

In the matter of the Leveson Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press

FOURTH WITNESS STATEMENT OF COLIN JOSEPH THOMAS MYLER

I, Colin Joseph Thomas Myler of will say as follows:-

1. I make this statement in order to provide the Inquiry with information concerning a meeting that I had with Rupert Murdoch in New York prior to my appointment as Editor of the News of the World (the "Newspaper") following the request from the Leveson Inquiry contained in the letter from the Solicitor to the Inquiry dated 22 October 2012.
2. Save where otherwise appears, I am able to make this statement on the basis of facts and matters within my own knowledge and which I know to be true. Where I refer to some other source of information, I believe that information to be true.
3. I shall refer in the course of this statement to a paginated bundle of documents which I produce as Exhibit "CJTM4".

My appointment as Editor of the Newspaper

4. I was living in New York and acting as Executive Editor of the New York Post immediately prior to my appointment as Editor of the Newspaper.
5. On or around the morning of Saturday 20 January 2007, I received a telephone call at home from Les Hinton, the Executive Chairman of News International. Mr Hinton told me that Andy Coulson, the then Editor of the Newspaper, was about to announce his resignation as Editor in light of the police investigation into and criminal prosecutions of Clive Goodman and Glen Mulcaire. Mr Hinton told me that he wanted me to return to London as soon as possible in order to replace Mr Coulson as Editor. I was surprised and overwhelmed by the offer and told Mr Hinton this. I accepted the offer immediately over the telephone.
6. I asked Mr Hinton if he had discussed my appointment with Rupert Murdoch. Mr Hinton said that he had spoken to Mr Murdoch the day before, and that Mr Murdoch had not been happy with the proposal and had asked him if he could not find someone else. When I asked why, Mr Hinton told me that Mr Murdoch had jokingly said that it would create difficulties at the New York Post and that the Editor-in-Chief, Col Allan, would be disappointed.

7. During this call, Mr Hinton and I also discussed my proposed salary and benefits. Nothing was said about the specific remit of my appointment, which was not surprising to me given my experience of the role and duties of a newspaper editor. I did not understand nor was I given any reason to believe that I was being appointed to undertake anything other than that role.

My meeting with Rupert Murdoch

8. During the following week (being the week of 22 January 2007), Mr Allan told me that Mr Murdoch wanted to meet me for a drink at Dervish, a restaurant and bar on 47th Street in New York
9. When I arrived at Dervish at around 18:00 or 19:00 (I cannot recall the precise date upon which this meeting took place), Mr Murdoch offered me a drink. Our discussion was almost entirely social and focused on where my wife and I were going to live upon our return to England and how I would travel to the office. Mr Murdoch asked me whether we had kept our property in England when we moved to the United States. I said we had. I informed him that it was in Kent and around 35 to 40 miles outside London, to which Mr Murdoch responded that I should "*forget about it*" and that I would need to find somewhere to live in central London. We discussed this in general terms. I also recall mentioning to Mr Murdoch that, in New York, I had been able to walk to the office every day.
10. Mr Murdoch told me that it would take me some time to get up to speed with the role and to grips with my duties. At no stage did Mr Murdoch make any specific reference to my remit or any specific purpose for which I had been appointed beyond the ordinary duties of an Editor.
11. Our meeting lasted approximately 20 minutes. My impression was that Mr Murdoch had arranged the meeting as a courtesy. I do not recall discussing my meeting with Mr Murdoch with anyone other than my wife afterwards.
12. When I gave my evidence to the Inquiry, I was not asked to comment on Mr Rupert Murdoch's evidence but have subsequently been referred by the Inquiry to some parts of his evidence. In his evidence to the Inquiry on 26 April 2012 (day 65, page 28), Mr Murdoch was asked about his statement to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee (the "Committee") on 19 July 2011 that I had allegedly been "*appointed to find out what the hell was going on*" (page 2 of **CJTM4**). This was taken from Mr Murdoch's evidence to the Committee that:

"...it was my understanding – I had better not say it, but it was my understanding – that Mr Myler was appointed there by Mr Hinton to find out what the hell was going on, and that he commissioned that Harbottle & Lewis inquiry. That is my understanding of it; I cannot swear to the accuracy of it" (Page 1 of **CJTM4**).
13. I do not read this passage to suggest, from Mr Murdoch's qualified account, that he took a personal role in my appointment or in setting out the scope of my duties. He did not discuss my remit with me. I accept Mr Murdoch's evidence to the Inquiry that he was told of my appointment by Mr Hinton (page 2 of **CJTM4**), and that he relied upon Mr Hinton as my direct line of reporting (page 3 of **CJTM4**). At no stage did Mr Murdoch suggest that my role would be "*to find out what the hell was going on*" or anything like that.
14. In relation to Mr Murdoch's statement that I commissioned Harbottle & Lewis, this is not correct. My recollection is that Harbottle & Lewis were engaged by and reported to Mr Jon Chapman.

15. Mr Hinton did not at any time prior to my appointment indicate to me that the role he was offering me encompassed an investigation into the events that had occurred at the Newspaper.
16. I understood from all those at News International that a root and branch investigation of alleged phone hacking had been carried out by the Metropolitan Police with the co-operation of News International assisted by BLP Burton Copeland.
17. My written contract of employment set out the standard duties of a newspaper editor. I saw my role as running the newspaper on a day to day basis, to produce a Sunday edition which maintained the position of the paper as the most widely read English-language newspaper in the world and to move the paper forward by ensuring that the paper's practices were more robust and avoided any risk of repetition of the conduct which saw the conviction of Mr Goodman and the resignation of Mr Coulson.
18. If the intentions or expectations of my employers had been different, any such appointment would have required specific pre-contract discussions covering the scope of any investigation, the time scale for its conduct, the resources which would have been made available to me and the availability to me of outside professional assistance. Such considerations would have had an impact on my decision whether or not to accept the appointment. There was no such discussion and I had no hesitation in accepting the Editorship.

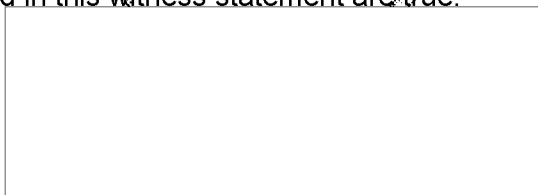
Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

Full name

Dated



Colin Joseph Thomas Myer

31 October 2012