

NI Group Limited  
R. Caseby  
Fourth Statement  
RC10  
18 July 2012

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

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**FOURTH WITNESS  
STATEMENT OF  
RICHARD CASEBY**

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I, Richard Caseby c/o The Sun, News Group Newspapers Limited, of 3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY, will say as follows:

1. I am Managing Editor of the Sun and I have held that position since July 2011. This is my fourth witness statement to the Leveson Inquiry.
2. The purpose of this witness statement is to address issues concerning The Sun's coverage of the war in Afghanistan raised in the evidence given by Gordon Brown to the Inquiry on 11 June 2012.
3. During his evidence Mr Brown made the following statement:

*"I do note on Afghanistan that -- and this is what makes me very sad indeed -- I'm afraid that half the country is falling into the hands of the Taliban. I'm afraid that, as we reduce troops, we're just handing over power not to the Afghan army but to the Taliban, but the very newspaper that wanted to make the issue were we doing enough for our troops, has been virtually silent since the day of the General Election in 2010, and I have to conclude, as Mr Blair concluded, that these were not campaigns that were related to objective journalism exposing the facts. These, unfortunately, were campaigns that were designed to cause discomfort to people who were politically unacceptable."*

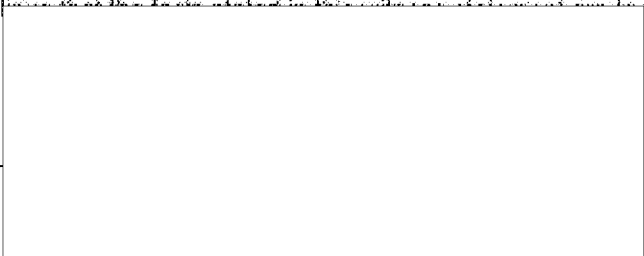
(Page 21, Transcript of the morning hearing, 11 June 2012)

4. Despite not explicitly mentioning the name of the newspaper, it was clear in light of Mr Brown's later evidence that he was referring to The Sun.
5. Mr Brown's assertion that The Sun "*has been virtually silent*" about the United Kingdom's military involvement in Afghanistan since the day of the General Election (6 May 2010) is demonstrably untrue. Since that day, there have been 542 articles published in The Sun

about operational, political and human issues arising from the British military engagement in Afghanistan up to 11 June 2012 (the date of Mr Brown's evidence). An index of these articles is exhibited as **Exhibit RC10**.

6. These 542 articles appeared in 276 different editions of The Sun. As The Sun was published six days a week until the week commencing 27 February 2012 and seven days a week thereafter, this amounts to stories on Afghanistan being published around once every two to three issues on average.
7. Mr Brown's conclusion that The Sun's war coverage during his premiership was not "*related to objective journalism exposing the facts*" but was rather a campaign "*designed to cause discomfort to people who were politically unacceptable*" is wrong and clearly is not based on any factual foundation. As such, this assertion should be discounted by the Inquiry.
8. The truth is that The Sun has been consistent and persistent in its coverage of Afghanistan under both Mr Brown *and* Mr Cameron's premiership; consistently holding the powerful of any political hue to account for the welfare of British troops.

I believe  
Signed



Dated 18/7/12