

IN THE MATTER OF:

AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES AND ETHICS OF THE PRESS

CHAired BY THE RT HON LORD JUSTICE LEVESON

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF TINA LORRAINE WEAVER

I, **TINA LORRAINE WEAVER**, of the Sunday Mirror, MGN Limited, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I am the Editor of the Sunday Mirror, which is published by MGN Limited. MGN Limited is part of Trinity Mirror plc (**'Trinity Mirror'**).
2. I am making this statement in response to a notice dated 5 August 2011 pursuant to section 21(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005 (the **'Notice'**). A copy of the Notice is annexed hereto at pages 1-4 of my exhibit, Exhibit TLW-1, which contains copies of the documents to which I refer in this statement.
3. I understand that the Notice has been sent to me in connection with Part 1 of the Inquiry chaired by The Right Honourable Lord Justice Leveson into the culture, practices and ethics of the press (the **'Inquiry'**), the Terms of Reference which were published by The Right Honourable Mr David Cameron MP, Prime Minister, on 20 July 2011 (the **'Terms of Reference'**). The Notice requires me to provide evidence to the Inquiry panel in the form of a witness statement and to provide any documents in my custody or under my control as specified in the Notice.
4. Where the contents of this statement are within my own knowledge they are true and where the contents are not within my own knowledge I believe them to be true.
5. I am not authorised to waive any privilege on behalf of Trinity Mirror and nothing in this statement is intended to constitute a waiver of privilege on behalf of Trinity Mirror.

Overview of statement

6. I have been asked to provide evidence in relation to a wide range of issues across a number of years. I understand that the Inquiry has agreed that my witness statement can focus on the period from 1 January 2005. Accordingly, I refer to that period unless otherwise specified. So as to present my evidence in a way which I hope will assist the Inquiry, my witness statement is structured to address the matters and issues set out in the Notice by theme, which I address by reference to the numbering in the Notice (for example, 'Matter 1', 'Matter 2' and so on). I deal with the matters and issues as follows:
 - (1) Who I am and my career history (Matter 1);
 - (2) The Sunday Mirror;

- (3) The governing framework (Matters 2 to 5 and 8) and the sourcing of stories and information (Matters 6 and 7, 11 to 17 and 19);
 - (4) Expenses / remuneration of external providers of information (Matters 16 and 17);
 - (5) Editorial decision-making (Matter 18);
 - (6) Financial / commercial pressure and incentives (Matters 9 and 10);
7. I am conscious of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference and the Inquiry's request for any important additional information that I can give. I have therefore sought to include additional information where relevant.

Who I am and my career history

8. Matter 1 asks me to cover who I am and to provide a brief summary of my career history in the media.
9. I have worked in tabloid journalism for over twenty years. My first national paper job was on the Sunday People (now The People) from 1989 to 1992, before spending a year in the Daily Mirror in 1992 to 1993. I joined Today newspaper in 1993 as a reporter and, after winning Reporter of the Year, I was promoted to Features Editor.
10. In 1995, when Today folded, I moved back to the Daily Mirror, where I took up the role of Head of Features. I would be responsible for producing a daily list of features to present at a daily news conference, which would perhaps include a number of features and ideas for inclusion in the paper. I would also oversee various sections and specials. I was promoted to the position of Deputy Editor of the Daily Mirror in November 1997, in which role I was Deputy to the then Editor of the Daily Mirror. I would edit when the Editor was not present, and assist when he was there. I launched an award winning magazine, M, and started pull-outs and supplements including a health section and a female section.
11. In April 2001 I was appointed Editor of the Sunday Mirror following the resignation of its previous Editor.
12. In my role as Editor of the Sunday Mirror, I have overall responsibility for what is published in the paper. I provide additional information on the Sunday Mirror in the section that follows below.

The PCC

13. In addition, I am and have been a member of the Press Complaints Commission (the 'PCC') since 2008. The PCC is an independent body which was established in 1991, at the same time as the introduction of the Editors' Code of Practice (the 'Code'). The Code is the newspaper industry's Code of Practice, which sets out the ethical standards that journalists and editors are expected to maintain. I understand that the Code will be produced to the Inquiry by Trinity Mirror (Category B, Tab 1). The PCC deals with complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code. There are seventeen members of the PCC, comprising seven industry members with senior editorial experience and ten non-industry members, in addition to the independent Chairman. The members take the final decision on complaints handled by the PCC. I find the PCC to be effective at upholding standards in the industry and in providing a very valuable service to readers to deal with complaints quickly and without charge. Its primary aim is to consider, adjudicate, conciliate and resolve or settle complaints from the public of unfair treatments or unwarranted infringements of privacy made by newspapers or magazines.
14. A secondary valuable service provided by the PCC is the pre-publication notifications service where members of the public at the centre of a story can speak to the PCC and air their concerns, which will be communicated to senior industry figures. Editors can make informed decisions on whether to publish and whether that would be in breach of the Code. The effect is generally that editors will not publish the story, or part of it. It is a useful tool for the public and for editors. Another important service is the PCC's issuing of "desist notices" where newspapers are informed by the PCC that individuals have been in contact to express their wish for privacy or to ask to be left alone. These instantly reach every news room and reporters leave the individual alone. It is a fast and effective service.

The Sunday Mirror

15. The Sunday Mirror was launched as a broad sheet called the Sunday Pictorial in 1915. It became a tabloid many years later and changed its name to the Sunday Mirror in 1963. For the last 60 years it has been a paper which promotes social awareness, notwithstanding that, it has never shied away from scandal. One of its early front pages was the Profumo Scandal.
16. We strive to investigate and explain the issues that are important to the lives of our readers. We have core values that are to champion the concerns of the ordinary person, expose injustices, and campaign for the care of the weak and vulnerable in society. We sell around

1.85 million copies each week and I recognise that through the pages of the Sunday Mirror we can shock, influence and bring about change for the better by giving prominence and publicity to social issues through campaigns and regular features. Whether it be by exposing ill-treatment of the weak and elderly, highlighting the high unemployment among the young, or the poor state of maternity care, it is important we present what are often complex issues in an accessible, informative and appealing way to engage with our readership. We are a tabloid paper and readers expect us to be bold, clear and forthright while retaining a sense of style, fun and warmth. I believe tabloid papers have an important role to play as they reflect the views, thoughts and aspirations of the mass market and communicate directly with approximately 27 million readers each week. That is many more millions than the readership of what are known as the 'qualities'.

17. If I produce a paper that is not of interest or relevant to the lives of our readers, or they do not like or approve of its contents, they would cease to buy it. I have a wide-ranging readership from teenagers to centenarians so, to appeal to all, I endeavour to cover as many aspects of people's lives and interests as possible in the main paper and our two supplements, Celebs, and Homes and Holidays, while retaining our core values. Subjects we would cover in a normal week include news stories, show business, sport, a campaign or a special on a social or political issue, political stories, holidays, home improvement, motoring, film reviews, gadgets, astrology, health, fashion, beauty, real life features, consumer specials, investigations, columns, opinion pieces, celebrity interviews, and picture sets. I currently have a team of 68 full time staff, seven part-time staff and more – mainly production journalists – who work just on Saturdays. The key executive team represents different areas of the paper: news, features, sport, pictures and the magazine. We work Tuesday to Saturday. We have a completely separate staff from the Daily Mirror.
18. Each day I chair an editorial conference where the various heads of departments will present a list of ideas, stories, features and picture sets. I am mindful I need to create the right mix for the pace and tone of the paper. The vast majority of stories we run are non contentious and non-controversial. Stories and tips will come in during the week from a variety of sources: freelancers, celebrity public relations ('PR') agents, news agencies and contacts; or, we will simply work on our own projects. Stories and tips will be examined and worked on throughout the week – some I will reject on grounds of taste or privacy, some will turn out to simply not be true, or some we are just not able to prove. We work

closely with our in-house lawyer, who attends conference and will advise and have a legal view on a major or potentially legally problematic story before publication.

19. The choice of stories and our leader comment express what we believe and stand for, as well as recognising a need to publish what is of interest to our readers. If we did not, then we would cease to exist. Readers for many decades have come to expect revelations and exposés of wrong-doing and bad behaviour of the rich and famous from their Sunday paper. There are careful thought processes and judgements behind major stories, as I return to in the examples that I have given in this statement.
20. We are committed to highlighting, campaigning for, and exposing issues which we consider unjust or important in our readers' lives. For example, for many years the paper has campaigned for the recognition of the unjust treatment of thousands of veterans who were ordered to witness nuclear blasts in the 1950s in the Pacific Islands. Many later developed cancers and tumours and had children born with deformities. This is not a fashionable sales-driving subject, but one we have stuck with for many years because we believe the treatment of these veterans at the hands of 15 successive governments has been unjust. We have continued to give the cause prominent support for nearly 30 years by lobbying successive governments, organising a march, and we have brought together veterans who may not have come forward, and helped keep the subject on the news agenda. It helped to make the government relook at the case. The last government agreed to a study for the children and grandchildren of the vets (still underway) as a result of our lobbying. This project has seen us recognised by the industry, and nominated for a Paul Foot award for investigative journalism. We have kept the debate and the issue alive in the public eye, whereas otherwise it would have quietly been forgotten as these once young men eventually died. The case is proceeding legally in the courts.
21. We campaigned for a better deal and better treatment of our elderly with our 'Respect our Seniors' campaign, aimed at raising awareness of the treatment of the elderly. We won an award from Help the Aged who praised the journalists who worked for months on the campaign. More importantly, it highlighted the need as a country to do more for our elderly. We were inundated with stories from readers of mistreatments and lack of care on our wards, many of which we have run.
22. 'Homes for Heroes' and 'Justice for Our Troops' are two military campaigns that we have run. 'Homes for Heroes' raised money for amputee servicemen. We helped raise £100k in six weeks. Justice for Our Troops highlighted the need for improving the level of

psychiatric care provided to troops returning from conflict zones. In addition, we regularly highlight unjust treatment of our troops. Recently (on September 4th 2011) we carried the story of a young veteran who had had three limbs amputated, but was forced to live at the top of a high rise block with two tiny children. As a result of our story, he is being re-housed. On September 25th 2011 under the headline, "No way to treat a hero", we told the story of Ben Parkinson, referred to regularly as the "most badly injured soldier to survive the Afghan war". We revealed he will be discharged from the army, which his family says will mean he will not receive the level of treatment he needs for his rehabilitation, and in addition his compensation will be capped at £570,000 the majority of which has been spent on adapting his bungalow. It is right we should highlight such unjust treatment of our servicemen. Often our stories are followed by other newspapers too, widening the number of people important issues such as this reach.

23. We have continually highlighted the desperate plight of young jobless people with our "Lost Generation" series. A fifth of all 16 to 24 years olds, that is a million young people, are unemployed. It is right that we keep the pressure on our political leaders to do more to help. As a non-Conservative supporting paper, it is important that we draw attention to pressing social issues such as this that others are less likely to. In one edition, we featured a number of young people who had sent off multiple job applications in vain. All were offered work as a result of the publicity we gave them. On September 25th 2011 we featured a young unemployed woman joining a modern day "Jarrow March" as her great-grandfather had done 75 years ago.
24. We regularly return to these issues, and charities and individuals often contact us for help in publicising their cases. We present social issues in interesting, informative ways.

The governing framework

25. I now address Matters 2 to 5, which relate to corporate governance at the Sunday Mirror, and Matter 8, which relates to ethics. I then address the matters asked of me in relation to the sourcing of stories and information, namely Matters 6 and 7 which ask me to cover responsibilities in relation to source checking; then Matters 11 to 17 which ask me to cover certain issues connected with the use and payment of private investigators as well as the police, public officials, mobile phone companies or others with access to them as external sources of information. I also cover Matter 19 which asks me about 'computer hacking'. I do not, in this statement, disclose any source and nothing in my statement should be taken as being a disclosure of a source.

Corporate governance and the Sunday Mirror

26. Matters 2, 3 and 5 ask me to cover certain issues relating to corporate governance at the Sunday Mirror, namely:
2. *how I understand the system of corporate governance to work in practice at the Sunday Mirror with particular emphasis on systems to ensure lawful, professional and ethical conduct;*
 3. *what my role is in ensuring that the corporate governance documents and all relevant policies are adhered to in practice, and if I do not consider myself to have been / be responsible for this, to tell the Inquiry who I consider to hold that responsibility; and*
 5. *whether these practices or policies have changed, either recently as a result of the phone hacking media interest or prior to that point, and if so, what the reasons for the change were.*
27. I understand the system of corporate governance to be the responsibility of Trinity Mirror as a public company, with the Board of Directors holding ultimate responsibility for administering that system.
28. For me, Trinity Mirror's system of corporate governance means working within the law and the Code, which I believe we do. The Code is incorporated into employees' contracts.
29. Following the convictions of Glenn Mulcaire and Clive Goodman for phone hacking in 2007, I recall Sly Bailey (Trinity Mirror's Chief Executive Officer) and Paul Vickers (Trinity Mirror's Group Legal Director) convening a meeting on March 30th 2007, which was attended by me as the Editor of the Sunday Mirror, the Editors of the Daily Mirror and The People, Eugene Duffy (the Group Managing Editor) and the Deputy Group Legal Director. In light of what had happened, Mrs Bailey and Mr Vickers reminded us of our responsibilities under the Code and the law.
30. Following that meeting, Mr Duffy wrote to all staff drawing our attention to guidance notes on the Data Protection Act that had been drawn up by the PCC and sent to all newspaper publishers following the Mulcaire and Goodman cases. I understand that this document will be produced to the Inquiry by Trinity Mirror (Category A, Tab 10).
31. As part of its system of corporate governance, Trinity Mirror's Board of Directors requires me to sign a Risk Management Certification each year to confirm that I am responsible for the risks to my business objectives as far as is practicable and possible. I enclose copies of by Certifications for the years 2004-2011 at pages 5-11 of Exhibit TLW-1.

32. My job in Trinity Mirror's corporate governance system is therefore to assess the risk associated with certain stories. There is no story that is completely without risk and so I make a careful assessment of the merits on major stories based on the information available to me. I have included the following paragraph into my risk assessment declaration for the Board:

It is not always possible to identify which stories are 'significant'. All potential stories include an assessment of both downside and upside risk – however, it is necessary to make judgement calls on the appropriate degree of risk identification, evaluation and management on a story by story basis. Many potential risks fall into the realm of the genuinely unknown or unforeseeable – as such it will never be possible to have a foolproof system of risk identification, evaluation and control in this area of our business.

33. In practice, the way in which this works is that over the Sunday Mirror's working week, reporters make enquiries on stories and tips, and report back to the relevant executive. Information is investigated and checked by the writers, and news and features executives. Most stories are non-problematic and not legally contentious. On larger and more controversial stories we will consider a number of factors including: the truth and accuracy of the story and whether we are able to verify the key aspects of it; its source; the risk of litigation and whether we would be able to prove the story to the requisite legal standard; ethical issues; whether generally the story is in good taste; and, using instincts based on years of experience, whether as a whole the story feels right.
34. I am not aware of any changes to the system of corporate governance recently as a result of the phone hacking media interest or prior to that. The use of private investigators was banned by the company a few months ago.

Adherence to the system of corporate governance in practice

35. In Matter 4, I am asked to address whether the documents and policies which make up the system of corporate governance at Trinity Mirror and at the Sunday Mirror are adhered to in practice, to the best of my knowledge.
36. As far as I am aware, the system of corporate governance, insofar it comprises the law and the Code, is adhered to in practice.
37. The Sunday Mirror has a good compliance record with the Code. We try to act carefully and ethically within a tight framework. I will work with our in-house lawyer, seeking his advice and guidance.

38. I also believe that if we get something significantly wrong it is our responsibility to correct it. When hundreds, if not thousands, of stories – big and small – and pictures and columns are published each month, there will regrettably sometimes be mistakes. We have a 'get it right section' for corrections on the letters page. In addition, readers will contact us direct and we will correct, clarify, or apologise as appropriate.

Ethics

39. I am asked in Matter 8 to cover the extent to which I consider that ethics can and should play a role in the print media, and what I consider "ethics" to mean in this context.
40. In my role as Editor of the Sunday Mirror, I strongly believe that ethics have a role to play. The Code sets out the benchmark for ethical behaviour, by providing a basis on which we can evaluate the ethics of each story and its merits, there being no rule of thumb that can cover all stories. In addition to the Code, I make a series of decisions which also define the "ethics" of the paper. This is often subtle and nuanced – I will sometimes remove material from a story if I feel it is too intrusive, personal, distasteful, or sometimes, just unkind, even though there may be no obvious Code breach. In practice, some stories would be rejected by the executive before they reach me; others I will reject as soon as I hear about them. Stories often falling within this category are ones which in my judgement are too intrusive (as set out above), or where they involve children. Sometimes I will make a decision not to approach someone or not to write a story I feel uncomfortable about. Below are some of the things I have rejected on the day recently (I have provided representative examples of how I weigh up private and public interests in my response to Matter 18 later in this statement).
41. One week I rejected pictures of a household name at a funeral because it felt too intrusive. I rejected pictures of an international celebrity walking with her teenage daughter in a bikini; again, it felt wrong to show the girl in swimwear. There was a picture of a widow returning to the UK after her husband had been killed on holiday which had been a front page story during the week which I rejected because it felt too intrusive. I told executives not to approach the widow of a Red Arrows pilot recently killed. We knew a celebrity was pregnant, but decided not to approach – we waited until she announced it. I chose not to publish pictures of a child laying flowers at the site of her father's death in a mining accident because they felt intrusive. These are not the biggest examples, but I hope they illustrate that ethical considerations go into the process of putting the paper together.

42. I also believe that, in general, self-regulation under the auspices of the PCC has been a success. Newspaper editors take adjudications from the PCC very seriously. The PCC currently deals with 10,000 complaints each year through a system that is fast, effective and free of charge. The PCC's own surveys of users show that complainants have a high level of satisfaction with the service. I believe that news rooms and reporters are better behaved, and are more restricted in what they can write, today than since I have worked in them.

Responsibility for source checking

43. Matters 6 and 7 ask me to cover the following issues:
6. *where the responsibility for checking sources of information (including the method by which the information was obtained) lies: from reporter to news editor / showbiz editor / royal editor to editor and how this is done in practice (with some representative examples to add clarity); and*
 7. *to what extent an editor is aware, and should be aware, of the sources of the information which make up the central stories featured in the Sunday Mirror each Sunday (including the method by which the information was obtained).*
44. We receive hundreds of pieces of information each week. The majority will be non-controversial, from established news agencies, or freelancers around the country. PR agents give stories, tips, interviews and each journalist has his or her own trusted contacts. A typical scenario might involve a reporter receiving a tip: he or she will make preliminary investigations before discussing it with the relevant desk head, who might ask questions about the source of the information, depending upon the nature of the story. This checking process will continue with further enquiries by the writer, questions from his or her desk head and from the in-house lawyer. I will discuss any issues causing concern with the lawyer and other executives before deciding whether to publish.
45. Checking source and provenance is the responsibility initially of the freelancer, news agency or reporter, depending whether the information is coming from, then the relevant executive. The system works on trust as well as source checking. The executive trusts his staff as I rely on and trust my executive team.
46. I am not always aware of the sources of the stories on the news list, or those which ultimately evolve into stories featured in the Sunday Mirror, and I do not consider that I should necessarily or properly be aware for the reasons I explain below. Firstly, the majority are straightforward, are just not controversial and are our own work, or from regular sources like the Press Association or established news agencies. Secondly, in the

course of their careers, journalists move to different publications and are therefore protective of their sources. There is also an obligation under the Code that journalists must protect their confidential sources. There is, therefore, an important relationship of trust. I also trust my experienced executives and journalists to work within the Code and the law. However, if I feel one of our central stories carries a significant legal risk or I have concerns about its veracity, I will discuss it with the relevant executive, my deputy and the in-house lawyer. As Editor, I often play the role of devil's advocate, trying to pull some stories apart to test them. Stories are often rejected.

47. My executive team is experienced and together we consider a number of factors, including those which I identified above in explaining my role in the governing framework. Often we will start with a piece of information on a subject and reporters are expected to go and look into it to establish its veracity and provenance. In fact, the percentage of stories and tips which make it through our filters is small, compared to the number we hear about.
48. If I am concerned about the veracity of a story or whether we can legally publish it (for example, whether publication would breach existing court orders), I will often ask an executive to work with the in-house lawyer on it. In addition, the lawyer will speak to the reporter or executive in the week as the story takes shape. He is very much part of the Sunday Mirror team, attending conference daily and dealing with complaints. In addition, he will come to me during the week with any concerns to bring them to my attention and suggest changes to copy.
49. To give a representative example, recently in September 2011 a reporter heard from a source about a TV celebrity involved in an 'air rage' incident in which she swore at a male steward. We would not have run the story if we could not get further verification. We had several conversations with the airline who confirmed it to us on the record and we had backing from someone on the plane. The celebrity denied the story and we received a legal letter threatening to sue us prior to publication. Although I did not know the name of the source, I knew where the source was in relation to the incident and after several conversations with BA and the journalist who brought the story in, I decided to publish, but incorporated the celebrity's denials.
50. As to the methods by which the information is obtained, journalists must work within the Code and the law.

Private investigators and other external providers of information

51. I now address Matters 11 to 15, which ask me to cover the following issues relating to private investigators and certain other external providers of information as sources:

- 11. whether, to the best of my knowledge, the Sunday Mirror used, paid or had any connection with private investigators in order to source stories or information and / or paid or received payments in kind for such information from the police, public officials, mobile phone companies or others with access to the same; and if so, details of the numbers of occasions on which such investigators or other external providers of information were used and of the amounts paid to them;*
- 12. what my role was in instructing, paying or having any other contact with such private investigators and / or other external providers of information;*
- 13. if such investigators or other external providers of information were used, what policy / protocol, if any, was used to facilitate the use of such investigators or other external providers of information (for example, in relation to how they were identified, how they were chosen, how they were paid, their remit, how they were told to check sources, what methods they were told to or permitted to employ in order to obtain the information and so on);*
- 14. if there was such a policy / protocol, whether it was followed, and if not, the practice that was followed in respect of all these matters; and*
- 15. whether there are any situations in which neither the existing protocol / policy nor the practice were followed and what precisely happened/failed to happen in those situations, and what factors were in play in deciding to depart from the protocol or practice.*

Private investigators and other external sources

52. The Sunday Mirror has used what I regard as search agents since January 2005. I have not regarded these as private investigators and I am not personally involved in instructing them. The company has had no specific policy or protocol on their use prior to the decision being taken (as referred to in paragraph 34 above) to ban the use of private investigators.
53. To the best of my recollection and knowledge, the Sunday Mirror has not made or authorised any payments to the police, public officials or mobile phone companies, or anyone with access to them to source information, or paid or received payments in kind from anyone in these categories for stories or information.
54. The only payments to public officials as far as I am aware are occasionally to MPs when they write an opinion piece for us, which they should declare in the register of members' interests.

55. I will speak to other external providers of information who may contact me directly. These might be long-term contacts or agents who will be acting as a representative for someone in the news who wants to sell his or her story. Sometimes I will take contacts to lunch or dinner and claim the cost back through expenses. Such hospitality does not always result in information - it can be to discuss the industry or just to maintain the relationship.

Relationships with the police

56. I am mindful that under Part 1 of its Terms of Reference the Inquiry is required to consider the contacts and relationships between national newspapers and the police and the conduct of each. I therefore provide the following additional information based on my experience.
57. I consider that there is an important relationship between the press and the police: part of the press' role is to inform the public about the process of justice and to assist the police in solving crimes. For example, after the recent riots in August 2011 the papers published photographs and information relating to suspected criminals. As such, there are occasions where Sunday Mirror journalists, in particular my Crime Editor, come into contact with the police. He, like other crime correspondents, is a member of the Crime Reporters' Association ('CRA'). I myself have had very little personal contact with the police.
58. The CRA was first set up in the 1940's. My understanding (from my crime correspondent) is that at the end of the Second World War, during Sir Harold Scott's commissionership of the Metropolitan Police, the decision was taken to engage with crime reporters. Sir Harold issued instructions that crime reporters should be taken into the confidence of Scotland Yard for the first time. Reporters were given their own room, complete with phones connected to their Fleet Street offices. The room no longer exists, but so far as I am aware the close relationship between police and the CRA does, with regular briefings on the big stories of the day. My experience is that this is a relationship which is mutually beneficial and based on trust built up over a period of years.
59. We have not published stories at the police request on occasions. For instance, a few years ago we had a story that a former police officer, awarded for bravery, had held up a bookmaker's. This was considered a newsworthy story, but Scotland Yard requested that we did not run it as it would alert the suspect that the police knew who they were looking for. We agreed we would not publish, although it was clear the police would find the suspect before the weekend was out – which they did and the story duly appeared in a rival daily paper on the Monday.

60. We ran a story about the police reopening the case of two notorious murders from the 1990's. Our story led to a former associate coming forward to supply police with crucial information which could lead to this historic case being solved.

61.

Relationships with politicians

62. In addition, I am mindful that under Part 1 of its Terms of Reference the Inquiry must also consider the contacts and relationships between national newspapers and politicians and the conduct of each. I therefore provide the following additional information based on my experience.

63. There has always been a relationship between politicians and the press. In my experience politicians use the press to get their message across to the public, either directly or by unofficially leaking stories to the press.

64. In my role as Editor, I do come into contact with politicians, normally at the Party Conferences. I rarely have lunches with politicians and leave most of the contact to my political editor. I have had one meeting and one lunch with the current Prime Minister David Cameron (and the Conservative party's then director of communications and strategy, Andy Coulson) before he was in power, when his office contacted me to suggest a lunch with Mrs Bailey and our two other national paper editors. I had several meetings with Gordon Brown when he was in office, including one visit to Chequers, and prior to that several meetings and lunches with Tony Blair.

'Computer hacking'

65. Matter 19 asks me to cover whether I or the Sunday Mirror, to the best of my knowledge, ever used or commissioned anyone who used 'computer hacking' in order to source stories. To the best of my knowledge, the Sunday Mirror has never used or commissioned anyone to hack computers. Neither have I.

Expenses / remuneration of external providers of information

66. Matters 16 and 17 ask me to cover:

16. the extent to which I am aware of protocols or policies operating at the Sunday Mirror in relation to expenses or remuneration paid to other external sources of information (whether actually commissioned by the Sunday Mirror or not), other than 'official' sources, such as the Press Association; and

17. the practice of the Sunday Mirror in relation to payment of expenses and / or remuneration paid to other external sources of information (whether actually commissioned by the Sunday Mirror or not), other than 'official' sources, such as the Press Association.

67. At the Sunday Mirror, payments made to external sources of information are mostly authorised by the department that commissioned the work – i.e. news, pictures, features, sport or magazine. Each executive has an "authority level" within Trinity Mirror's authorisation system, so a second authorisation is often asked for if they exceed that. Over a certain level, I have to seek management authorisation for payment of a story. Payments to search agencies go through a separate system and are countersigned by the Managing Editor's office if they exceed a certain amount.
68. Our finance department monitors payments and has strict controls over new contributors. They also carry out unannounced audits.
69. Our Managing Editor's office is the main point of contact between finance and editorial. They work to check that we are in budget and to communicate any new policies or procedures with regards payment. While I work to try to ensure we stay within budget and agree larger payments, I do not get involved with the nitty gritty of the contribution system for payment of the majority of stories.

Editorial decision-making

70. Matter 18 asks me to explain, in respect of editorial decisions I have made to publish stories, the factors that I have taken into account in balancing the private interests of individuals against the public interest in a free Press. I have been asked to provide a number of examples and to explain how I have interpreted and applied the public interest.
71. Generally, I would say the privacy issue dominates the majority of our discussions into whether we can print a major story as it is so subjective and the bar is regularly being raised by new court rulings. Rulings made in the last few years have restricted what can be written significantly. It is difficult to navigate the fine line between the public's right to know and an individual's right to privacy, particularly on a Sunday tabloid which has traditionally for many years written about the lives of the rich, powerful and famous. It

feels like a privacy law has been introduced as a result of a series of judgments in courts rather than through public debate which I do not believe is in itself in the public interest. The main reason for a story to be rejected is because its publication would result in a privacy action or, at the time of going to press, risk a Saturday afternoon injunction which would be costly to fight whether or not we believe we have grounds to publish. Newspapers have huge financial pressure on them and the cost of CFAs are so high that they exert an extra pressure which has a chilling effect on the freedom of the press.

72. I have listed some examples below where there have been privacy, or data protection issues or where we have used subterfuge.

First Example

73. When Rio Ferdinand was appointed captain of the England football team in February 2010, he replaced John Terry who was dismissed from the post following a relationship with a team mate's partner. Both the England manager, Fabio Capello, and the Football Association emphasised the importance of the England captain being a positive role model to young people and to society as a whole. Mr Capello said: *"The captain is an example for the young, the children, for the fans ...I have to know the man, not only the player... "He's a symbol of the England team... A symbol is a good player, a good man and he has to represent the England team in every situation."*
74. Therefore, to me it was perfectly justifiable to publish an article comparing Rio Ferdinand's actual behaviour off the pitch with the carefully-honed public image which he had constructed and given interviews about. This public demeanour was that of a reformed man who no longer engaged in infidelity and who had embraced the responsibilities of fatherhood and family life. In fact, he had continued to pursue a relationship with another woman, seeking to organise liaisons with her at the England squad's hotel, while in public speaking of his commitment to his long-term partner. The balancing of the private interests of individuals against the public interest in a free press in this case meant that the pictures of the children of Mr Ferdinand were not included in the article. Rio Ferdinand issued proceedings claiming damages for breach of confidence and/or misuse of private information seeking damages of more than £50,000 on 15 June 2010. On 29th September 2011 Mr Justice Nicol dismissed his claim: this is reported at *Ferdinand v MGN Ltd* [2011] EWHC 2454 (QB).

Second Example

75. We published an article about a married Cabinet Minister and Conservative Leader of the House of Lords, Tom Strathclyde, who was having an affair with a single mother who had turned to him for help over a Child Support Agency ('CSA') claim. He arranged to meet her at her flat where she talked about her concerns for her son. He showed little interest in her predicament, but had sex with her. He and the Prime Minister had previously made speeches about the importance of family values in Conservative policy and Lord Strathclyde had openly discussed his family in speeches in the House of Lords. He had also made speeches in the past criticising the Labour government for a lack of policies *"which bind families together"*. In one speech, he talked about his wife, saying she had broken her career to dedicate herself to raising her family. *"Her choice – the same made by millions of others – deserves the fullest respect which I fear it does not always receive"*, he said.
76. At the time, the Prime Minister had talked regularly about the importance of family values and put them at the heart of government policy, offering tax breaks for married couples. The woman, who had known the minister some years ago, came forward after reading a report that the government was considering charging for the use of the CSA. She said: *"I feel Lord Strathclyde took advantage of me when I was at my most vulnerable and I feel betrayed. I'm fed up with the Government's hypocrisy and how they preach to us about family values. They make speeches about it but at the same time a senior cabinet minister and a friend of David Cameron's is sneaking away from his wife to have sex with me."* When we went to the Conservative Party, they spoke to Lord Strathclyde, who said the story was not true. There followed several more calls and they seemed to be anxious to see how much proof we had before issuing a statement officially denying it. We were told he was consulting lawyers. Once the Conservative Party realised we had sufficient proof, they asked us not to publish an actual denial from the peer, choosing not to comment instead.
77. The clear justification for revealing Lord Strathclyde's relationship is the hypocrisy of a senior member of the government, who espouses family values while at the same time cheating on his wife. Moreover, the hypocrisy is compounded by having a relationship with a single mother in a vulnerable state who had come to him for help. In addition there seemed to be more concern by the Conservative Party over our level of proof than the peer's behaviour. We were left with the distinct impression that if they were confident that

our story did not come up to legal proof, regardless of whether or not it was true, it would have been denied in any event.

Third Example

78. The office of David Cameron, before he was Prime Minister, threatened to complain to the PCC when we told his office that we were intending to run a story and pictures of him on a luxury Turkish gulet holiday. Our point was he had made great play of his more modest 'staycation' in Cornwall and had posed for numerous press photographs. There were also pictures of his wife on a beach in Cornwall in a bikini that he had not complained about. Yet I was put under huge pressure not to publish by his office saying it was private. I recognise that our political leaders need holidays with their families, but viewed the fact that he had chosen to publicise his relatively modest family holiday in Cornwall at a time when people were tightening the belt while he then disappeared off on an expensive luxury holiday in Turkey, with no accompanying photo opportunities, as justification for running the story. In addition, there were so many organised photo opportunities in Cornwall that year – July 2008 – that even Conservative supporting papers mocked him with headlines. One read: "*David Cameron shock: no photo opportunities in the last 48 hours*". Yet there were numerous phone calls on the Saturday demanding I pull the story; I presume because it did not suit the image they were wishing to portray.

Fourth Example

79. We exposed a senior housing official from ethnically diverse Hammersmith and Fulham council as leading a double life dressing up as a Nazi and spouting extreme racist and anti-Semitic views. Hammersmith and Fulham is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in the UK and as the assistant director for Housing Options, the official was in charge of 20 people and was responsible for social housing and homelessness. He engaged in Nazi role play games, dressing in leather SS uniform and jackboots and posing in these outfits on a website. In text exchanges with other men he met on the sites, he made some extraordinarily offensive comments about Jewish people and made other extremely racist comments. The council fired him as a result.
80. There was a clearly a public interest for exposing his views and behaviour and the pictures from the website as they showed him dressed in Nazi outfits by swastika flags. He was in a position of power, helping run the housing policy in an area where 176,000 residents were from ethnic minorities.

Fifth Example

81. We used subterfuge to expose the bully boy tactics of bailiffs at a time when the number of debt collectors was growing and there was concern that they were – and still are – subject to no independent regulation. We received information from a whistleblower about a company that held the contract to retrieve congestion charge debt. So a reporter went undercover to work with DKB Collections. He was told by his fellow debt collector to forget the code of conduct (applicable to bailiffs) and forget that "debtors have rights". The reporter witnessed him giving deliberately wrong advice to a debtor. The debt collector admitted making "illegally high" charges to debtors to recover monies owed. A middle-aged woman was charged for a bailiff's visit despite being treated by paramedics at the time. Although the company told the employees to not behave like thugs, what our reporter witnessed were nasty bullying tactics and unless we had employed subterfuge we would never have exposed this behaviour. We believe there was a strong public interest in exposing the identity of the debt collector. We accompanied the story with a useful Q and A guide for people in debt and comments from the Citizens Advice Bureau calling for the government to regulate debt-collecting agencies, which has yet to happen.

Sixth Example

82. We launched an operation with surveillance cameras to show theft of clothes from charity drop-off banks which resulted in four convictions in September 2011. The story highlighted a growing criminal trend in this country for thefts from clothes banks by climbing into the narrow gap intended for drop-offs. We set up surveillance cameras (with the knowledge and consent of the local council) by British Heart Foundation bin banks after they told us there were regularly targeted and that, nationally, it had cost them in the region of £6m in lost donations. There had been very few convictions as the offence was hard to prove. We handed our evidence to Surrey police and they launched an investigation resulting in the successful convictions.
83. This is an important example as it illustrates the public interest where there are data protection issues. It is a crime which largely goes undetected costing charities many millions and police did not have the resource to devote to detecting it.

Seventh Example

84. We published (in March 2008) CCTV images of footballer Nathan Dyer stealing from the handbags of two female nightclub employees. The footage showed his then team-mate Bradley Wright-Phillips laughing as the women's possessions were removed from their

bags in the nightclub staffroom. Given that professional sportsmen are widely considered to be role models, we concluded that publication was in the public interest, outweighing any possible data protection issues. This view was reinforced by the unwillingness of Southampton Football Club, Dyer and Wright-Phillips' team at the time, to institute any disciplinary action despite the nightclub getting in touch with them to complain. The nightclub gave us the CCTV images as they were unhappy by the lack of action from the club. Dyer later (July 2008) appeared in court and admitted the theft of £85, three mobile phones, a driving license and two bank cards from the handbags.

Financial / commercial pressure and incentives

85. Matters 9 and 10 ask me to cover:

9. The extent to which I, as an editor, felt any financial and / or commercial pressure from Trinity Mirror or anyone else, and whether any such pressure affected any of the decisions I made as editor (such evidence to be limited to matters covered by the Terms of Reference).

10. The extent to which I, as an editor, had a financial incentive to print exclusive stories.

86. In my role as Editor, in a commercially tough industry, naturally I have felt financial and commercial pressure from Trinity Mirror to manage costs and produce good front pages and to maintain sales. There is pressure on resources and time, which of course affects the decisions that I make as to what stories to include in the paper. However, I have not felt any pressure to publish stories that I did not feel comfortable with or to do anything which I would regard as unethical or unlawful.

87. I do not have any financial incentive to print exclusive stories.

Documents

88. The Notice includes a request to me to provide any policies or protocols to which I have referred. I have referred to the Code, which I understand is being provided by Trinity Mirror to the Inquiry (Category B, Tab 1) responding to the separate document request to which the Notice refers.

89. In addition, the Notice asks me for any details or documents relating to 'expenses' paid to private investigators and / or other external sources of information. I have interpreted 'expenses' as referring to 'payments' for information or stories. As explained, I am not aware of any payments to private investigators, the police, public officials, mobile phone

companies or others with access to the same. To the best of my knowledge, I do not have documents responsive to this request.

Signed...



Tina Lorraine Weaver

Dated: *W* October 2011