



*Association of  
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Nicola Enston  
Deputy Solicitor to the Leveson Inquiry  
c/o Royal Courts of Justice  
Strand  
London  
WC2A 2LL

27 September 2011

Dear Ms Enston,

**Re: Leveson Inquiry**

Please find enclosed my second witness statement as requested in the S.21(2) Notice dated 19 September 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Imossi  
President  
Association of British Investigators Limited

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANTHONY IMOSSI

IN THE MATTER OF LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES and

ETHICS OF THE PRESS

I, ANTHONY IMOSSI of 26-28 Great Portland Street, London W1W 8AS, President of The Association of British Investigators Limited (By Guarantee) for and on behalf of the Board of the said Association, SAY AS FOLLOWS: -

1. I submit this my second Witness Statement following the further questions set out in the Notice served upon me under Section 21 (2) of the Inquiries Act 2005 and dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
2. **Question (1):** The exact membership numbers of the World Association of Private Investigators (WAPI) and the Institute of Professional Investigators (IPI) is unknown to me. In the case of WAPI, this is because their membership consists of a significant number of non U.K members. The number of UK based members listed in their on-line, membership directory is approximately 111. Some of these are also members of the Association of British Investigators (ABI). In the case of IPI, an academic body, this is almost impossible to quantify exactly as the Institute extends membership to companies and investigators employed in the public sector, such as police officers and similar. I estimate the individual private investigator membership of the IPI at no more than 100. Some of which, in order to be represented as professionals, are also members of the ABI.
3. As the number of private investigators practising in the UK is unknown, it is not possible to give an accurate answer to what percentage are members of a professional body.

4. **Question 2:** I can confirm that neither Glen Mulcaire, Jonathan Rees nor Steve Whittamore have ever been members of the Association of British Investigators, nor to the best of my knowledge have they ever applied to be admitted.
5. I do not believe that any of the aforementioned persons are members of any UK based representative association for private investigators or regulatory body.
6. **Question (3):** Historically there has always been a very considerable demand for personal data, information, intelligence and knowledge. The key generators of the demand have been the media, the legal profession, the financial services industry and those involved in the tracing of assets and the recovery of debt. It would be true to say that prior to the turn of the millennium, much of that demand was satisfied by those who practised as “private investigators”, a number of whom did not undertake investigations in the accepted sense of the word and were no more than information brokers.
7. The 1998 Data Protection Act and the concept of the mandatory licensing of private investigators, introduced by the Private Security Industry Act 2001 had a very considerable influence on behaviour and I am pleased to state that private investigators of integrity adhered to the newly introduced regulations governing access to personal data between 1998 – 2002; those of lesser moral standards did not, as can be evidenced today by the sheer number of ‘private investigator’ websites offering all manner of illegal or questionable services. Whilst the demand for personal data appears to remain unabated amongst some of those mentioned above, particularly amongst certain sections of the media, those who seek it are limited to fewer and fewer suppliers and sources. This and the development of information technology, the internet, low cost covert surveillance devices and programs has led to a compensating increase in phone hacking, interception of communications, computer hacking, blagging and bribery of those with access to a wide variety of personal data.
8. As an association, we have remained untouched and untarnished by the criminal behaviour associated with the illegal trade in personal data, in that none of our members

have been convicted of an offence involving the same. As our membership operates on the front line, anecdotal evidence clearly indicates members continue to receive requests to supply data unlawfully.

9. My belief that the trade continues to flourish also stems from the growing number of requests that our members receive for technical advice, counter measures and forensic examination of computers and mobile phones, where penetration is suspected.

10. I believe the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

SIGNED by the said )  
ANTHONY IMOSSI )  
 ) .....  
This 27 day of September 2011 ) Anthony Imossi