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J.Ferriter: 1st

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY,
AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005**

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
JOHN FERRITER**

I, **JOHN FERRITER**, of { } will say as follows:

1. Except where stated otherwise, the matters contained in this statement are within my own knowledge and belief, and are described to the best of my recollection.
2. I am the Managing Director of Octagon Entertainment, a management production company based in Los Angeles, California. I have worked in the talent representation business for over 21 years, and with Octagon since October 2009, when I joined the company to form its entertainment division. Prior to joining Octagon, I had worked at the William Morris Agency for over 18 years. I left William Morris having been pushed out shortly after that company merged with a company called Endeavour in mid-2009.
3. As part of my role at Octagon, I am currently the personal manager to Piers Morgan. Prior to joining Octagon, and while still at William Morris, I was Piers' talent agent for approximately three years. Piers was then, and is now, one of a number of clients I represent.
4. While I was at William Morris, I acted for a number of years as US talent agent for Heather Mills. I believe I first met Heather in or around 2002 or 2003, when she was considering possible business opportunities in the entertainment industry in the United States. I worked with Heather until I left William Morris, including during her highly successful participation in the US television show, *Dancing with the Stars*. I have not acted for her since leaving William Morris.
5. I have always had a good relationship with Heather. There has never been any animosity or significant tension in our relationship. Indeed, our relationship was very friendly, and we socialized together on a number of occasions in Los Angeles, New York and London. In late October 2004, I hosted Heather and Sir Paul McCartney at a

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- memorable dinner party at my home for which we arranged vegan catering, and at which we played guitars long into the night.
6. At or around the time that Heather was appearing on *Dancing with the Stars*, I met her at the Four Seasons Doheny in Beverly Hills. Heather had been holding a number of meetings at the Four Seasons, and called me to ask if I would join her. We met there in the late afternoon for tea. We were sitting in a corner at the back of the restaurant. I believe we were accompanied by someone – it may have been either Heather's sister Fiona or Wendy Walker, Larry King's producer. Wendy had worked with Heather when she filled in for Larry King on his evening talk show, interviewing Paul Newman, on 15 April 2004. I do not recall the precise date of this meeting. I do believe that that night, or perhaps the following night, Heather, Wendy and I went for dinner at the Giorgio Baldi restaurant in Los Angeles, sitting a couple of tables away from Sting.
 7. During the course of that afternoon at the Four Seasons, the discussion turned to Heather's separation and impending divorce from Sir Paul. I cannot recall precisely what stage the breakdown of their relationship had reached at that point, but Heather told me that Sir Paul wanted to reach a reconciliation in the relationship. She mentioned that he was in the habit of leaving her messages begging her to take him back. As she was saying this she began to play a message which Sir Paul had left for her. Sir Paul sounded extremely sad in this message, and was clearly addressing Heather, saying that he hoped that they could work out their differences.
 8. I felt immediately extremely uncomfortable to be hearing such an intimate message between a fighting couple. I felt as this was something I shouldn't be, and didn't want to be hearing and, having heard a maximum of about thirty seconds of the message, excused myself and left the table. I did not notice at the time and do not recall what kind of device Heather played this message on, nor could I tell from the part of the recording that I heard what kind of device the message had been left on; but it appeared clear to me that it was a voicemail message.
 9. I make this statement in full awareness that Heather, in her oral testimony to the Leveson Inquiry, indicated that she has never played a voicemail left on her messaging system to anyone. Shortly after hearing Heather's evidence, I approached Piers and

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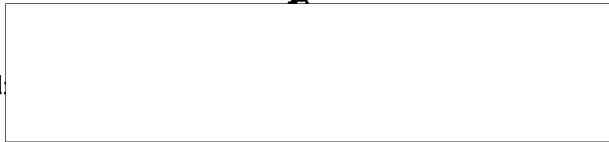
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his legal advisers to offer to provide this evidence. Piers' legal advisers have assisted in the preparation of this witness statement, but the statement is mine and mine alone.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

Signed



JOHN FERRIER

Dated this twenty-ninth day of October 2012