

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

EXHIBIT GHC1 TO
WITNESS STATEMENT OF
GILES HUMPHRY CROWN

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Urgent – For Immediate Attention
Strictly Confidential – Not for Publication
The Editor

By E-Mail

Our ref: GHC8090/3460722-v0.1

Dear Sirs

The Bowles family

1. We act for Edward Bowles, his wife Ann and his 8 year old daughter, Helena. Edward and Ann's 11 year old son, Sebastian, was the only British victim of the tragic coach crash in Switzerland earlier this week.
2. You will readily appreciate that Edward and his family are suffering the most extreme distress and anguish at this time. They sincerely wish to be left to grieve the death of their son in peace without media intrusion.
3. It is a matter of great regret that despite pleas to the media to leave them alone, sections of the media, in particular the British media, are intruding upon the family's privacy at this most difficult of times. This includes attending their home in Belgium seeking photographs/interviews. Over the last few days Edward has had to ask a number of journalists to leave the property and has sought the assistance of the Belgium police.
4. In addition, intrusive photographs have already been published of them grieving, including photographs of Helena in a distressed state along with photographs of Edward and Ann also greatly distressed. Photographs of the family on holiday have also been published, which can only have been obtained from Edward's Facebook site which has maximum privacy settings. They must therefore have been obtained by wrongly circumventing those privacy settings and/or in the knowledge that they were private photographs only intended for Edward's close friends.
5. The intrusion into the family's grief and publication of such photographs is a grave infringement of their privacy with no possible justification. They are a normal, private family not in any way in the public eye prior to this incident. We refer, in particular, to the following provisions of the Press Complaints Commission Editor's Code of Practice:
 - 5.1. Everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home, health and correspondence, including digital communications;

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- 5.2. It is unacceptable to photograph individuals in private places without their consent;
 - 5.3. Journalists must not engage in intimidation, harassment or persistent pursuit;
 - 5.4. They must not persist in questioning, telephoning, pursuing or photographing individuals once asked to desist; nor remain on their property when asked to leave and must not follow them;
 - 5.5. Editors must ensure these principles are observed by those working for them and take care not to use non-compliant material from other sources;
 - 5.6. In cases involving personal grief or shock, enquiries and approaches must be made with sympathy and discretion and publication handled sensitively;
 - 5.7. A child under 16 must not be interviewed or photographed on issues involving their own or another child's welfare unless a custodial parent or similarly responsible adult consent;
 - 5.8. Editors must not use the fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.
6. We have alerted the PCC to our clients' complaints and requested their assistance in ensuring that our clients' privacy is respected. This is particularly important this coming week as there is going to be a funeral for the victims of the crash on Thursday and a memorial service for Sebastian on Saturday. The memorial service is a strictly private occasion for close friends and family only. There cannot be any reason or justification for media attendance at that ceremony. We also require that all private photographs of the family, including those photographs referred to above, are removed immediately from all media websites and that there is no further publication whatsoever of any such photographs. In particular, but without limitation, there must be no taking or publication of any photographs of Helena.
 7. Human decency, as well as our client's Article 8 rights and the Press's obligations under the PCC Code, demand that the family's privacy is respected to the fullest extent at this time. In the circumstances, we must fully reserve all our clients' rights in this regard.
 8. You can contact our Giles Crown in relation to any questions you may have in relation to this matter on Our clients will not be making any public statement or comment at this time.

Yours faithfully

Lewis Silkin LLP

cc. Press Complaints Commission