

**THE LEVESON INQUIRY**

**Statement of Tim Blott**

Tim Blott will say as follows:

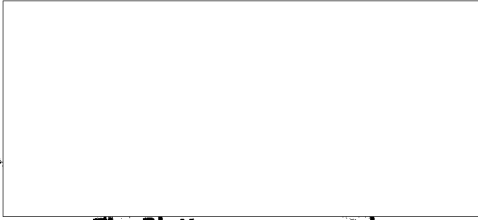
- 1) I am the Regional Managing Director of Herald & Times, which publishes The Herald, Sunday Herald and Evening Times newspapers in Scotland. Herald & Times is a division of Newsquest Media Group, which publishes newspapers and periodicals and websites all over the United Kingdom.
- 2) I received a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 from the Leveson Inquiry ( "the Inquiry"), asking me to provide specified documents to the Inquiry Panel.
- 3) With reference to paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Inquiry's letter, I provide the documents attached to this statement as Exhibits TB1 to TB5, being the relevant codes and guidelines produced by Newsquest Media Group and used internally within Herald & Times and the wider Newsquest Media Group in the UK. In particular the documents are as follows:
  - i) The Editorial Code of the Press Complaints Commission;
  - ii) Principles of Ethical Newsgathering, (internal guidelines of Newsquest Media Group);
  - iii) Covert reporting and recording guidelines (Newsquest Media Group legal guidance);
  - iv) Responsible journalism test (Newsquest Media Group legal guidance);
  - v) Newsquest Media Group Anti-Corruption and Bribery Policy.
- 4) I note that, in 2010, in connection with a journalistic enquiry by Herald & Times into political lobbying, authorisation was given for the secret recording of a meeting between a suspect and journalists posing as businessmen. The project was carried out by editorial staff under the supervision of a senior editor and in close consultation with our Group Head of Legal. The project complied fully with the Editorial Code of the Press Complaints Commission and

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with our own guidelines on covert recording. The discussions for the project were documented in an email trail, which we consider to be legally privileged against disclosure. The investigation proved abortive and the recorded material was destroyed. I am not aware of any other occasion in the period covered by the Inquiry when any covert recording of this kind has been used.

- 5) With reference to paragraph (c) of the letter, reasonable enquiry of our records reveals no disciplinary action has been taken by the Herald & Times since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 against journalists for failures in ethical or professional standards, save for one relatively recent incident, in respect of which relevant papers are enclosed (Exhibit TB6). The incident consisted of a failure to take sufficient measures to verify the reliability of a news source. I have redacted the names of the individuals concerned; if the Commission requires disclosure of those names please contact me directly.
- 6) With reference to paragraph (e), if a bonus were to be paid in any particular year, it would not extend beyond editors. Such a bonus would be set centrally by the Group Chief Executive Officer, not locally in Scotland, and it would be based on the overall financial performance of the business.
- 7) No board meetings of Newsquest (Herald & Times) Ltd, the relevant publishing company, have discussed matters within the scope of the Inquiry in the period since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

Signed ....  ..... Date ..... 11 / 11 / 11 .....

**Tim Blott**