

Annex to Lord Blair's Statement signed and dated 9 February 2012

Page 10, paragraph 23, last sentence refers to an extract from Mr Blair's book. This extract is as follows: -

"This is the norm for public life. But it is dispiriting. Sometime, early in 2008, I think, I was sitting at a meeting of an Olympic Steering group, jointly chaired by Ken Livingstone and Tessa Jowell. A major consultancy was reporting to the group that its work showed that there was an 80 per cent probability that the London Olympics would be delivered within the budget available. It had been promised that the results of this work would be made public and this should have been an unremarkable but good story. For nearly half an hour the politicians and officials present tried to decide how to deal with the presentation of the announcement convinced that the media would report the findings as indicating that there was now a 20 per cent chance that the budget would be insufficient. A very positive press release was eventually constructed but the story ran exactly as predicted. It is very notable that, when individuals holding such positions talk together, the press is the subject of their most bitter complaint. This is not normally because they want to suppress information but for two reasons: first, the amount of time involved in handling the press has risen exponentially and second, it is so cumulatively depressing that the journalists and editors almost invariably look for the worst slant that can be put upon the story. This is a part of living in the public square but it is exhausting." [Policing Controversy, pp136-7]