answer that apart from that.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. You say then in kiss-and-tell stories this would</p> <p>25 often involve assessing the public persona of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 our readers' perception of a figure is pretty much what</p> <p>2 they tend to be.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 A. Does that make sense?</p> <p>5 Q. It might do.</p> <p>6 A. I don't know either.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you see the problem here? Because it may be that</p> <p>8 your policy is to place excessive weight on what you</p> <p>9 think your readers really want to read about, however</p> <p>10 intrusive that might be, rather than a correctly</p> <p>11 calibrated analysis of where the public interest falls</p> <p>12 in relation to the private rights of the subjects of</p> <p>13 your stories?</p> <p>14 A. We always take note of privacy and we do abide, as</p> <p>15 I said, by the Editors' Code.</p> <p>16 Q. You take note of privacy or you pay lip service to it?</p> <p>17 A. We take note of privacy.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. Serious note. It gets expensive if you don't.</p> <p>20 Q. Can I ask you a number of specific questions --</p> <p>21 A. Yes, of course.</p> <p>22 Q. -- about the front pages. I've shown you these. The</p> <p>23 copies have improved a bit since the ones I showed you</p> <p>24 earlier. Just wait a bit while I put these together.</p> <p>25 Yes, here's the Daily Star. These are all Daily</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 individual involved. Could you define more closely what</p> <p>2 you mean by "public persona"?</p> <p>3 A. Basically it's how people perceive somebody. Say, like</p> <p>4 a footballer, for example. You know, somebody who has</p> <p>5 the public image of being a family man, happily married,</p> <p>6 et cetera, et cetera, but is also, on the other hand,</p> <p>7 having several affairs and doing drugs or whatever,</p> <p>8 that's what I think I mean by the public persona.</p> <p>9 Q. Can we put doing drugs to one side, because I can see</p> <p>10 that that may fall into a different category.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. But does it amount to this: it's how you think your</p> <p>13 readers perceive the individual involved?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Rather than a more thorough analysis of whether the</p> <p>16 individual involved has said something expressly, for</p> <p>17 example said something about the merits of family life,</p> <p>18 and then you can demonstrate by his or her behaviour</p> <p>19 that there's a contradiction. Do you see the</p> <p>20 difference?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I think so.</p> <p>22 Q. How does it work for you? I think you may be saying,</p> <p>23 well, the primary consideration is how our readers</p> <p>24 perceive the individual involved. Is that fair?</p> <p>25 A. I think so, but most of the time the public perception,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 Star ones, I think.</p> <p>2 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>3 Q. Just checking they aren't the Star on Sunday. I'll hand</p> <p>4 this up to you. You've seen these in black and white,</p> <p>5 I think, earlier. We have better copies now.</p> <p>6 A. Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR JAY: I'm just going to hand them up to Lord Justice</p> <p>8 Leveson in the right order.</p> <p>9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I can sort out the order, don't</p> <p>10 worry.</p> <p>11 MR JAY: Here we go. (Handed)</p> <p>12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR JAY: First of all, it should be understood that you've</p> <p>14 had very little notice of this; is that correct?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. The first headline:</p> <p>17 "Telly king Cowell is dead."</p> <p>18 And then there's words underneath.</p> <p>19 A. That you can't read on your photocopy.</p> <p>20 Q. You can't read, no.</p> <p>21 A. It says "The show is finally over for Simon", I think.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes. It could be said someone reading this will say,</p> <p>23 "Oh, heavens above, he's died". Is that fair?</p> <p>24 A. Um ...</p> <p>25 Q. I know he's probably only my age and therefore it's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 unlikely, but --</p> <p>2 A. The nature of the Daily Star is we are a very young</p> <p>3 tabloid newspaper. We don't have historic readership,</p> <p>4 we don't have subscription, we don't have home delivery.</p> <p>5 We do rely on people picking up the newspaper off the</p> <p>6 news stands, which is why our front pages have to be as</p> <p>7 eye-catching as we can make them.</p> <p>8 "Telly king Cowell is dead" in particular was</p> <p>9 a quote from Gary Barlow, and obviously -- you only have</p> <p>10 a finite amount of words you can fit on a page 1 as</p> <p>11 a headline. The subject explains as far as a TV show is</p> <p>12 concerned, I believe the exact quote was -- and</p> <p>13 obviously Gary Barlow was only joking, because that's</p> <p>14 the nature of their relationship -- "As far as we're</p> <p>15 concerned, Cowell's dead", as far as the show was</p> <p>16 concerned, and that is explained in the sub-deck and the</p> <p>17 copy. But yes, it was designed to be an eye-catching</p> <p>18 headline.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes, to create as much impact as possible in order that</p> <p>20 the person passing the newspaper stand might say, "I'll</p> <p>21 buy the Star today"; is that correct?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Even though if one was going to be pedantic about it,</p> <p>24 if not slightly pompous about it, it's wrong, isn't it?</p> <p>25 A. Um ... it's dramatic. Eye-catching.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Q. Fortunately it didn't happen, that the plane had hit an</p> <p>2 ash cloud and there was terror as a result. Wouldn't</p> <p>3 that be fair?</p> <p>4 A. It would be fair. As I said, it was taken from a TV</p> <p>5 programme who did do exactly that.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you aware that some airport authorities thought</p> <p>7 that this headline was so irresponsible that they</p> <p>8 removed copies of the Daily Star from airports?</p> <p>9 A. No, I must admit I wasn't.</p> <p>10 Q. That wasn't brought to your attention, nor the fact that</p> <p>11 the Media Standards Trust complained?</p> <p>12 A. No. No, that's the first I heard.</p> <p>13 Q. Really?</p> <p>14 A. Serious, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. You did publish a correction on 17 July 2010?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Which I have seen, in which you say:</p> <p>18 "This may wrongly have suggested that the photo</p> <p>19 depicted an actual event."</p> <p>20 And then you apologised for any misunderstanding,</p> <p>21 didn't you?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. An apology that was agreed, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Agreed with whom?</p> <p>24 A. With the people that complained. I'm not sure who the</p> <p>25 actual complainant was.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Q. The next one:</p> <p>2 "Terror as plane hits ash cloud."</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. This is 21 April 2010.</p> <p>5 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>6 Q. There was no plane hitting an ash cloud, was there?</p> <p>7 A. It was taken from a TV documentary that was on</p> <p>8 television that night, and this is their reconstruction</p> <p>9 of that. As I said, a lot of our stories are taken from</p> <p>10 TV programmes.</p> <p>11 Q. It was a computer-generated image taken from a TV</p> <p>12 programme?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, which the copy did make clear.</p> <p>14 Q. Showing a plane on fire; is that right?</p> <p>15 A. I can't quite see if it's on fire or not, but it was</p> <p>16 sort of like going through a cloudy bit. It was taken</p> <p>17 from the TV programme, it was a grab from the TV</p> <p>18 programme.</p> <p>19 Q. There are no inverted commas here, are there?</p> <p>20 A. Because, as far as the headline was concerned, it was</p> <p>21 referring to the terror on the TV programme, and this is</p> <p>22 the dramatisation.</p> <p>23 Q. Anybody looking at this, would think, "Heavens above" --</p> <p>24 and this isn't funny at all.</p> <p>25 A. No, of course not. It's not funny.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 Q. Not the Media Standards Trust?</p> <p>2 A. I think it might have been a PC -- I don't recall.</p> <p>3 Q. You weren't in the PCC then, were you? Maybe you were.</p> <p>4 This was 21 April 2010. I think you left in January</p> <p>5 this year, didn't you? January last year.</p> <p>6 A. Yes, I think so.</p> <p>7 Q. To the best of your knowledge, we can find out, did the</p> <p>8 PCC intervene over this headline?</p> <p>9 A. I honestly can't remember.</p> <p>10 Q. What is your considered view now of this headline?</p> <p>11 A. It maybe overegged the pudding and occasionally</p> <p>12 headlines go too far. Maybe this was one of them.</p> <p>13 Q. If the mindset, Ms Neesom, is to create as much impact</p> <p>14 as possible, and/or to entertain, that might drive you</p> <p>15 to use headlines of this sort regardless of the truth,</p> <p>16 would you accept that?</p> <p>17 A. No, there are lines to be crossed and occasionally,</p> <p>18 I admit, we do cross lines, as does every newspaper,</p> <p>19 I believe, but no, we do have standards.</p> <p>20 Q. Sometimes you cross a line by a millimetre and sometimes</p> <p>21 you cross it by a kilometre. We're close to the latter,</p> <p>22 aren't we, here?</p> <p>23 A. Yes. It's probably slightly more than a millimetre in</p> <p>24 that case, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Slightly more?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 A. Slightly more.  2 Q. Hmm. Then the last one:  3 "English Defence League to become a political  4 party."  5 A. Yes.  6 Q. This is 9 February 2011.  7 A. Yes.  8 Q. I've been asked to put it to you that this headline is  9 entirely fabricated.  10 A. Not at all.  11 Q. What do you say about that?  12 A. It is based on a fact.  13 Q. And what is the fact?  14 A. We -- this particular group were going to go on --  15 I think it was -- I can't remember which -- it was  16 a mainstream TV programme, and we were concerned about  17 their appearance on this TV programme, so we spoke to  18 a source connected to the group and they said that their  19 long-term ambition was to become a political party. We  20 weren't the only paper to run this news story, and  21 I believe recently a Sunday broadsheet has run a similar  22 story exposing fundraising that has this aim in mind.  23 Q. I've also been asked to put to you that the Star had  24 decided at a morning conference that this was the story  25 going to be run the next day, after a phone poll</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 might -- might we take our break before those?  2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Certainly. Certainly. Seven  3 minutes.  4 (11.25 am)  5 (A short break)  6 (11.34 am)  7 MR JAY: Ms Neesom, I go back to the use of search agencies.  8 A. Yes.  9 Q. You heard the evidence this morning in relation to  10 Ms Patterson, the inquiry, the internal investigation  11 which is being undertaken. Have you been made aware  12 before today of the preliminary results of the  13 investigation, especially the use of five search  14 agencies?  15 A. No.  16 Q. So that hasn't been drawn to your attention before now;  17 is that right?  18 A. No.  19 Q. And the use of JJ Services, is that news to you or not?  20 A. I've never heard of JJ Services, to be honest.  21 Q. Whilst you were editor -- you still are editor -- of the  22 Daily Star, the Information Commissioner's report came  23 out. I think it's right to say that your paper was near  24 the bottom of the list; is that right?  25 A. I think we had two incidences, and I think Nicole would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 suggested readers sympathised with the English Defence  2 League. Is that correct?  3 A. Not at all, no. It was based on the fact that this  4 particular group were going to go on a TV programme  5 which -- obviously it's well-known we are a Jewish  6 company, and we were quite concerned about that.  7 Q. Was the agenda rather different? Because it might --  8 there are two possibilities here -- or three  9 possibilities. One is that you're just reporting a fact  10 neutrally. One is that you're reporting a fact with the  11 spin it would be appalling if the English Defence League  12 were to become a political party because they are  13 a fascist party, or a third might be it's a good idea  14 that they become a political party because we sympathise  15 with them. Where was the Star in relation to --  16 A. The Star in relation to this, as I said, we are run by,  17 you know, we are a Jewish company, a Jewish-owned  18 company, was we were worried by this development and we  19 still are. I found this story in -- I can't remember  20 what story it was, it was a Sunday broadsheet, and they  21 exposed people that were fundraising for this to happen,  22 and that is still going on.  23 Q. I'm moving off headlines onto more general questions.  24 A. Okay.  25 MR JAY: Of which I've given you notice, but I think we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 agree, we're not sure whether it's the Daily Star or the  2 Daily Star on Sunday. Both titles were lumped together,  3 so I don't even know it's the Daily Star.  4 Q. But in relation to the continued use of JJ Services, at  5 least until 2010, from these documents, is that  6 something which causes you concern?  7 A. Yes. I didn't know we did.  8 Q. All right. Why is it that it was only today, you think,  9 that you learnt of that?  10 A. I don't know.  11 Q. Notwithstanding that this internal investigation has  12 been going on since 26 July last year, does that cause  13 you surprise?  14 A. It does, I must admit, yes.  15 Q. It goes back to the issue of corporate governance and  16 proper systems in place, because you're the person at  17 the top?  18 A. Yes.  19 Q. At the pinnacle of the hierarchy. Does it suggest to  20 you that something needs to be done to improve systems?  21 A. Definitely, yes. Systems can always be improved and  22 this is definitely one of them.  23 Q. But what are you going to do about it?  24 A. I will discuss it with Nicole and Paul Ashford.  25 Immediately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 Q. You told me before we had our break what you've done 2 thus far is to consider bringing in better training 3 programmes? 4 A. For reporters, yes. 5 Q. But nothing more than that to date? 6 A. Obviously, now I think we do need to have 7 a conversation. 8 Q. Okay. Mr Peppiatt told us, and therefore I need to put 9 it to you at least for comment, that it's the agenda 10 which dictates the story, and the agenda is defined by 11 what your readership want to read. Is that fair or not? 12 A. We are in the business of selling newspapers, so we do 13 try to make the product as suitable to our readers as 14 possible, if that's the same thing. 15 Q. It may or may not be the same thing, but when we get to 16 whether comment about fact is appropriate or not, or 17 balanced or not, if you have a preset agenda before you 18 investigate the facts, then the story might be said to 19 be written up to meet that preset agenda. Is that 20 something which the Star does? 21 A. No. 22 Q. And why do you say that with such or any confidence, 23 Ms Neesom? 24 A. Because we write stories to be as accurate as possible. 25 So if there's -- they're written in a certain way,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 this isn't the anti-Muslim agenda, this is another 2 example of distortion of facts, allegedly: 3 "Sex tease Amy gets BB boot." 4 And BB in that sentence is Big Brother. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Do you have that? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. "An eviction shock for sobbing telly babe." 9 And the Tabloid Watch point out that she hadn't been 10 evicted from Big Brother. 11 A. I honestly don't remember this story, I'm sorry. 12 I don't know what the "boot" refers to. It could have 13 been from The Only Way is Essex, from her agency. I'm 14 not familiar with the story, I'm sorry. 15 Q. Underneath the big headline it says: 16 "Eviction shock for sobbing telly babe." 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. So it is being suggested that the boot is the eviction 19 from Big Brother, isn't it? 20 A. As I say, I'm not familiar with this story, so I don't 21 know. 22 Q. So you don't accept this is another example of 23 a titivating headline in order to attract readers? 24 A. It's certainly a titivating headline and the -- yes, the 25 aim was to attract readers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 they're written in Daily Star style, absolutely. 2 Q. Is there an anti-Islamic agenda at the Star? 3 A. No, not at all. 4 Q. Is there a tendency to describe people as Muslim thugs 5 on the one hand, and their targets as British on the 6 other hand? 7 A. No, not at all, because you can be British and Muslim. 8 Q. But in the context we're talking about, you'll always be 9 British and Muslim, won't you? 10 A. Sorry? 11 Q. Can I take you to some specific -- 12 A. Yes, please. 13 Q. -- stories? A slight technical difficulty is that the 14 website I'm looking at cannot be printed off, but I have 15 it online here and I'm going to hand you my iPad and we 16 have another iPad I'm going to hand up. 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Don't worry about me. 18 MR JAY: You're going to have it as well because we have it 19 online for you. 20 In order to stop that falling asleep, I'm going to 21 have to ask you to -- 22 A. Keep wiggling it about. 23 Q. That sort of thing. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. The first headline, and this is for 7 September 2011,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you scroll down a bit to the heading "Muslims in the 2 Daily Star". 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Tabloid Watch says: 5 "During November, only seven different topics 6 appeared as the front page lead on the Daily Star and 7 the Daily Star Sunday." 8 You're not responsible for the latter. 9 A. No. 10 Q. Here's the list, together with the number of times they 11 appeared, and we see the X Factor 12 days, Katie Price 12 and/or Peter Andre six days, Muslims three days and then 13 various others. 14 I think the question at this stage is does that give 15 a fair representation of how the Daily Star front pages 16 tend to work? 17 A. No, not at all, because this was November and I think 18 the store here is about people burning poppies. 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. So it's not a fair representation of every month, 21 obviously. 22 Q. The people burning poppies are "Muslim thugs", according 23 to your headline, but if you scroll down a little bit 24 further down the page -- we're going to gloss over Daily 25 Star Sunday, since that's not you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>



<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. That's the headline:</p> <p>3 "Hooks GBP 10,000 handout."</p> <p>4 I needn't ask you about that.</p> <p>5 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>6 Q. But the first headline:</p> <p>7 "Armistice Day outrage. Muslim thugs burn poppies.</p> <p>8 Sickening scenes on British streets."</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Is that your choice of language?</p> <p>11 A. I don't remember if I actually wrote the headline or the</p> <p>12 sub-deck, but burning poppies on streets I think is</p> <p>13 pretty outrageous behaviour.</p> <p>14 Q. Is it the policy of the Star to balance stories such as</p> <p>15 this, particularly if you're going to give them such</p> <p>16 prominence, with stories of a different nature, which</p> <p>17 give you a different picture, in other words?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, of course.</p> <p>19 Q. Are you able to give us any examples of pro-Muslim</p> <p>20 stories, if I can put it in those terms?</p> <p>21 A. Yes. There was the story of the recent riots in the</p> <p>22 summer, where there was a very, very brave man who spoke</p> <p>23 out to the Islamic community about his son's death and</p> <p>24 we -- it was a very, very positive story and a very</p> <p>25 moving story.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 are British, yet it's the "Brit schoolboy". So you have</p> <p>2 the very uncomfortable juxtaposition and a tendentious</p> <p>3 message you're transmitting, would you accept?</p> <p>4 A. I think it could be interpreted that way. As I said,</p> <p>5 I'm really not familiar with this story, which is a bit</p> <p>6 frustrating.</p> <p>7 Q. You're resisting, or you're entitled to resist, the</p> <p>8 interpretation I'm putting on it, but it might be said</p> <p>9 that you are overresisting an interpretation which is</p> <p>10 the only interpretation you could fairly put on this</p> <p>11 story; wouldn't you agree?</p> <p>12 A. I think -- yes, you can interpret it in the way you've</p> <p>13 interpreted it, and obviously people have done, you</p> <p>14 know, for which is -- you know, is not good.</p> <p>15 Q. It's not good, but what, if anything, is being done</p> <p>16 about it to address this bias, Ms Neesom? Because</p> <p>17 you're the editor, you're the person responsible for</p> <p>18 this sort of message.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, absolutely. We are not biased against Muslims.</p> <p>20 This is one story that, as I say, I am frustratingly not</p> <p>21 aware of, I don't remember writing this headline, so</p> <p>22 it's an issue we will address when I go back to the</p> <p>23 office.</p> <p>24 Q. But this sort of story goes onto the front page of your</p> <p>25 paper in this language, I would suggest to you, because</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. The next headline, if you scroll down, Daily</p> <p>2 Star:</p> <p>3 "Muslim thugs aged just 12 in knife attack on Brit</p> <p>4 schoolboy."</p> <p>5 Do you see that?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>7 Q. But it was clear, wasn't it, that this was merely -- and</p> <p>8 I don't diminish it in any way -- threats posted on</p> <p>9 Facebook rather than an actual physical attack; do you</p> <p>10 accept that?</p> <p>11 A. I -- I must confess I am not familiar with this</p> <p>12 particular story, I'm reading it here, and Facebook</p> <p>13 death threats, I think that's an attack, whether it's</p> <p>14 physical or on Facebook. I mean, most children these</p> <p>15 days are bullied and attacked constantly on Facebook and</p> <p>16 I think it's a problem.</p> <p>17 Q. No doubt it is, but the wording "Muslim thugs aged just</p> <p>18 12 in knife attack", that does suggest to one objective</p> <p>19 reader, at least, that there was a physical attack on</p> <p>20 whom you describe as a Brit school --</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I agree it could be interpreted that way.</p> <p>22 Q. Could be or could only be interpreted in that way?</p> <p>23 A. I said I'm not familiar with this story and I didn't</p> <p>24 write the headlines, so ...</p> <p>25 Q. Again, it's the tendentious language. The Muslim thugs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 you know that it what your readers want to see. Is that</p> <p>2 not right?</p> <p>3 A. We put stories on page 1 that we think the readers are</p> <p>4 interested in, yes, that is true. Whether this story</p> <p>5 appealed to them in particular, I don't know, I don't</p> <p>6 know what the sales figures were for this day. It's</p> <p>7 frustratingly not a story I'm aware of.</p> <p>8 Q. But you would be able to tell us, would you not, if</p> <p>9 there had been a clamour of outrage from your readers</p> <p>10 once they read that paper, because your email box would</p> <p>11 be absolutely bristling with such emails, which</p> <p>12 presumably didn't happen, did it?</p> <p>13 A. I honestly don't remember.</p> <p>14 Q. But you would remember if it did happen, wouldn't you?</p> <p>15 A. As I don't remember the actual story, it's -- I'm not</p> <p>16 sure.</p> <p>17 Q. There are examples of stories -- this is Tabloid Watch</p> <p>18 again.</p> <p>19 A. I don't know what Tabloid Watch is, I'm sorry.</p> <p>20 Q. You really don't know?</p> <p>21 A. No, I seriously don't.</p> <p>22 MR DINGEMANS: Can I raise one matter, sir, about these</p> <p>23 headlines?</p> <p>24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mm.</p> <p>25 MR DINGEMANS: I've given my learned friend as much latitude</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 as possible. I did ask him for notice of questions that 2 were going to be put to editors simply so they could 3 prepare. My learned friend very fairly gave notice to 4 Ms Neesom around 9.30 that he was going to raise these 5 matters, but there are perfectly proper questions that 6 can be made of the headlines, but the witness has not 7 had an opportunity or any fair opportunity to go back 8 and research the detail.</p> <p>9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm very happy if, when that happens, 10 you want to write to the Inquiry, and I will make sure 11 that it goes into the record of the Inquiry.</p> <p>12 MR DINGEMANS: I'm very grateful, sir.</p> <p>13 MR JAY: I think the point Tabloid Watch, rightly or 14 wrongly, are making is that your policy is to single out 15 stories or interpretation of stories which are 16 anti-Islamic, but there are many stories which are or go 17 entirely the other way. So, for example, this is just 18 one example they give, a youth association in Croydon 19 raised £20,963 as part of their Poppy Appeal. Is that 20 the sort of story which the Daily Star has ever 21 published?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, of course.</p> <p>23 Q. Of course?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. That sort of story?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 really the underlying thrust, rather than the individual 2 examples.</p> <p>3 MR JAY: Yes.</p> <p>4 A. I am aware of what Mr Peppiatt said, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. I think your evidence is that you don't accept the 6 charge that there is an anti-Islamic agenda.</p> <p>7 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>8 Q. And if there were a pro Islamic agenda, or rather, if 9 I can put it in these terms, a balanced agenda, how 10 would that play out with your readers, do you think?</p> <p>11 A. Fine. We do have a balanced agenda and we've never had 12 a problem with the readers.</p> <p>13 Q. What feedback do you get from your readers in relation 14 to front pages such as this, if any?</p> <p>15 A. We have a forum page, which is like a modern version of 16 a letters page, where readers text in their thoughts and 17 comments.</p> <p>18 Q. If I'm focusing on this particular agenda, but of course 19 there may be others. Are the messages largely 20 supportive or largely hostile?</p> <p>21 A. On what subject?</p> <p>22 Q. The anti-Islamic issue.</p> <p>23 A. It's not something they tend to text about, to be honest 24 with you. They text more about TV programmes and who 25 fancies who and stuff like that. The forum page is --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. We do publish positive stories.</p> <p>2 Q. Can you give me any examples of those?</p> <p>3 A. In connection with the poppies?</p> <p>4 Q. Yes, or at all.</p> <p>5 A. The example I gave earlier of the riot story.</p> <p>6 Q. If I were to invite -- it wouldn't be me, it would be 7 Lord Justice Leveson -- invite you to come back to us in 8 writing, and you can have as much time as you like, over 9 the past year of pro-Islamic stories, however you want 10 to characterise it, which give us at least a balanced 11 perspective, you would do that, would you?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, of course, delighted to. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. We'll see what you provide. There's another 14 example of a poppy painted on the front of a mosque, 15 that that attracted a demonstration, much to the chagrin 16 of the Imam, and you're telling us that's the sort of 17 story you would also publish, would you?</p> <p>18 A. Sorry, who painted the poppy on the mosque?</p> <p>19 Q. The mosque itself painted the poppy on the front of the 20 mosque because of the fact that it was Remembrance Day, 21 or about to be, but that attracted hostility.</p> <p>22 A. I'm not aware of that story, I'm sorry.</p> <p>23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I suppose the real point is not so 24 much specific examples, but I'm sure you're conscious of 25 what Mr Peppiatt said when he gave evidence, and it's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 it's light-hearted fun. Politics really isn't a big 2 issue with the readers.</p> <p>3 Q. Maybe it isn't, but the issue we're focusing on at the 4 moment, I fully accept it's a political issue in the 5 wider sense of the term, but I think the sense of your 6 evidence is that you don't get any feedback which is 7 hostile to this sort of front page. Is that fair?</p> <p>8 A. Hostile to that as in?</p> <p>9 Q. Opposing it.</p> <p>10 A. Opposing sort of the poppy burning thing?</p> <p>11 Q. The two front pages we've been looking at.</p> <p>12 A. The poppy burning, yes, that did get a lot of feedback 13 from readers, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And what was, in general terms, the thrust of the 15 feedback? Was it --</p> <p>16 A. They were angry.</p> <p>17 Q. Was it one of shared outrage with the position you were 18 taking?</p> <p>19 A. They were angry. They were angry that people were 20 burning poppies, yes. Regardless of who was doing the 21 burning, they were angry about it. As I think -- 22 I mean, most papers did run that story. I think the Sun 23 also ran that on their page 1 and did a similar line.</p> <p>24 Q. I think the issue is not so much running the story, but 25 the tone of the running, in particular the front page</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 caption. Do you see that?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, I do. My recollection is that I believe we had</p> <p>3 a very similar line to the Sun. I don't know, I can't</p> <p>4 remember the actual headline.</p> <p>5 Q. Mr Peppiatt also told us that a huge amount of material</p> <p>6 comes through PR agencies and is then cycled or recycled</p> <p>7 into your page. Is that true or not?</p> <p>8 A. I think in common with all titles we get an awful lot of</p> <p>9 PR stuff through, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. But does the Star tend to use it as really the basic</p> <p>11 fodder for its celebrity stories?</p> <p>12 A. No, no, not the basic fodder, no. It takes a large part</p> <p>13 of it, but ...</p> <p>14 Q. So PR stories are a substantial part of the Star's daily</p> <p>15 business, isn't it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I mean yeah, I don't think there's anything wrong</p> <p>17 with using PRs, although some of them can be a bit bad.</p> <p>18 Q. In terms of pressure put on journalists, is it right</p> <p>19 that if a certain level of stories or number of stories</p> <p>20 is not printed in the year, I think he gave the figure</p> <p>21 of 12 stories, then journalists are fired?</p> <p>22 A. I've never heard that before, I'm sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. How often are staff journalists fired for failing to</p> <p>24 achieve?</p> <p>25 A. I don't remember ever firing a staff journalist, to be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 A. No, we don't do appraisal forms, no.</p> <p>2 Q. Is this another example of rather thin or nonexistent</p> <p>3 systems, in other words it's all done by feel and by</p> <p>4 judgment?</p> <p>5 A. I must admit, I've never worked anywhere that has had an</p> <p>6 appraisal form for journalists.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Do your reporters have any recourse if they</p> <p>8 believe they are having to act unethically? In other</p> <p>9 words, is there a whistle-blowing policy at the Star?</p> <p>10 A. We are, as I said, a very small team. I sit on the news</p> <p>11 floor all the time. It's a very open team. We all talk</p> <p>12 to each other on a daily basis. You can talk to me, my</p> <p>13 door is always open. If I'm not sitting on the news</p> <p>14 floor, you can talk to the news desk, human resources,</p> <p>15 the managing editor, you can talk to Mr Ashford. There</p> <p>16 are loads of ways of going about it.</p> <p>17 Q. You may well have an open-door policy, Ms Neesom.</p> <p>18 That's not the same as a whistle-blowing policy. Do you</p> <p>19 see the difference?</p> <p>20 A. I guess so, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. But do you have a whistle-blowing policy or not?</p> <p>22 A. I'm not sure what a whistle-blowing policy would</p> <p>23 actually consist of, to be honest with you.</p> <p>24 Q. I've seen many examples of it, indeed in --</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The idea is that somebody can make</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 honest with you.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Would that be your responsibility or the managing</p> <p>3 editor's?</p> <p>4 A. It would be my decision to fire somebody, but the</p> <p>5 managing editor would probably carry out the actual</p> <p>6 task, but I don't remember ever firing anybody.</p> <p>7 Q. What criteria do you use in relation to whether casual</p> <p>8 staff should be promoted or become staff reporters?</p> <p>9 A. Purely on how well they performed as a casual reporter.</p> <p>10 Q. How is that assessed?</p> <p>11 A. On their day-to-day operating.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes, but what criteria, if any, do you apply?</p> <p>13 A. How good a reporter they are, how accurate they are, how</p> <p>14 many stories they bring in, the accuracy of those</p> <p>15 stories. Just how good a journalist they are.</p> <p>16 Q. Is this audited or put in writing in any way, or is it</p> <p>17 just your gut reaction to how they've performed?</p> <p>18 A. It is mainly I rely on the experience of my very</p> <p>19 experienced news desk. They're the ones that deal on</p> <p>20 a day to day basis with the young reporters we have, so</p> <p>21 I trust their judgment.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you use appraisal forms, or is it just a question of</p> <p>23 asking them?</p> <p>24 A. It's just a question of talking amongst ourselves.</p> <p>25 Q. So there aren't any appraisal forms; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 a complaint in a way that doesn't in any sense reflect</p> <p>2 on them, and therefore won't or can't be taken out on</p> <p>3 them.</p> <p>4 A. Yes, we have a human resources department who are</p> <p>5 completely independent of the newspaper.</p> <p>6 MR JAY: But normally these days, if I may be forgiven</p> <p>7 putting it in these terms, an organisation with a clear</p> <p>8 system of governance will have a whistle-blowing policy</p> <p>9 so it's made absolutely clear that if you blow the</p> <p>10 whistle, and in your sort of context it would be</p> <p>11 a journalist feeling that he or she is being asked to</p> <p>12 behave in an unethical manner, there's a clear procedure</p> <p>13 to be followed and it's absolutely crystal clear that</p> <p>14 there will be no comeback on the journalist. Do you</p> <p>15 understand all of that?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, of course I understand that.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you have such a system or not?</p> <p>18 A. They can go to human resources. We don't -- I've never</p> <p>19 had a whistle-blowing experience, to be honest with you.</p> <p>20 Q. It might be that someone, a journalist, feels that the</p> <p>21 sort of headlines we've been looking at stray well over</p> <p>22 the line of what's ethical and they want to complain</p> <p>23 about it, but they feel that they can't precisely</p> <p>24 because if they were to, they would be out of the door.</p> <p>25 Do you see that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 A. No, it doesn't operate like that on the Daily Star. 2 We're not that sort of company. I'm certainly not 3 running that sort of news floor. 4 Q. There was litigation, I think it's right to say, over 5 the Christopher Jefferies case; is that right? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. And the defamatory article was on the front page of your 8 newspaper, was it? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. And of course you were in good or bad company, since you 11 weren't the only paper sued over the -- 12 A. I think there were lots of people involved, yes. 13 Q. There were lots of papers involved. I think there were 14 eight papers involved, weren't there? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. So there was good strength of numbers, but can I ask you 17 about the apology, which was published on 30 July, 18 because I have been asked to put this to you, 30 July 19 last year? 20 A. Yes, of course. 21 Q. That the apology was on page 2, not on page 1, but 22 I think you're in a position to explain why; is that 23 right? 24 A. I think that was as was agreed with -- between the legal 25 teams.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 right? 2 A. The legal team came to me and said, "This is the 3 complaint that's been made, we need to make an apology, 4 we need to make it on page 2", and I said, "Yes, fine". 5 Q. Did you not investigate the matter any further than 6 that? 7 A. I asked the news team as to what had happened, how the 8 story had come about and what the background was to it, 9 yes. 10 Q. All right, so you did carry out an investigation. What 11 was your attitude to the story when -- particularly when 12 it was explained to you that you would have to make 13 a payment to Mr Jefferies on the grounds that it was 14 defamatory? 15 A. I was annoyed that we'd messed up. 16 Q. What did you do about that, if anything? 17 A. I discussed it with the people concerned. 18 Q. And who were those people? The journalists and the news 19 editor? 20 A. And it would have been the person duty editing the paper 21 on the day, yes. 22 Q. What were the nature of the discussions in general 23 terms? 24 A. They weren't cuddly. I was annoyed. I mean, it 25 shouldn't happen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Q. So that was -- 2 A. That was acceptable to -- 3 Q. -- a settlement which Mr Jefferies came to? 4 A. That was acceptable to him, yes. 5 Q. Can I ask a little bit more about that? The articles in 6 question were published on 31 December 2010 and 7 1 January 2011. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. I've given the dates. I know Mr Mohan, for example, of 10 the Sun was on holiday at that time and it's for that 11 reason I didn't ask him questions about it, but were you 12 on holiday at the time? 13 A. I was on holiday over the New Year period, yes. 14 Q. So you didn't know about the articles, is this right, 15 until you came back into the office? 16 A. That's true. 17 Q. But were you involved in any way in the litigation over 18 the articles? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Were your views sought at all about whether the articles 21 were defamatory or acceptable? 22 A. It was dealt with by the legal team. 23 Q. Is this your evidence, you had no input at all into any 24 of the process which culminated in settling the case 25 with Mr Jefferies and publishing an apology; is that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. You were annoyed because it cost the paper money or you 2 were annoyed because it was unethical or something 3 different? 4 A. On both counts, on both counts. 5 Q. What, if anything, has been done within your systems to 6 ensure this sort of thing -- and I know you were in good 7 company, numerically at least, seven other papers -- but 8 this sort of thing wouldn't happen again? 9 A. Well, it's an ongoing process. We just on a daily basis 10 make sure these things do not happen. To the best of 11 our ability. We were in good company, and most 12 newspapers did that story very badly. It wasn't a good 13 time. 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's interesting, I hadn't really 15 thought about the fact that because it was over the New 16 Year, all the top people in these newspapers were likely 17 not to be there, and therefore the top people, the 18 editors, weren't applying their minds to the particular 19 issue and it was being done at a lower level. 20 A. It would have been -- 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I hadn't worked out the timing on it. 22 A. Because it was New Year's Eve, I think most editors 23 would have been away and it would have been duty editors 24 that were taking part in that, yes. 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's an interesting facet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 MR JAY: To be clear, I was using "good company" either                  2 ironically or --                  3 A. I know, I know. I appreciate that.                  4 Q. You were in fact in very bad company, although they                  5 were --                  6 A. Very bad company. It was not -- it was a bad mistake.                  7 I mean newspapers, all newspapers, make mistakes.                  8 Q. I think what interests the Inquiry is that there were                  9 eight titles which were sued over the same sort of                  10 story. Same sort of defamatory story.                  11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Does that happen, that you'll pick up                  12 stories from other press?                  13 A. I think all titles pick up stories from other newspapers                  14 and magazines, yes.                  15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: One of the things that Mr Peppiatt                  16 said was, "If it's in the Daily Mail, it's okay for us".                  17 A. The Daily Mail is obviously a market leader, a very good                  18 newspaper, has a very good website, but we don't just                  19 lift stories from their website and put it in the paper                  20 without at least checking.                  21 MR JAY: It's something I've noticed, and I'm not giving                  22 evidence, that there are certain papers who do indeed                  23 lift articles from other papers, because I have personal                  24 experience of that in the sense that I've seen that on                  25 numerous occasions, but can I ask how it works? Is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 Q. Did any of those stories result in litigation?                  2 A. Yes.                  3 Q. Against your paper?                  4 A. Yes.                  5 Q. And were those stories of similar character to the                  6 stories we've seen in the context of the Express, your                  7 sister paper?                  8 A. Yes.                  9 Q. And did you have any involvement in those stories, in                  10 particular headlines?                  11 A. I would have done, yes.                  12 Q. You would have or -- don't use the conditional. You                  13 either did or you didn't?                  14 A. It depends on what headline we're talking about on what                  15 day.                  16 Q. So some of them -- I think your answer is you were                  17 involved in some but not necessarily all?                  18 A. Not necessarily all, no.                  19 Q. Right. How did it come about that such defamatory and                  20 distressing stories ever found the light of day in your                  21 paper?                  22 A. From memory, we were -- the source of the stories was                  23 entirely coming from Portugal. We had one reporter out                  24 in Portugal covering the story and we were being fed                  25 stories by the Portuguese police and press.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 there a team within the Star which reads your                  2 competitors' papers?                  3 A. It's the job of a journalist to read every newspaper                  4 every day.                  5 Q. And if, for example, you see, inverted commas, a good                  6 story, close inverted commas, from another paper, that                  7 you may recycle that in a slightly different way?                  8 A. It depends on where the story is seen and what                  9 readership crossover there is, yes.                  10 Q. Of course, provided that the judgment is formed that the                  11 story may be of interest to your readers and provided                  12 that you may satisfy yourself that the story is not                  13 defamatory, you'll then use it, will you?                  14 A. I don't see a problem with that, no.                  15 Q. Is there a tendency to use stories from papers which are                  16 positioned in the same sort of political domain as your                  17 paper; in other words, to make it more explicit, the                  18 right-wing press, if I can be given for using slightly                  19 tendentious language?                  20 A. Not necessarily, no. I mean, if there's a story, it's                  21 a good story, no matter what paper or magazine it's in,                  22 you know, we will consider using it.                  23 Q. Did you have any involvement with stories about the                  24 McCanns?                  25 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Q. You were being fed them, but that suggests that it was                  2 almost an automatic response that you would include them                  3 in your paper?                  4 A. Yeah. The source of the stories was the Portuguese                  5 police and press.                  6 Q. But is this right, that because of the nature of the                  7 information, that it was really leaks from the                  8 Portuguese police, that your sources couldn't really be                  9 checked, could they?                  10 A. It was very hard to check sources, yes.                  11 Q. So you were running a huge risk, weren't you, in                  12 publishing these stories?                  13 A. Yes, there was a risk, yes.                  14 Q. A risk or huge risk?                  15 A. It was a risk, and, you know, to this day I regret --                  16 I regret what happened in the McCann case, and I can                  17 only repeat the apology we published on page 1, very                  18 happily published on page 1, to the McCanns for the hurt                  19 and the distress we caused them.                  20 Q. Of course we understand that, Ms Neesom. It's just the                  21 thought process at the time, that it must have been                  22 obvious to you that not merely was there a huge                  23 litigation risk, which you called it wrong, but also                  24 that the stories were extremely wounding and damaging --                  25 A. Yes, and I --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 Q. -- in that not merely had the McCanns physically lost 2 their daughter, she had disappeared, but the accusation 3 was they were responsible for that. What was your 4 thought process, if any, as to the ramifications of 5 publishing such stories? 6 A. With hindsight, I -- as I say, I am deeply sorry for the 7 upset we caused. At the time, I honestly don't recall 8 what my thought process was. It was a story that was 9 a huge story, it was the only story everybody was 10 talking about whenever you went, and the interest was 11 huge. And the stories we were getting were coming from 12 what I thought at the time was a reliable source, ie 13 a police force. 14 Q. But wasn't the guiding factor then this: that the story 15 was of huge interest to your readers -- 16 A. To everybody. 17 Q. You knew that. The story would have the possibility, at 18 least, of increasing your sales, and therefore, 19 regardless of its truth, you were going to run it. Is 20 that not fair? 21 A. I'm not sure that it did increase sales. I can't 22 remember the sales figures. We ran the story because it 23 was huge, it was the only story of the day. Nobody else 24 was talking about anything else wherever you went. You 25 went to the supermarket, people talked about it. It was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 of the organisation which you head? 2 A. As editor of the Daily Star? I -- in reference to the 3 Daily Star itself, I have tried to make it more 4 acceptable to both sexes. It was a very laddie paper. 5 I've tried to make it more acceptable to both sexes. 6 I've tried obviously to grow the circulation, and I've 7 tried to make it a fair and accurate and entertaining 8 newspaper. 9 Q. In what respects does the organisation now reflect your 10 leadership? 11 A. I hope we produce, on balance, a fair, accurate, 12 entertaining newspaper that the readers enjoy. 13 Q. What is your biggest priority going forward? 14 A. There's a very obvious answer to that: obviously to stay 15 in business. It's a very difficult time, as I said. 16 The competition from the Internet is huge, it's 17 a problem all newspapers will face, but the vision going 18 forward is to be successful, to basically move on from 19 where we are today in a positive way. 20 Q. I address the issue of regulation. 21 A. Yes, of course. 22 Q. Others will deal with this in more detail, but the 23 Northern &amp; Shell papers left the PCC in January of last 24 year? 25 A. Yes, they did.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
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<p>1 a huge, huge story, and mistakes were made, for which 2 I am truly sorry. 3 Q. It's the size of the story which is the predominant 4 consideration and also the impact it will have; is that 5 fair? 6 A. Yes. Obviously big stories are big stories, yes. 7 Q. Thank you. Some general questions, which you have been 8 given notice of. 9 A. Mm-hm. 10 Q. What, please, is your vision for the paper, and in what 11 way will you realise that in the way you lead your 12 organisation? 13 A. Well, obviously after this morning there's a lot of work 14 to be done. As you say, systems can always be improved 15 and that's something we will work on as a newspaper. My 16 vision for the newspaper as a whole is it's a very 17 difficult time for the entire industry. I want to see 18 the paper improve. I think the Leveson Inquiry is 19 a brilliant opportunity for us to move on as a group, as 20 an industry, and improve. Mistakes have been made, 21 dreadful mistakes have been made. I love the industry, 22 I'm very proud to call myself a journalist and I really 23 want to move on and make things right and make it work 24 together. 25 Q. What, if anything, have you done to change the culture</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Q. It wasn't your decision, of course? 2 A. No. 3 Q. We understand that. Was it a decision which you were 4 happy with? 5 A. It was a decision I -- I -- I agreed with the board's 6 decision to withdraw from the PCC. I did feel that it 7 had sort of lost its way somewhat, and with hindsight 8 I think that has proved to be the case. But I really do 9 believe there is a way forward and we had a very 10 positive meeting with Lord Hunt just before Christmas, 11 and it was amazing because all the newspaper editors 12 were in one room together working to improve the 13 industry, which I think is a fantastic thing and I think 14 it's a fantastic opportunity to do so. 15 Q. I'm going to ask a question in these terms. I mean, 16 ignoring Lord Hunt and what your other editors think -- 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. -- the question is directed only at you: what 19 improvements to the regulatory system would you propose? 20 A. Oh, gosh. I think self-regulation can work. I think 21 it's a dangerous area when you have editors on 22 a self-regulatory panel, because people have agendas. 23 But, yes, I'm in favour of self-regulation and I think 24 it's something that we do need to think long and hard 25 about.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>
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<p>1 Q. Yes. I'm not sure that that's giving us any practical 2 solution apart from we need to think more about it. Is 3 there anything tangible you could give us, Ms Neesom? 4 A. Pretty much, as I said, pretty much with what we 5 discussed with Lord Hunt I think is there are a lot of 6 positive suggestions in there. I could go through them, 7 but I'm sure -- 8 Q. We don't need them because he'll give those to us. 9 A. Exactly, yes. 10 Q. But what we might need is your view, untrammelled by the 11 views of others. Is there anything you want to add to 12 what you've just said? 13 A. Not really, no. As I said, I think self-regulation can 14 work, and I think this is a positive start to it. 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think, really, one could ask you to 16 answer your own question. Because what you said just 17 a moment or so ago was this -- I'll just find it -- that 18 you felt the Inquiry was a "brilliant opportunity for us 19 to move on as a group ..." 20 A. Yes. 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: "... as an industry, and improve". 22 So the real question is how would you move on? What 23 would you encourage me to say or do that will allow you 24 to move on? 25 A. I would encourage you to listen very carefully to what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 which was February 2011. 2 A. That's right. 3 Q. As regards your career, you joined the Daily Star in the 4 late 1970s. In the mid-1980s you joined the Sun? 5 A. That's right. 6 Q. Under Kelvin MacKenzie, as we know? 7 A. That's right. 8 Q. You returned to the Star to become a deputy editor. 9 When was that about? 10 A. I went back in about 1986 or 1987. I didn't go back as 11 deputy editor, I went back as a news reporter and 12 quickly became the night editor, night news editor. 13 Q. And then you became deputy editor? 14 A. I then became news editor and then I became deputy 15 editor about four or five years after that. 16 Q. Thank you. And then at some stage, it's not clear from 17 your statement, you became the launch editor of the 18 Daily Star Sunday? 19 A. I did. 20 Q. When was that about? 21 A. It was 2001, I think, 2002. 22 Q. And then you moved to the Daily Express and now of 23 course you're the editor of the Express. 24 Can I ask you this general question: you've been in 25 the industry for some time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 people are saying and take into consideration their 2 views and you're far more intelligent than I am, so 3 I know you're going to come up with something very good. 4 MR JAY: Yes, thank you very much. 5 A. Thank you very much. 6 MR JAY: It's Mr Whittow next, please. 7 MR HUGH WHITTOW (sworn) 8 Questions by MR JAY 9 MR JAY: Thank you very much. 10 Your full name, please? 11 A. Hugh John Whittow. 12 Q. Thank you. In file 1 under tab 17, we will find your 13 witness statement, please, also dated 16 September 2011. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. There's a statement of truth that's been signed by you 16 and this is your evidence. 17 A. Right. 18 Q. It should be recognised that all the evidence from the 19 Express papers, I think, have come in by the initial 20 deadline the Inquiry set you, so you in that sense have 21 done yourselves proud, if you don't mind me saying so, 22 but can I ask you about yourself? You, of course, now 23 are the editor of the Daily Express? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. And have been since the retirement I think of Mr Hill,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. The difference, if any, of culture between the 3 newspapers, the ones you've worked in, is there any? 4 A. Not really. You know, when I started on a weekly paper 5 all those years ago, we abided by the same rules and 6 principles. I've been to different newspapers, some are 7 more energetic than others, but they all seem the same 8 to me. 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Could I just press you on that in one 10 regard? Is the culture that operates in your newsroom 11 today different from the culture that operated in the 12 Sun under Mr MacKenzie? 13 A. There is a big difference, yes. But on the other hand 14 we still have some characters. It's not -- 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I wasn't saying -- 16 A. -- a church. 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I wasn't suggesting you don't have 18 characters, but before we talk about the characters, I'd 19 very much like you to explain what the big differences 20 are, and I will let Mr Jay elaborate with you. 21 A. The change came when computers came into the building. 22 Everything is now very, very disciplined. There used to 23 be a carefree attitude, I suppose. There was a lot of 24 people around in those days. It's very -- practically 25 every newsroom, I would imagine now, is tight-knit and,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 as I say, very disciplined, everybody knows their jobs                  2 and everybody goes about it, and it's -- probably the                  3 biggest difference is that people work twice as hard, or                  4 three times as hard.                  5 MR JAY: Mr MacKenzie told us, if I paraphrase his evidence                  6 correctly, that he was a bit of the -- in the "lob it                  7 in" school -- just wait for the end of the question --                  8 but made it clear that in his view things have become                  9 much more cautious and it's no longer the standard which                  10 is applied. Can you comment on that?                  11 A. I heard part of Mr MacKenzie's evidence and I know him                  12 reasonably well. I can't remember it being a "lob it                  13 in" operation at all. There was a lot of consideration                  14 given to all stories.                  15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's interesting, because he said it                  16 at the seminars, and --                  17 A. It wasn't lobbed in at all.                  18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But he said it in the seminar and he                  19 was deliberately given the opportunity to say something                  20 different when he was giving evidence, and what one                  21 might say for the sake of effect at a seminar might not                  22 be quite what you'd say in evidence formally --                  23 A. Perhaps he thought it was being lobbed in, but I don't                  24 think the journalists thought it was being lobbed in,                  25 because if you ever did anything wrong or got anything</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 which occur.                  2 A. Yes.                  3 Q. That's the same sort of picture we have from all the                  4 papers, although of course there are parochial                  5 differences, that's understood.                  6 You explain that the front page is the only page you                  7 really do yourself, so is this right, you select the                  8 main headline?                  9 A. Yes.                  10 Q. And the way in which it's turned, is that right?                  11 A. The way the front page is drawn, yes.                  12 Q. And what is the thinking? Is it to create maximum                  13 impact?                  14 A. No. The main task of the day is to do the story of the                  15 day. If bin Laden, when he died, that was the story.                  16 When the tsunami happened earlier in the year, the                  17 earthquake, they became the big stories of the day. You                  18 follow the main story. The royal wedding. You know,                  19 these are obviously examples.                  20 Q. Yes, but it isn't quite as simple as that, because it                  21 depends how the story is described. If you go back to                  22 the sinking of the Belgrano, there are two                  23 possibilities, or many possibilities. You can put up                  24 a caption, "Gotcha", or you can put up a caption,                  25 "Tragedy, 1300 Argentinians might have died" and there</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 incorrect, you soon knew about it.                  2 MR JAY: And how did you soon know about it?                  3 A. You were told in no uncertain terms that you'd messed                  4 up.                  5 Q. Maybe he was speaking from the perspective of an editor                  6 rather than the perspective of a journalist. Is there                  7 a difference?                  8 A. He may have been, yes. Perhaps he wanted to generate                  9 that sort of atmosphere. But it was a very tight-run                  10 professional ship.                  11 Q. Of course, this issue cuts a number of ways, because if                  12 your evidence is that there's been no change in culture                  13 from the 1980s compared with 2012, it might be said that                  14 everything's the same, there have been no improvements,                  15 no deteriorations.                  16 A. No, I did say that everything has been tightened up                  17 since computers started hitting the news rooms. There's                  18 more discipline, everybody knows their jobs'                  19 descriptions, and everybody works together now. People                  20 used to go off on a tangent quite often. We all know                  21 what we're doing these days.                  22 Q. Okay. Can I ask you, please, about paragraph 8 of your                  23 statement. This is the culmination of a section in your                  24 evidence when you explain to the Inquiry how the                  25 newspaper operates and there are a number of conferences</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 are all sorts of possibilities in between.                  2 A. Of course.                  3 Q. But do you accept the point or at least the possibility                  4 that the caption will do two things --                  5 A. The headline, you mean?                  6 Q. The headline. It will define the tone and direction of                  7 the paper?                  8 A. Of course.                  9 Q. But it will also create impact, do you accept that?                  10 A. I do, yes.                  11 Q. Can I ask you some general points about ethos? Do you                  12 lay down an editorial line for news journalists or do                  13 they absorb osmotically?                  14 A. They absorb it.                  15 Q. How?                  16 A. We, as you can see from my written statements, we have                  17 so many conferences during the course of the day which                  18 start at 10.15 in the morning, they go right on until                  19 about quarter to 2, and then we restart again at about                  20 4.15 and that goes on until about 5.30, 5.45. So they                  21 have a complete picture of what is going on in the                  22 newspaper, and we don't twist anything. We just present                  23 the news of the day.                  24 Q. That's a rather bald way of explaining what happens.                  25 Every newspaper -- because facts don't speak for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>



<p>1 themselves, or very few do -- comment on the facts,                  2 don't they?                  3 A. Yes, but we've got comment pages where we cover that                  4 inside. And our leader pages.                  5 Q. It isn't just about the scientific iteration of a fact;                  6 it is about -- and this would be true of all                  7 newspapers -- putting across a certain line, a certain                  8 agenda, a certain world view; do you accept that?                  9 A. Yes.                  10 Q. And the world view of the Express is one which your                  11 journalists will absorb, unless they're very stupid, and                  12 they're not, after having worked in the newsroom for                  13 some time; is that right?                  14 A. That's correct, yeah.                  15 Q. To what extent are journalists expected to show both                  16 sides of a story?                  17 A. It's a necessity. I insist on it. It was something                  18 that I -- the way I was brought up: when in doubt, check                  19 it out. And if you're still in doubt, leave it out.                  20 It's as simple as that, really.                  21 Q. That answer demonstrates that it's drummed into                  22 journalists really from day one that stories have to be                  23 accurate.                  24 A. From day one.                  25 Q. But that's a different point to the one I was putting to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 diary, they bring in their own stories, they go --                  2 that's our showbiz page. They go to functions, they                  3 talk to showbiz stars and that's where they get their                  4 stories, they bring those sorts of stories in.                  5 Q. How would you define a good journalist?                  6 A. They have to be very talented, they have to be very                  7 bright and very thorough.                  8 Q. You might be defining a good lawyer, or you might not.                  9 Can you be a little bit more precise than that?                  10 A. How can you, you know?                  11 Q. Okay. How would you define, if this isn't an unfair                  12 question, a good editor?                  13 A. A good editor is someone that knows almost everything                  14 that's going on in the paper, gives the staff the right                  15 direction, he gives the staff loyalty and gets it in                  16 return.                  17 Q. The political position of the Express, and this is not                  18 intended as criticism because every paper's entitled to                  19 have a position, is currently right of centre?                  20 A. It is, yes.                  21 Q. It takes a certain position on issues such as Europe?                  22 A. It does and in fact we've got a crusade to get Britain                  23 out of Europe, which we launched some time ago and we're                  24 very happy with.                  25 Q. Yes. You're, of course, entitled to have that, but does</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 you, namely the extent to which journalists are expected                  2 to show both sides of a story.                  3 A. I'd think that that answers the question, doesn't it?                  4 They are told that we must get a reaction, we must get                  5 a comment, and we do present that in the paper. It                  6 would be a very rare occasion when it didn't happen.                  7 Q. I think your answer means this: it's the policy of the                  8 Express to notify the individual who may be the subject                  9 of the story of the nature of the story and get                  10 a comment from them; is that right?                  11 A. Yes.                  12 Q. And that is what you mean by getting both sides?                  13 A. Yes, but if they disagree with the story, we will make                  14 sure that that gets due prominence.                  15 Q. What happens if journalists consistently fail to bring                  16 in or stand up stories?                  17 A. Nothing.                  18 Q. Nothing?                  19 A. Nothing.                  20 Q. So they just continue --                  21 A. Most stories these days are not brought in by                  22 journalists. They come through the system. We hear                  23 a lot of stories just on the wires, on television, on                  24 radio. Stories -- there's 24-hour news and we work on                  25 those stories. Not many are brought in. Probably the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 that come from you or from somewhere else?                  2 A. No, that came from another paper. That was felt to be                  3 the mood at the time, the best way for the country to                  4 go, and that's what we embarked on and that's what we                  5 intend carrying on with.                  6 Q. So is this a sort of collegiate decision from those                  7 high --                  8 A. Yes, I think --                  9 Q. Just wait for the end of the question -- high editorial                  10 and subeditorial positions within the paper? Is that                  11 how it works?                  12 A. It was almost certainly raised by one of our senior                  13 political commentators who said that that was the way                  14 things were going, there was a lot of feeling. We                  15 tested it with our readers, they felt the same, and                  16 that's why we've kept on a true path.                  17 Q. How are these things tested with readers?                  18 A. We have phone-ins, we have letters pages. I have a huge                  19 number of correspondence. It's easy to judge what                  20 they're interested in.                  21 Q. Yes, okay. Is this right, is this how it works, that                  22 your finger is constantly on the pulse of your readers,                  23 and really the objective is to ensure that what you                  24 write resonates with your readers; is that right?                  25 A. To a certain extent, but I do get a lot of letters from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 people saying, "You know, we didn't like that feature,                  2 we didn't like the way you treated that story", so we                  3 don't always write to please the readers. We present                  4 the truth, hopefully.                  5 Q. Well, I think without entering into a philosophical                  6 debate, to state that you present the truth is really                  7 attempting to achieve the impossible. You attempt to                  8 put forward one version of the truth, can we at least                  9 agree on that? Or do you say it is the truth?                  10 A. I won't put anything in the paper unless I think that it                  11 is true.                  12 Q. That's certainly correct in relation to a fact. There                  13 are certain facts which either occurred or did not                  14 occur. We're talking --                  15 A. But at the time, at the time of writing.                  16 Q. But you know, Mr Whittow, that the question is directed                  17 to something else. It's directed to comment, it's                  18 directed to opinion, and I think we must agree that your                  19 objective is to put forward one version of the truth,                  20 isn't it?                  21 If the answer is no, or your objective is to put                  22 forward only the truth, then there isn't a need to show                  23 both sides of the story because there isn't another side                  24 of the story. Do you see the logic of that?                  25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 that's the way it's always worked in Fleet Street. You                  2 got a job as staff reporter by working your way up                  3 through the provincial -- the weekly papers, provincial                  4 papers, and then unless you were very, very fortunate                  5 and got a staff job you'd have to become a casual in                  6 Fleet Street, and your talents would be tested and you'd                  7 hope that you got a job in the end.                  8 Q. Who's --                  9 A. The standard has improved dramatically because of                  10 graduate trainees. There are many journalistic courses                  11 now. Everybody still wants to be a journalist, believe                  12 it or not, and so there's a very big pool to pick from.                  13 Q. Yes. In terms of hiring recruits, particularly at the                  14 bottom, is that something you --                  15 A. How do you mean, the bottom?                  16 Q. The junior, the most junior recruits?                  17 A. Yes.                  18 Q. Particularly those of postgraduate level. Are you                  19 responsible for heading up that or does someone else do                  20 it?                  21 A. No, it's normally the heads of department. Every                  22 department within the paper recruits people on a casual                  23 basis. If they want to employ them at some stage, they                  24 don't hesitate to come and see me.                  25 Q. The PCC issue, paragraph 14. The point you make</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. This isn't a philosophical debate.                  2 A. I understand.                  3 Q. I couldn't resist. Can I ask you, please, about                  4 paragraph 11 and the issue of new recruits.                  5 A. Yes.                  6 Q. And freelancers.                  7 A. Yes.                  8 Q. First of all, what proportion of your journalists are                  9 freelancers as opposed to staff journalists?                  10 A. Throughout the whole of the floor, that includes sports,                  11 city, features?                  12 Q. Yes, just a general percentage.                  13 A. I would think probably 20 per cent.                  14 Q. Are freelancers?                  15 A. Are freelance. I'm not absolutely sure, but I think                  16 about 20 per cent across the whole floor.                  17 Q. We heard from one of your competitors, and you may or                  18 may not agree, that there are difficulties with                  19 freelancers because you have less control over them. If                  20 you train them up too well, they end up working for your                  21 competitors?                  22 A. Yes.                  23 Q. And there are disadvantages. What's your view about                  24 freelancers?                  25 A. You know, I don't want to hark back to the old days, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 there -- because I'll take this up with Mr Ashford and                  2 Mr Desmond if necessary.                  3 A. Yes.                  4 Q. You say:                  5 "Complainants started to use PCC decisions to                  6 support legal claims."                  7 A. Yes.                  8 Q. Was that your concern?                  9 A. It wasn't a concern at the time. It was a perception.                  10 I was aware that it was happening.                  11 Q. But was that the real reason for leaving the PCC?                  12 A. I don't know the real reasons, because it was taken at                  13 director level.                  14 Q. But weren't you party to the discussions which led to                  15 that decision?                  16 A. No, I wasn't the editor then.                  17 Q. True.                  18 A. I was the deputy.                  19 Q. So it's Mr Hill I should really ask about that?                  20 A. Yes.                  21 Q. I think I can ask you this: is it your personal view                  22 that that decision should have been taken or not?                  23 A. I think, yes. I do go along with it. I don't think                  24 that it was serving our best interests at the time.                  25 I think -- you know, I'm not an expert on this but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 because of the McCanns, I think that was the a huge                  2 problem for us, and I feel that perhaps they should have                  3 intervened, you know. Everybody had too much leeway.                  4 There was nobody intervening at all and as a result the                  5 story carried on and on and on.                  6 Q. So is this right: your feeling is that it was right to                  7 leave the PCC --                  8 A. Yes.                  9 Q. -- because the PCC let you down in failing to stop your                  10 paper publishing --                  11 A. That was one of --                  12 Q. Just wait for the end of the question -- publishing                  13 defamatory articles about the McCanns; is that your                  14 evidence?                  15 A. That's one of the reasons, yes.                  16 Q. Are you seriously putting that forward as a reason, that                  17 the PCC failed to stop you freely publishing a                  18 defamatory article?                  19 A. As I say, it was one of the things that was happening at                  20 the time.                  21 Q. I'm just surprised that -- I know you're not the only                  22 one to put this forward, but it does cause the notional                  23 eyebrows to be raised. I'm surprised it's put forward                  24 as a reason at all. Do you see that? You were entirely                  25 free to publish those articles or not. They were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 A. That's the -- 11.15 is the time of the morning news                  2 conference. We have the news editor, the picture                  3 editor, the sports editor, the city editor, the diary                  4 editor, and they all present their offerings for --                  5 their menu for the day, and they give me a list and next                  6 to every story that they've highlighted will be the name                  7 or an agency who have supplied the story to the Daily                  8 Express.                  9 Q. So if a story has come from -- this would usually be in                  10 the context of a celebrity, but has come from someone                  11 close to the celebrity, you will know in general terms,                  12 is this right, the nature of the source?                  13 A. If I ask -- if I ask additional questions, because with                  14 the celebrity, there will probably be a staff name by                  15 the side of the story, so I'd have to go to the news                  16 editor and say, "How did we know about this? Where did                  17 it come from?"                  18 Q. I think you're making it clear that if it's a central                  19 story, you will always know how the story was sourced?                  20 A. Yes.                  21 Q. I don't think you're saying by that that you will always                  22 know the identity of the source, are you?                  23 A. No, but if I wanted to, I could probably find out. Or                  24 if I needed to. I would go to the news editor or his                  25 deputy, who will have talked to the reporter doing the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 grossly defamatory, we know. You end up paying                  2 GBP 550,000 and you blame the PCC for failing to stop                  3 you doing it?                  4 A. I understand. No, I don't blame the PCC. I just feel                  5 that -- I think I did say in hindsight I thought that                  6 perhaps they might have been able to intervene, someone                  7 from outside, and perhaps this will reflect in the body                  8 that you will be setting up.                  9 Q. Do you have some better reasons for leaving the PCC or                  10 not?                  11 A. I think it's best if others answer those questions,                  12 because I was not the editor at the time.                  13 Q. Okay, I'll take up that invitation with others.                  14 Responsibility for checking sources. This is                  15 a topic which has been asked of many others, and your                  16 evidence may well be very similar.                  17 A. Yes.                  18 Q. You say in paragraph 17, the second line, "and this is                  19 in the context of central sources". I think you mean                  20 central stories, possibly, in that sentence?                  21 A. Yes.                  22 Q. To be clear, that's important stories?                  23 A. Mm.                  24 Q. You always know how the story has been sourced. Could                  25 you just elaborate on that, please?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 job.                  2 Q. In relation to any particular story, and imagine it's                  3 a central story, would you know if subterfuge had been                  4 used?                  5 A. No, it wouldn't. It wouldn't be obvious, but I wouldn't                  6 expect it to be done on the Daily Express. They have                  7 strict instructions how to behave these days, so                  8 I wouldn't -- if it happened, I would be very, very                  9 surprised.                  10 Q. You're allowed to use subterfuge if it's in the public                  11 interest under the code, aren't you?                  12 A. If it's in the public interest, but I would discuss it                  13 with the news editor during the course of the day.                  14 Q. But often you wouldn't know if subterfuge were used                  15 unless you asked the question. You agree with that?                  16 A. Yes, I agree with that.                  17 Q. But there may be stories, because of what's said, where                  18 your suspicions would be raised?                  19 A. Of course.                  20 Q. And then the question is asked?                  21 A. Of course.                  22 Q. Is that your practice?                  23 A. That is the practice. I won't be kept in the dark about                  24 it.                  25 Q. That assumes that your journalists and everybody else</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 are open with you, doesn't it?</p> <p>2 A. I think they are. I'd be very surprised if that wasn't</p> <p>3 the case.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Can I ask you about paragraph 18?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. You say you believe that ethics play a big role in the</p> <p>7 Daily Express?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And in print media?</p> <p>10 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>11 Q. In that sentence, are you referring to all print media</p> <p>12 or are you referring just to the titles you have</p> <p>13 responsibility for?</p> <p>14 A. The titles that I'm responsible for.</p> <p>15 Q. "I abide by strong moral values."</p> <p>16 We all say we do that. I'm sure you do.</p> <p>17 A. I do. I'm law-abiding, I pay my taxes, I behave</p> <p>18 properly, I treat people properly, so I expect that in</p> <p>19 return.</p> <p>20 Q. But by that statement do you mean this: exposing other</p> <p>21 people's failures to abide by strong moral values as you</p> <p>22 see them, or by the paper's own moral values?</p> <p>23 A. I think that there are certain standards which you have</p> <p>24 to judge as and when they arise. You know, I couldn't</p> <p>25 possibly say that applied to one person or to another.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Q. Exactly.</p> <p>2 A. I have to -- you know, I have to take a balanced view on</p> <p>3 that, whether or not I'm invading his privacy, whether</p> <p>4 or not it's justified, whether or not he's in the</p> <p>5 public -- he or she are in the public eye. There are so</p> <p>6 many things to consider, and I will not take that</p> <p>7 decision lightly. I will always talk to the lawyer.</p> <p>8 The lawyer's always available at the Daily Express.</p> <p>9 Q. We've seen reference in the evidence of the previous</p> <p>10 witness, Ms Neesom, to the public persona of</p> <p>11 individuals. You recall that? How do you define the</p> <p>12 public persona of a private individual? Or rather, let</p> <p>13 me remove the epithet "private".</p> <p>14 A. Can you just sort of --</p> <p>15 Q. Take a footballer. What public persona would</p> <p>16 a footballer have? And what are the factors which make</p> <p>17 up that footballer's public persona?</p> <p>18 A. I don't quite understand what you --</p> <p>19 Q. I mean is a footballer a role model merely by virtue of</p> <p>20 being --</p> <p>21 A. Well --</p> <p>22 Q. I can help you a bit more -- merely by virtue of being a</p> <p>23 footballer, or does a footballer become a role model</p> <p>24 because he's the captain of a team or does a footballer</p> <p>25 have to say something which makes it explicit that he's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 Q. In answer to one of our questions, it's paragraph 28 of</p> <p>2 your statement, 00719 --</p> <p>3 A. Yes, page 28?</p> <p>4 Q. Yes. You ask about the factors you take into account in</p> <p>5 balancing the private interest of individuals against</p> <p>6 the public interest.</p> <p>7 A. Mm.</p> <p>8 Q. You don't really do more than say:</p> <p>9 "I always consider that the story has to be accurate</p> <p>10 and in the public interest."</p> <p>11 I mean, some editors have given us a detailed</p> <p>12 breakdown of what they mean by the public interest and</p> <p>13 what's more, the factors they take into account in</p> <p>14 reaching a balanced decision, but you haven't, have you?</p> <p>15 A. No, I haven't, but if you want to ask me about it, what</p> <p>16 would you like me to say?</p> <p>17 Q. Well, what general principles do you apply?</p> <p>18 A. Well, first of all, I use the Editors' Code of Conduct.</p> <p>19 I have abided by that from day one. I will not publish</p> <p>20 anything unless I'm confident that its accurate, and</p> <p>21 I will never break the law intentionally.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes, but weighing up private interests, how is that</p> <p>23 done, if at all?</p> <p>24 A. In, what, the private interests of the person that I'm</p> <p>25 doing the story about?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 occupying a certain role before he becomes a role model?</p> <p>2 A. It could be any of those things, couldn't it? If he</p> <p>3 says something and then we find that he's going and</p> <p>4 doing something completely opposite and he's in the</p> <p>5 public eye, he's fair game.</p> <p>6 Q. There's a big difference, though, between my three</p> <p>7 propositions. We may well accept the third --</p> <p>8 A. If you break them down --</p> <p>9 Q. -- that if someone says something explicit, "I believe</p> <p>10 in family values", and perhaps goes a bit further, it</p> <p>11 may apply more to a politician than a footballer, then</p> <p>12 I understand your answer, but what about the first</p> <p>13 category?</p> <p>14 A. I can't remember it.</p> <p>15 Q. It's the footballer who says nothing, but it said to be</p> <p>16 a role model merely by virtue of being a footballer.</p> <p>17 What do you say about him?</p> <p>18 A. As I say, I have to consider it on its merits on the</p> <p>19 day. There is no other way of doing it. If you give me</p> <p>20 some specific examples --</p> <p>21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'll give you an example. Somebody</p> <p>22 plays in a Premier League football team.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's not one of the big teams.</p> <p>25 A. I understand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But I take Premier League because he 2 obviously earns a fair amount of money. 3 A. Yes. 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He's not in the public eye otherwise, 5 he doesn't have endorsements, he doesn't -- he keeps 6 otherwise a private life, he's married with a couple of 7 kids, but he has an affair with somebody and that 8 emerges. 9 A. Well, that story wouldn't interest the Daily Express. 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, actually -- 11 A. That would be my decision. 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The fact it wouldn't interest you 13 doesn't actually help us as to the question of how you 14 view issues of privacy. 15 A. But I'm interested in what example -- if there's an 16 example, I could tell you. 17 MR JAY: Well, is your feeling simply this: it wouldn't 18 interest the Daily Express because you know your readers 19 wouldn't in fact want to read such a story rather than 20 it would be unethical to print such a story? You see 21 the difference, presumably. Is it more the first than 22 the second? 23 A. Probably, yes. 24 Q. Okay. I think it might follow from that that if you 25 knew it was of interest to your readers, then you would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Thank you. Can I ask you about private investigators? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Paragraph 21. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. You say you've become more aware of this issue in the 7 last four to five years? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Can you explain, please, how and why? 10 A. I must admit I had no knowledge of it at all until it 11 started appearing in the newspapers and on the 12 television. No knowledge at all. And that surprised 13 me. 14 Q. When were you made aware of the Information 15 Commissioner's 2006 reports? 16 A. I don't know. I can't remember. 17 Q. But do you think it was at the time they were published 18 or do you think it was somewhat later? 19 A. Well, I said four or five years ago, so that would have 20 been about 2006, so perhaps it marries up. 21 Q. But you're not quite sure, are you? 22 A. No, I'm not, no. I've had no dealings -- you know, all 23 the way through my career -- with people like that, so 24 it's never entered into my thinking. I've become really 25 aware of it recently.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 publish it, wouldn't you? 2 A. Look, I don't make snap decisions. I wouldn't be 3 prepared to comment on that because I'd like to weigh up 4 the circumstances. 5 Q. I think what I'm trying to do is to identify the 6 principles -- 7 A. Okay, I understand. 8 Q. -- and maybe try gently to suggest that it's the agenda 9 which might drive the story and the agenda is driven by 10 what you think your readers like to read. Do you accept 11 that point or not? 12 A. Of course. 13 Q. You do accept it? 14 A. I do accept it, but I don't automatically assume that 15 everything I write is going to suit all my readers. 16 I don't write, I don't write the paper to please every 17 reader. 18 Q. No. But I think -- 19 A. And that's made perfectly clear in all correspondence 20 I get. 21 Q. That must be right. It would be impossible to write a 22 paper which would please everybody -- 23 A. I understand that. 24 Q. -- all the time, but subject to that caveat, I think you 25 agree with my proposition, do you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 Q. You say in paragraph 21, two lines from the top of 2 page 01717: 3 "We always ask on a regular basis if we are behaving 4 ourselves and I am always reassured that we are." 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. That's a very general question, isn't it? Can't you be 7 more specific? 8 A. It may be, but I speak to the news desk on a regular 9 basis. You know, weekly, twice a week, three times 10 a week. In fact, I've been on to them since the matter 11 was raised here earlier on this morning, and they assure 12 me that they do not use the people you've been talking 13 about this morning, and they have not been using them. 14 Q. Then you say: 15 "As it has never been flagged up then I assumed we 16 have never used one." 17 But we know from evidence we've seen from the first 18 witness today that the Express have used search 19 agencies -- 20 A. I'm not sure whether or not that's the Express -- you 21 see, you're talking the group, so I don't know whether 22 that was the Daily Star, the Daily Star on Sunday, the 23 Daily Express or the Sunday Express, so I'd have to look 24 at that in more detail. But from the people who would 25 require their services, they assure me that they don't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 use them.</p> <p>2 Q. It's clear that this isn't something which has been</p> <p>3 brought to your attention until very recently; is that</p> <p>4 right?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. Although I have been asking for some time. I've</p> <p>6 been asking them on a regular basis for a long time now.</p> <p>7 Q. You say:</p> <p>8 "As it has never been flagged up ..."</p> <p>9 Can you explain what you mean by that?</p> <p>10 A. Nobody has actually come to me and asked me, "Can I use</p> <p>11 this agency?"</p> <p>12 Q. In the fourth line:</p> <p>13 "I have though recently discovered that some</p> <p>14 reporters have used the services of search agencies."</p> <p>15 Do you see that?</p> <p>16 A. I'm not quite sure, but I'm listening to your questions.</p> <p>17 Q. All I'm doing is reading out a sentence in your witness</p> <p>18 statement.</p> <p>19 A. Yes. Where are you now?</p> <p>20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Which page?</p> <p>21 MR JAY: 01717, four lines from the top of the page.</p> <p>22 A. Yes. Search agencies, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. I mean, to be fair to you, you may be intending to draw</p> <p>24 a distinction between private investigators and search</p> <p>25 agencies?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 than at some stage beforehand. Is that a fair</p> <p>2 observation?</p> <p>3 A. It may be a fair observation, but I genuinely had no</p> <p>4 knowledge.</p> <p>5 Q. It also says at the end of paragraph 21:</p> <p>6 "I am assured that the search agencies operate</p> <p>7 within the confines of the law."</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. I think the fair answer would be: you don't in fact know</p> <p>10 whether they operate within the confines of the law, but</p> <p>11 the expectation is that they would, is that not --</p> <p>12 A. That's correct, and I do speak to people who are very</p> <p>13 professional and I take their word for it that they've</p> <p>14 gone through the necessary procedures.</p> <p>15 Q. You haven't spoken to the search agencies, though, have</p> <p>16 you?</p> <p>17 A. I haven't, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay, I shall move on from that.</p> <p>19 Paragraph 26. So we understand the position, cash</p> <p>20 payments to sources simply are not allowed at the</p> <p>21 Express; is that right?</p> <p>22 A. They used to be, I think, a long time ago, but not for</p> <p>23 as long as I can remember. Nobody has ever drawn that</p> <p>24 to my attention, either, brought that to my attention.</p> <p>25 Q. Because we've heard from others that some sources want</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 A. I am. That's what I mean, yes. I understand we've used</p> <p>2 search agencies, but not private investigators.</p> <p>3 Q. By the time the Information Commissioner was reporting</p> <p>4 in 2006, he was looking at the activities of</p> <p>5 Mr Whittamore before February 2003, and at that stage,</p> <p>6 of course, you weren't an editor, were you?</p> <p>7 A. No, I was deputy.</p> <p>8 Q. You were the deputy of the Daily Express?</p> <p>9 A. I was, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Notwithstanding that, I accept that you were the deputy</p> <p>11 editor, Mr Thomas' second report identified 36</p> <p>12 transactions which he believed were positively illegal</p> <p>13 transactions, and seven journalists at the Daily</p> <p>14 Express. Was that something which was drawn to your</p> <p>15 attention?</p> <p>16 A. It wasn't, no.</p> <p>17 Q. Is it something which you think ought to have been drawn</p> <p>18 to your attention as deputy editor?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, definitely.</p> <p>20 Q. And why do you think it wasn't?</p> <p>21 A. I have no idea, but I'll be asking the questions.</p> <p>22 Q. You'll be asking the questions?</p> <p>23 A. I will.</p> <p>24 Q. I'm just wondering why it is that you're answering the</p> <p>25 questions once you've finished giving evidence, rather</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 to be paid in cash, they don't have a bank account or</p> <p>2 they want for their own reasons to receive cash.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Is it the position that the Express would say to such an</p> <p>5 individual, "Terribly sorry, we can't accept your</p> <p>6 story"?</p> <p>7 A. I can't answer that because I've got no knowledge.</p> <p>8 Nobody's ever drawn that to my attention.</p> <p>9 Q. But as the editor, Mr Whittow, surely that's something</p> <p>10 you would know about --</p> <p>11 A. Well --</p> <p>12 Q. -- if sources were receiving cash?</p> <p>13 A. I assume because nobody's come to me that it hasn't</p> <p>14 happened. I don't know.</p> <p>15 Q. I just wonder what the systems are at your paper. Isn't</p> <p>16 this something that you really ought to know about --</p> <p>17 A. I think --</p> <p>18 Q. -- one way or the other and --</p> <p>19 A. To be fair, I think that the systems that are adopted at</p> <p>20 the Daily Express are probably better than any system</p> <p>21 that I've worked under in Fleet Street, and throughout</p> <p>22 my whole career.</p> <p>23 Q. So you're comparing the Daily Express now, is this</p> <p>24 right, with the Sun in the 1980s and the Star in</p> <p>25 between?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 A. The Star, the Evening News, every newspaper that I've 2 worked on. It used to be a ridiculous system, but now 3 we can account for the payment for every story in every 4 paper the following day. 5 Q. The suggestion is not that it is wrong to make cash 6 payments to sources -- 7 A. I accept that. 8 Q. -- but the suggestion is more whether you ought to know 9 whether your paper does, and if so, in what amounts and 10 in what circumstances. 11 A. I can only tell you because I've never been asked. 12 I don't think the matter's arisen. 13 Q. Okay. Some general questions, please. There are some 14 headlines, aren't there, I want to put to you. These 15 have been drawn to your attention, but, I have to make 16 it clear, very late in the day. That's to say, this 17 morning. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Can I hand these to you? (Handed) 20 A. Thank you very much. 21 Q. The first headline front page, 31 March 2011: 22 "Chip shops ban salt." 23 Is this right: three chip shops in Stockport took 24 part in a voluntary trial scheme in which extra salt was 25 left behind the counter rather than on it? Page 121</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes. 2 A. And if you couldn't have salt on your chips tomorrow, 3 I'm sure you'd be very upset about it. 4 Q. Salt, vinegar and red sauce as well, Mr Whittow. 5 Can I look more seriously at: 6 "75 per cent say quit the EU now." 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. It's fair to say that that 22 October 2011 headline -- 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. -- the YouGov poll in fact showed 28 per cent of people 11 did support quitting the EU -- 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. -- and 47 per cent supporting renegotiating the terms. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. You've abrogated the two to get to 75 per cent, which is 16 misleading, isn't it? 17 A. Well, what you say, it's misleading, obviously I can't 18 read the copy, but I'm sure that in the body of the copy 19 it's explained. 20 Q. That may well be right, and let's assume it is, and we 21 can't read the body of the copy, but the question 22 relates to the headline -- 23 A. I have to -- 24 Q. -- that the headline -- 25 A. -- accept what you say. Yes, that is right. Page 123</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. The headline suggested that there was a ban and that it 3 was wide scale, when it was neither; is that correct? 4 A. It says so: ban in chip shops. So there were three 5 shops and it was an experiment and it would have been -- 6 it would spread out if it was successful or not. It was 7 a good story, everybody was talking about it. Salt in 8 the diet is always an issue, isn't it? 9 Q. I think the point is that there wasn't in fact a ban. 10 The extra salt was left behind the counter rather than 11 on it -- 12 A. I -- I accept that. 13 Q. Is this an example of a headline which is designed to 14 capture the eye and the mind of the reader, irrespective 15 of whether or not -- 16 A. I think -- 17 Q. -- it was misleading? 18 A. -- everybody who has fish and chips has a view on 19 whether or not they want salt on it. I'm not going to 20 say it's the most important story in the world, but it's 21 certainly a talker. 22 Q. It's certainly not the most important story in the 23 world, but it's found its way to the front page of the 24 Daily Express -- 25 A. I accept that because it's a good talker. Page 122</p>	<p>1 Q. Is it another example of two things: one, a misleading 2 headline; do you accept that? 3 A. I accept that from what you say, yes, but I would like 4 to ... 5 Q. Okay. And secondly, it's one which you know will prey 6 on the mind -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- and the viewpoint of the majority of your readers -- 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. -- and strike a comfortable resonance; is that fair? 11 A. Yes, that is fair. 12 Q. Okay. Some general questions in line with questions 13 I've asked others, just bear with me, please. What is 14 your vision for your paper and in what way will you 15 realise that vision in the way you lead your 16 organisation? 17 A. Well, the vision for the paper is to look after our 18 readers. They've shown tremendous loyalty to us over 19 the years. Provide them with what they want. It's not 20 just front-page scandal stories; it can be anything from 21 crosswords, sport, comment, features. It's just giving 22 them the complete package. 23 Q. What have you done, if anything, to change the culture 24 of the paper? 25 A. I have a very, very good working relationship with the Page 124</p>

<p>1 staff. They're very loyal to me and I'm very loyal to</p> <p>2 them, and as a result of that I think that we are --</p> <p>3 we've got at very good organisation going forward.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you. In what respects does the organisation now</p> <p>5 reflect your leadership? And you've been the leader now</p> <p>6 for 11 months.</p> <p>7 A. For the newspaper?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 A. We've done many crusades, as we call them. We --</p> <p>10 I could give you a list. We've had major success on the</p> <p>11 inheritance tax debate, we've helped -- well, without</p> <p>12 the Daily Express and Richard Desmond, the Bomber</p> <p>13 Command Memorial, which is going to be one of the</p> <p>14 biggest memorials ever built in Britain in the last</p> <p>15 certainly 20 years, would never have come to fruition.</p> <p>16 We're doing our crusade on Europe. Those are the sort</p> <p>17 of things we will continue. We've also raised</p> <p>18 a considerable amount of money for the victims of the</p> <p>19 riots in the summer. So we're doing a lot of good</p> <p>20 things.</p> <p>21 Q. Yes? And what is your biggest priority going forward?</p> <p>22 A. To keep the Daily Express buoyant, popular and</p> <p>23 profitable, and hopefully keep and encourage more</p> <p>24 readers.</p> <p>25 MR JAY: Mr Whittow, there will be more questions after Page 125</p>	
<p>1 lunch about regulation and the future of regulation, but</p> <p>2 I think it's probably better if we pause now and come</p> <p>3 back.</p> <p>4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I think that's probably</p> <p>5 sensible. If that's all right, just 2 o'clock.</p> <p>6 A. I don't mind continuing, if you wanted to --</p> <p>7 MR JAY: I think I would prefer to pause.</p> <p>8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The trouble is, lots of people have</p> <p>9 to make their arrangements. Thank you.</p> <p>10 (1.01 pm)</p> <p>11 (The luncheon adjournment)</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	



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