

News Corporation
K.R. Murdoch
Third Statement
6 November 2012

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

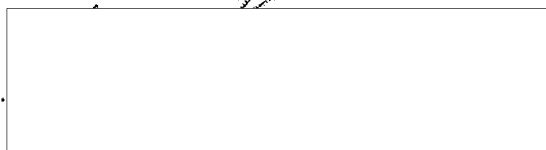
**THIRD WITNESS STATEMENT OF
KEITH RUPERT MURDOCH**

1. I make this further statement in order to assist the Inquiry by responding to the fourth statement by Mr Colin Myler dated 31 October 2012.
2. Mr Myler says that during the week of 22 January 2007, before he took up his new post as Editor of the News of the World, I met him for a drink in New York. I do not recall the occasion, which is getting on for six years ago now, but Mr Myler's account of the meeting makes sense to me and I don't take issue with it. I used to see or talk to Mr Myler from time to time in New York because of his job as Executive Editor of the New York Post, which is also a News Corporation paper. I think it is likely that I would have thought it courteous to meet him before he moved back to the UK to take up his position as Editor of the News of the World. I doubt I would have taken the occasion of a social meeting to tell Mr Myler how to go about doing his new job, particularly when he was appointed by and would report to Mr Les Hinton, who I regarded as an experienced and trusted executive at News International.
3. As to what Mr Myler was to do, it was certainly my understanding in 2007 that Mr Myler was appointed by Mr Hinton to 'find out what the hell was going on'. Mr Myler says in his statement that he saw his role as being "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". I don't understand how Mr Myler could have assessed the adequacy of the paper's controls and avoided the risk of repetition of unacceptable practices without first finding out what had happened.
4. I know (although I am not sure when I first knew) that after his appointment Mr Myler did take part in an investigation into Mr Goodman's allegations that others at the News of the World had been involved in phone hacking. It may be that Mr Chapman dealt directly with Harbottle & Lewis, but it was my understanding that the lawyers were brought in as part of an inquiry in which Mr Myler, then the Editor, and Mr Cloke played an important role.

5. As I testified before Lord Justice Leveson, in hindsight I wish I had personally torn apart The News of the World in 2006, and not left the matter to others. I can only say that in 2007, based on the reports I was receiving from a trusted and experienced executive based in London, Mr Hinton, it appeared that we had taken sufficient steps to address and remediate the problems at The News of the World. I deeply regret that, as we later learned, we did not.

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

Signed ...



Dated

November 6 2012