1 1 outset that an organisation like News International had (2.00 pm)2 huge power, and I think politicians were reticent of 3 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Sorry I'm late, Mr Jay. speaking out about some of the practices that were 4 4 MR JAY: Sir, the first witness this afternoon is the Right exposed, I include myself in that. There came a moment 5 Honourable Ed Miliband, please. 5 when I felt it was impossible not to speak out. I knew 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much. 6 at that moment I was crossing a Rubicon, if you like. 7 EDWARD SAMUEL MILIBAND (affirmed) 7 I did do that and I think it was the right thing to do. 8 Questions by MR JAY 8 The final thing I want to say to you, sir, is that 9 MR JAY: You've kindly provided us with a statement. I'm 9 no politician is going to come before you and give you 10 not sure the copy I have is dated. It matters not. Are 10 a blank cheque, and you wouldn't expect that, I know, 11 you happy to confirm that this is your formal evidence 11 from reading the evidence, but I think there is a huge 12 12 to the Inquiry? responsibility on politicians to make sure -- and A. Yes, I am. 13 13 I gather this was echoed by Sir John Major this 14 14 Q. Thank you very much. Of course, you were Secretary of morning -- that your recommendations do not end up on 15 State for Energy and Climate Change between October 2008 15 a dusty shelf somewhere, as I think you yourself have 16 and May 2010, and since September 2010, leader of the 16 remarked. 17 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I said the second shelf. opposition. Can I ask you, please, to develop your 18 over-arching thoughts on the first page of your 18 Mr Paxman thought it ought to be the bottom shelf. 19 statement at 06816 first? 19 A. I remember reading that, sir, but I think we have a huge 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Before you do, if I can get a word in 20 responsibility and I want to say, really, echoing 21 21 edgeways, Mr Miliband, thank you very much indeed for something you said at the beginning of this week and 22 the obvious effort and thought that's been put into the 22 something that Tony Blair said in his testimony, that 23 evidence that you've provided. I'm grateful. 23 for any Prime Minister this is going to be very 24 A. Thank you, sir. 24 difficult and I want to say that I will do everything 25 Thank you, Mr Jay. Can I start by saying that it is 25 I can to seek to work on a cross-party basis so ensure Page 1 Page 3 1 that your recommendations provide a framework for us for 1

a privilege for me to be able to give evidence to the Inquiry. I do provide an opening statement and I want to briefly develop those points.

I think the first point to make is that we have elements of an outstanding press in this country. We certainly have fantastic traditions of the press. Indeed, the expose of phone hacking only happened because of the rigour and dedication of parts of the press, so I think it's very, very important that the recommendations that come out of this Inquiry uphold that freedom of the press and those great traditions.

I think secondly, reading the compelling evidence that has been put to this Inquiry, I think particularly of the evidence of Kate and Gerry McCann, there's clearly something that's gone very wrong in the way the press deal with individuals, individuals who don't seek celebrity, and I hope that can be put right by some of the recommendations of this Inquiry.

I think thirdly it's right to acknowledge that the failure to get to grips with these issues earlier is a collective failure of the establishment. The press, the police, who didn't investigate properly, and indeed politicians, who were at least aware of some of what was going on and didn't speak out.

Fourthly, I think it's right to say right at the Page 2

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2 the future.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm very grateful for that assurance. I've spoken lightly of the second shelf, but

actually there is a serious point, that this is not an

6 area of the law with which I have been particularly 7 familiar in my practice, either at the bar or on the

8 bench, but I have been very disturbed to read that since

9 the War, there have been repeated attempts to seek to

10 address this issue, all of which in the end have just

11 foundered, and I would be very disappointed if the

12 amount of effort -- not just public money, public money

13 as well, but intellectual effort from all the people who

14 have been the core participants, from all those who have 15 given evidence, and it's why I have thanked everybody

16 who has prepared a statement, who have obviously thought

17 about the issues -- if all that effort was wasted and

18 didn't achieve something.

19 I'm not entirely reassured by the repeated comment 20 that the very fact of the Inquiry has already made

21 a difference. It may do this month, it may do next 22 year, but I think the effort requires a rather greater

23 repayment than that.

24 A. I concur with those remarks, sir.

25 MR JAY: Thank you. May I move on to question 2, the second Page 4

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- page of your statement, 06817. The third paragraph,
- 2 first of all, where you bring in the theme of press
- 3 freedom with responsibility, which reflects evidence
- 4 we've recently heard as well. You say in the last
- 5 sentence of that paragraph that you think the public
- 6 interest is best served if there is respect on both
- 7 sides and fair play "in our dealings with each other".
- 8 It's a question though, Mr Miliband: how do you promote
- 9 that state of affairs?

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A. Well, Mr Jay, I think this is an important question and
 I'll be honest with you: I think it's one I've wrestled
 with a lot in thinking about my evidence.

I said at the outset that my primary interest in the work of the Inquiry was to protect the innocent victims, the people who didn't seek celebrity, and I want to reaffirm that before I talk about this relationship, because I think it's very, very important to set some context.

Having said that, I think that we should be seeking in our democracy a relationship of mutual respect. Let me just say a little bit about what I mean by that. Respect from politicians for a free, fair and strong press I think is very, very important, and not respect for individual politicians from the press, not deference, but a sense that there is fair play, a sense

Page 5

of being able to get one's views across. I think that would be the ideal we'd be seeking.

I have to say, I think we're a long way from the ideal at the moment. I think at its worst, there is a sort of mutual culture of contempt, I would say, from the press, who think the politicians aren't straight with them and who behave badly, and from politicians who think we're just not going to get a fair hearing.

I think the reason this is important is because it is perhaps part of the context to what I describe in my statement and others have described in different terms as the excessive closeness that there can sometimes be. Why do politicians -- and this is not a defence or an alibi -- seek the closeness? Sometimes it's because it's the way of getting a good hearing. I think you had a flavour of that from some of the participants.

So I think I've set out to you what I think the ideal is, but we're a long way away from it.

I'll say just one other point. I think the biggest injustice, if you like, that needs to be put right by the Inquiry is in relation to ordinary people, but I think it would be a great thing if, in the work the Inquiry does and the recommendations it makes, it can help to improve that relationship, because I think that would be good for our democracy, frankly.

Page 6

- 1 Q. Thank you. Can I move on to interleave what you say
- 2 under question 11, which is page 06823, where you deal
  - with the issue of the media's impact on political
- 4 debate, the diversity of opinion. A number of witnesses
- 5 have spoken about the conflation or fusion of news and
- 6 comment, Mr Miliband. First of all, do you think that
- 7 that is a significant problem, and if so, what would you
- 8 do about it?

A. Yes, this is perhaps one of the trickier issues. The code -- and I think this first arose in the questioning of Peter Mandelson. Well, at least I hadn't realised this about the code until the questioning of Peter Mandelson. The code is very radical on this point, in saying that there should be a separation of fact and

saying that there should be a separation of fact and
 comment.
 My honest view about this is that I think this is

My honest view about this is that I think this is not something that is necessarily going to lend itself to a regulatory solution or a redress solution in quite the same way as issues of other things that appear in the code around privacy or harassment or inaccuracy—which I think is slightly distinct from the blurring of fact and comment — are treated, because I think it's very, very difficult to see how you can sort of regulate the fact/comment distinction.

I should say right at the outset: I'm not in favour Page 7

1 of statutory regulation to ensure balance, for example.

2 I'm not in favour of statutory regulation of content in

3 the sense of having balance like we do in relation to

the broadcasters.

I hope that one outcome might be, though, that if we have a new body charged with looking at these issues and dealing with upholding the code, they can at least seek to raise standards. Some witnesses have suggested, for example, an annual report on these issues.

I think finally I'd say inaccuracy is a problem, is in the code, and I think, you know, there should be a remedy for inaccuracies, and I suspect all the newspapers that you've had before you would accept that.

- Q. Thank you. At the next paragraph under question 11 on this page, you make it clear that you see journalists
- and editors. Of course, there's a public interest in
- and editors. Of course, andre s a public interest in
- doing that. They will express views which may influence
- 18 your thinking, but you approach it on the basis that
- 19 they should have no greater influence than the quality
- of their argument. Are you able to differentiate,
- 21 though, between the message and the messenger, given
- 22 what one witness described as the undertow of power
- which some proprietors have been able to exercise?
- A. I think there's no question that the press has
   a significant influence on the parameters of public

1 debate in this country, as in any country, and I think 2 that it would be incredibly naive or indeed dishonest 3 not to acknowledge that. In the way they report things, 4 they both reflect the views of their readers and --5 I think we should be clear that some of the things that 6 Labour politicians or Conservative politicians might 7 dislike about what the press says does reflect the views 8 of their readers. Some of it shapes people's views. 9 I think that is inevitable. And we have what I would 10 call a partisan press in this country, more centre right 11 than centre left, so I think that's obviously the case. 12 So I think anybody who says that they don't have an 13 influence on the overall terms of public debate would be

I think that in your discussions you've looked for the express deal, the implied deal. I think it's much less about that, at least in my experience of the Labour government. It's much more less about that, and it's more about influencing the terms of public debate. We might come on to the question of whether politicians spoke out about some of the abuses of the press, where I think that there was an effect of politicians not speaking out because of the power of the press, but I think that's the way I seat issue.

25 Q. Thank you. If I can go back, please, to the earlier Page 9

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wrong.

1 I think I say broadly in the written answer that

2 similar standards should apply, that obviously some

things like quasi-judicial role don't apply if you're in

4 opposition, but that you should seek similar standards.

5 Q. Yes.

6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Actually, we had it the other way

7 around from Mr Blair. I think it was identified by

8 Alastair Campbell, who said that having been in

9 opposition for 18 years and having had to get the

message across latterly following the 1992 election in

11 a very much more proactive way, the Labour Party carried

into government attitudes and approaches developed in

opposition, which was a mistake. That's, I think, how

he put it. You've just put it the other way around. It

may be the same thing.

A. I think there was probably a greater degree of
 informality, is the way I would put it. I'm not sure

what the specific mistake that the witnesses were referring to was, but there was a greater degree of

referring to was, but there was a greater degree of informality in opposition. Having been in government,

one is more wary about what might be right and what

22 might be wrong, and it's certainly an approach that I've

23 tried to take as leader of the Labour Party.

24 MR JAY: Mr Miliband, question 5, lessons to be learned from

25 the recent history of relations between the media and

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point in your statement, paragraph 3 now, at the top of

2 page 06818. That's whether you detect any differences

3 between politicians in government and politicians in

4 opposition. Of course, you've had experience of both

 $5 \qquad \text{but I think we're particularly interested in politicians} \\$ 

6 in opposition at the moment and whether there are, in

fact, differences, whether the same standards should

apply or whether different considerations might impinge.
A. Sir, I've had experience of this in sort of three goes,

A. Sir, I've had experience of this in sort of three goes, if you like, because I was an adviser in opposition in the 1990s, I was obviously an adviser and a politician in government and now obviously in opposition.

I think I'd make this observation, which is there's no question that having had the experience of government makes you more cautious, in my view, less informal about the way you do things. I was Secretary of State for Energy. I was making potentially big multi-billion pound decisions in relation to nuclear power, for example. You obviously have to observe the ministerial code. You're given help and support to do that by your permanent secretary, your principle private secretary, your private office. I hope that I've carried some of the habits of government into opposition. So I think

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experience of government, if you like, is useful in

terms of then coming into opposition.

1 politicians. You pick out four points, and there's also

a fifth point, which you pick up again under question 8,

3 so I'll collect them altogether now.

You say:

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5 "First of all, politicians were too slow in

6 condemning or scrutinising the conduct of the media, in

particular the phone hacking abuses. There are a number

8 of reasons for this."

The first one:

10 "Politicians were weary, in some ways rightly, of

being seen to be curtailing freedom of the press."

I think the question is: in which way "rightly"?

A. Mr Jay, I think there are two factors at work here.
 I think there is the factor that politicians were, in my

view, wary of taking up the issue of press redress, the

system of complaints, the way all that worked, for

a variety of reasons, but all coming back, in my view,

18 to the single one, which is that we were concerned about

the impact that it would have on the particular

20 political parties that took up the cudgels on that

21 issue. I think Mr Blair put it as it would have

and the state of t

distracted attention from the health service and so on.

23 There's different ways of putting this, but I think it

24 all amounts to quite a similar idea. You know, it would

be taking on an 800 pound gorilla, and you do that

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Day 84 PM 1 advisedly, or inadvisedly. 2 The second part of it, though, which is, if you 3 like, the correct motive in this, which I think is 4 equally important to bear in mind -- and it bears on the 5 opening remarks I made -- is that we are held to account 6 by the press. It is the press' job to hold us to 7 account, and that is very -- that is a very, very 8 important job that the press has, and therefore part of 9 it is a doubt or worry in the minds, I think, of 10 politicians that: are we seeking to curtail the people 11 who, if you like, regulate us by regulating them? So 12 I think you have these two, if you like, different 13 motives which I think, in candour, were both at play. 14 I think briefly there's a third motive, which may be 15 for Labour politicians which a number of your witnesses 16 have talked about, which I don't need to dwell upon, 17 which is, if you like: would it be seen as a Labour 18 vendetta for past issues, 1992 and all of that? 19 Q. To what extent do you give weight to the chilling effect 20 argument, and coupled with that, I suppose, are the 21 unintended consequences of regulation, which we've heard 22 from one or two witnesses? 23 A. I'm sorry, Mr Jay, would you just explain what you're 24 seeking from the question? 25 Q. Sorry, the chilling effect. That if you are not careful Page 13 with regulation, you have a --2 A. I think that is always something that whenever we are 3 scrutinising proposals, we must look very carefully at. 4 I know it bears heavily on the remarks that, sir, you 5 have made about the dilemmas you face as an Inquiry, but 6 I don't think the fear of a chilling effect should be 7 a reason for inaction. And I think, you know, it 8 mustn't be used as an excuse for inaction.

3 a crime admitted, then it should be dealt with. 4 I must say, I take a slightly different view on 5 this. You see, when I looked through the McCanns' 6 evidence, which I read -- and it's absolutely chilling 7 evidence, in my view, because I wasn't as aware of the 8 comprehensive nature of the grievances that had been 9 done to them -- and then I look at the code, I think: 10 number one, accuracy, breached; number three, privacy; 11 number four, harassment; number 5, intrusion into grief 12 or shock; number 9, reporting of crime; number 10, 13 clandestine devices and subterfuge. 14 Not all of those things are illegal and nor are they a matter for the police. Indeed, we would not want the 15 16 police policing a number of these issues, but it in no 17 way makes up, removes, lessens the harm and grief that 18 the McCanns felt adding to the grief they felt about the 19 disappearance of their daughter, and so therefore 20 I don't think this can be just put down to "let's just 21 get the police to do their job" in the way that some 22 witnesses have suggested. 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'll ask you about my speeding 24 analogy, which sometimes finds favour and sometimes 25 doesn't. Can we really allow people to say that it's Page 15 1 not the fault of the person driving the car in excess of 2 the speed limit that he's speeding, but rather the fault 3 of the police for failing to prevent it? With the best 4 will in the world, the police will inevitably prioritise 5 crime, and as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner 6 Mr Clarke put it to me very forcibly, hacking is 7 undeniably odious but it doesn't kill people, at a time 8

the exchanges that were had with Mr Gove on the stand,

which is about the nature of -- among others, if there's

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: We have to make sure that we preserve 9 10 what's good, and investigative journalism is a very good 11 example, but there's no reason why we should not chill 12 unjustifiable invasions of privacy that can't for one 13 moment be justified in the public interest. 14 A. Precisely. 15 MR JAY: The second point you made under this heading --16 we're still on page 06819: 17 "The regulatory framework applying to the print 18 media was ineffective either in preventing or providing 19 remedies for abuses such as phone hacking. There was 20 also insufficient enforcement by the police of the 21 criminal law." 22 Can I ask you to address this point: why is not 23 effective enforcement of the criminal law an efficient

and effective remedy for all of these matters?

A. This is the burden, Mr Jay, without personalising it, of

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when he was looking at terrorist threats. 9 A. But, sir, if I may, that is an additional point to the 10 point I was making. 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think it is. 12 A. I think it's very important that even with the police 13 having all the resources in the world thrown at press 14 illegality, which we would not want, there remains the 15 McCanns, Margaret Watson, a whole range of people who 16 have come before you, cases which I did not myself know 17 about, the lady who was the assistant to Elle 18 Macpherson -- you know the list better than I do --19 things which were not necessarily based in illegality. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I agree it's an additional 21 point, but I'm collecting them together. 22 MR JAY: The third point you make here, Mr Miliband, relates 23 to the concentration of media ownership in a small 24 number of hands, particularly across different forms of 25 media, which increase the importance of those

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1 proprietors in the eyes of some politicians: 1 A. Of course. 2 2 "It increased the conflict between the politician's O. I was going to go on now to your answer to question 7, 3 3 duty to act in the public interest and his or her which is at 08621, and to annex A, which is a list of 4 4 interest in remaining on good terms with the powerful your meetings, interactions with proprietors and 5 media proprietor." 5 editors, starting on 28 September 2010, which was, 6 Do you think that concentration of media ownership 6 I think, two or three days after you were elected to be 7 7 lies at the heart of the problem you've identified here, leader of the opposition; is that right? 8 8 or are there other elements to it? A. That's correct. 9 9 A. I think it is part of the problem and part of the Q. It's apparent from a quick scrutiny of the list that as 10 10 solution, because I think that part of with everyone, you see a whole range of editors and 11 11 News International's sense of power without proprietors, not just newspapers who might be expected 12 12 responsibility, which is what I believe it was, came to support you. 13 from the fact that they controlled 37 per cent of the 13 A. (Nods head) 14 newspaper market before the closure of the News of the 14 Q. Again, it's difficult to identify clear patterns. We 15 World, and I don't think we can divorce these questions 15 can see, for example, that at the Labour Party 16 of ownership, quasi-monopoly et cetera, from -- or at 16 Conference which immediately postdated your election, 17 17 you saw Mr Wallace, first of all, and Mr Myler, least concentration of power, better put than 18 "quasi-monopoly" -- concentration of power -- I don't 18 Mr Harding, Mr Mohan. 19 19 think we can divorce those questions from the behaviour On the next page, page 05681, there's one phone call 20 of some parts of the press. 20 with Rebekah Brooks on 21 December 2010. On 3 March 21 21 2011, there was a phone call with James Murdoch. Can And add in, by the way, the Sky platform, which then 22 became -- and Sky. All that became an issue around 22 you remember what that was about at this distance? 23 BSkyB, but I think that is a big concentration of media 23 A. Sure. He rang me -- I think it was on the day that the 24 24 power, and I think part of the arrogance -- and I use undertakings in lieu were being published by News Corp, 25 the word advisedly; in a way, it's a mild form of the 25 and I think he rang me to brief me on what these Page 17 Page 19 word I might use -- came from that. 1 1 undertakings in lieu meant. 2 Q. Your fourth point maybe flows on from your earlier 2 Q. Were you surprised to receive his call? 3 points: 3 4 "The revelation of the relationships between some 4 5 representatives of the media and some politicians has 5 6 further undermined trust in both the media and 6 7 politicians." 7 8 That explains in part the state of affairs where 8 9

we've now found ourselves; is that correct?

10 A. Yes, I think that's right. I think that is right. 11 I think I tried to explain -- because it's complicated,

this. At the beginning, there's the nature of why politicians maybe sought overly close relationships, but I think what's good -- I know you're going to come onto recommendations later but if I can make this point, which in a way makes the point more easily: what's good

17 about the transparency that has been introduced in 18

politics is it does -- it is a sort of test, really, 19 which is: if you don't want this appearing in the

newspapers, don't engage in the relationship. I think

21 that's probably -- well, that's certainly in my view

22 a good thing. 23

Q. Thank you. As you say, the recommendations which you 24 begin to advance in the middle of this page we'll deal

with at a later point, Mr Miliband, if that's all right. Page 18

A. Not overly surprised. I mean, I hadn't had any formal

meetings or didn't have any formal meetings with

- James Murdoch -- haven't had -- during my time as leader
- of the Labour Party, but I thought it was a courtesy
- call, really, to ring me to brief me. Our position was
- well established on the referral to the Competition
- 9 Commission that we believed needed take place, and that
- 10 continued to be our position.
- 11 Q. Thank you. On 7 July 2011 -- this is page 06584 -- you
  - had a phone call with Paul Dacre, editor of the
- 13 Daily Mail. I think I'm right in saying that there
- 14 hadn't been that many, if any, previous interactions
- 15 with him. Again, we can see from the date that the
- 16 phone hacking scandal had erupted, but can you remember
- 17 the subject matter of that call?
- 18 A. I was phoning him, Mr Jay, because I was giving a speech
- 19 the next day which said that the PCC, the Press
- 20 Complaints Commission, was a toothless poodle that
- 21 needed to be put out of its misery, and clearly
- 22 I thought Mr Dacre had an interest in these issues, so
- 23 I think I rang him and, I believe, the editor of the
- 24 Independent, really just to give them an advance sense
- 25 of what I was saying about these issues.

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1 Q. Can you remember what his reaction was to what you told 1 It appears, from a cursory scrutiny of that annex, 2 2 that if one wanted to count up contacts with 3 3 A. I think it's fair to say he didn't agree with me at that News International papers between September 2010 and 4 4 14 July 2011, there are 15, including phone calls, but point that it was a toothless poodle that needed to be 5 5 put out of its misery. after that there's only one, and that's with Mr Harding, Q. Fair enough, and there are further discussions with 6 excluding one social interaction with Mr Myler, and 7 7 sadly two funerals co-attended with Mr Harding. I don't Mr Dacre, we can see, on 1 November 2011 and 1 December 8 2011. This is page 06586. The first appears to be 8 know whether we draw any conclusions from that, but 9 9 a phone call. The second may well have been a meeting. that's the pattern. 10 10 A. I'm sorry, just say those two again? 1 November and the A. Do you want me to --11 11 Q. Yes. other one was ...? 12 12 O. 1 December last year. A. I think it's fair to say I didn't have particularly good 13 13 A. Oh yes. relations with News International newspapers before 14 14 Q. It is difficult to remember what might have been phone hacking, in particular the Sun. I certainly don't 15 discussed on a particular occasion but in the event that 15 think it improved post phone-hacking, and our contacts 16 you were able to assist us --16 have been much more limited. 17 17 A. I can. I think on 1 November, I was pitching an article I do say -- I am, in no sense, though, saying -because the Labour Party may have got itself into this 18 for the Daily Mail following up the conference speech 18 19 19 position two decades back -- that somehow I'm not going I gave about what I call responsible capitalism and how 20 we change the way our economy is run, and we just had 20 to engage in relationships with the Sun newspaper. I am 21 21 a brief chat about that. I don't think the article going to engage in relationships, as you would expect me 22 ended up appearing. 22 to do, and indeed the Times. 23 23 The 1 December was just a more general chat about Q. Thank you. Question 8 --24 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Just before you move away from this the issues and where Labour stands. That was, 25 25 I believe, at his office. In fact it was at his office. schedule, could I ask a slightly different question? Page 21 Page 23 1 I'm grateful to you for compiling this. Do you think Q. Have you had discussions with editors about the issues 1 2 2 which are concerning this Inquiry? it's a good idea that this sort of record is kept and 3 3 A. Yes. then made public, or is it just window-dressing? 4 Q. Those discussions may be private and confidential, in 4 A. It is definitely a good idea, sir, because I think that 5 which case we needn't hear about them, but does 5 it acts as a -- look, it acts as a check, in a way, on 6 a general message emerge from what that he say which you 6 what politicians do in the engagements that they have, 7 could help us with or not? 7 and transparency is a good thing in this respect, and it 8 8 A. I think it's fair to say -- I know you're going to be means that you make a judgment not just about the 9 invitation that you receive but the wisdom of accepting hearing from Ms Harman later on -- that she has taken 9 10 a whole series of conversations with editors, structured 10 it. 11 11 Now, I hope I would make those judgments in any case conversations, if you like, a sort of informal 12 12 consultation process over the last few months. So the but I think it's quite a good reinforcement. I think 13 13 there's a question about whether -- your list, I think, conversations I had would have been at the time of last 14 14 summer, really, with the editors. includes contacts with political editors. I think the 15 15 Q. Yes. list that previously the Prime Minister and I published, 16 16 A. I think there's actually a lunch with Mr Dacre that you and indeed the Deputy Prime Minister, didn't include 17 17 maybe omitted, where we will have no doubt discussed the contacts with political editors. I think you have to 18 toothless poodle question, to put it that way. Or have 18 make this proportionate because if you make it every 19 I misremembered --19 single conversation with any journalist, you're going to 20 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: 25 July. get into very deep bureaucratic waters. 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And unnecessarily, because that there 21 A. 25 July. So we will have discussed issues of how the 22 press was going to move forward at that event, and 22 is a relationship between a politician and a journalist 23 23 I would have had some other conversations. must follow because it's important for politicians to 24 MR JAY: Yes. I'll remember to ask Ms Harman questions on 24 get their message across and for journalists to be able 25 25 that theme. to challenge them and hold them to account.

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1	A. Indeed.	1	media policy completely, but as I say in my evidence
2	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But the reason I ask the question is	2	I believe it's question 5 there should be a higher
3	because I'm conscious of the policy and the way it's now	3	bar in relation to politicians going against the
4	working out, but I just wonder whether you fear there is	4	competition authority's decision. So I suppose
5	a risk that it might just become subterranean, in the	5	transparency is important. In relation to media policy,
6	sense that it's no longer you who meet the editor but	6	I have some specific myself and Ms Harman had some
7	one of your staff that meets a rather more senior	7	specific ideas.
8	representative of a journal or press, and how you deal	8	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Are you returning to that, Mr Jay?
9	with that other than by cultural change.	9	MR JAY: Yes.
10	A. I think those kinds of contacts go on, have gone on,	10	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
11	will continue to go on, as we speak. Many, many of	11	MR JAY: Question 9, now. This is the influence the media
12	those contacts. I think that's inevitable and actually	12	had on the content and timing of government's
13	not a bad thing, as you imply in your question. It's	13	decision-making on policy and operational issues
14	a good thing, it's right, because I want people to know	14	directly affecting the media. You say:
15	about our views, my views, and likewise other political	15	"The particular need to avoid either the reality or
16	parties would say the same.	16	the perception of undue influence being exercised by
17	The good thing about this is if I decided to take	17	interested parties"
18	a proprietor on a week's holiday with me, I'd have to,	18	"Then moving on to the next paragraph:
19	you know no, I'm not going to do that and I don't	19	"I accept that Labour did at times become too close
20	think they'd accept, but it's good backstop. It's	20	to News International. As Tony Blair has said, it was
21	a good backstop of transparency. I think that's the way	21	also because: 'We paid inordinate attention in the early
22	I would put it.	22	days of New Labour to courting, assuaging, and
23	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That is the point that I was making,	23	persuading the media.'"
24	that that is in reality its limit. It's an intellectual	24	Are you saying, though, that this remains in the
25	check and therefore it requires the rigour of	25	realm of perception of undue influence or did it ever
	Page 25		Page 27
1		1	
1	understanding what lies behind it. It isn't just	1	pass into reality?
2	a piece of paper which therefore is exactly the same	2	A. I've obviously read a lot of the evidence you've had and
2	a piece of paper which therefore is exactly the same message that your staff will understand. Of course they	2 3	A. I've obviously read a lot of the evidence you've had and thought a lot about this. I think the way I very
2 3 4	a piece of paper which therefore is exactly the same message that your staff will understand. Of course they must have contact to get the message across.	2 3 4	A. I've obviously read a lot of the evidence you've had and thought a lot about this. I think the way I very specifically view this I believe the thing I'm
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1 interview with Mr Marr which was on 10 July. You define A. Let me answer that very specifically. Ed Balls, no. 2 "too close". You said: 2 Charlie Whelan left, I believe, in 1999 -- left the 3 3 "... in the following respect: that we didn't speak government in 1999. One of the reasons he left was 4 4 out on some of the major issues." because of his style of operation. I can't point you to 5 5 Then Mr Marr followed that up and said that it was direct evidence but I would say that one of the things 6 really because Mr Murdoch was too powerful. 6 he did was he briefed, including potentially against 7 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, actually, that's Mr Marr's people within the government. 8 question, and Mr Miliband says -- actually, he says: 8 On Damian McBride, when I was a Cabinet Minister, 9 9 I did raise a specific concern that I had with Mr Brown, "Indeed, because you're making a judgment about how 10 10 I believe in September 2008, about some of Mr McBride's you win support and also about what you can and can't 11 11 do." activities. 12 12 Q. Okay. That's as far as I think I need to take that But I think that's changed. 13 MR JAY: Do you feel, Mr Miliband -- you were a member, of 13 point. Did you feel, looking at this period, that the 14 14 course, of Mr Brown's government -- that even at that government, perhaps in particular Mr Brown, was obsessed 15 stage, Labour was too close to News International or 15 with the news in the press or not? 16 16 A. I think the late Philip Gould coined a phrase "the 17 17 A. Well, I think the sense in which I think "too close" permanent campaign". I think it was his phrase. And 18 is -- what I mean by "too close" is really that we 18 modern politics is the permanent campaign. 24/7 media 19 19 I think in a way makes the permanent campaign part of didn't speak out on these issues where there was 20 increasing evidence of News International's behaviour. 20 the DNA and I don't think Mr Brown was any more obsessed 21 21 about it than Mr Blair or anybody else, really. I think I'm right in saying that Rebekah Brooks and 22 Andy Coulson went to the Select Committee in 2002, 2003, 22 Q. Moving forward then to the period when you were in 23 where this issue of payment to the police was raised, 23 opposition. The piece in the New York Times, which has 24 24 and, you know, I think -- look, the whole question of attracted a lot of attention in this Inquiry, came out, 25 25 abuses by the press, by some sections of the press, was, of course, on 1 September 2010, which was 24, 25 days Page 29 Page 31 1 if you like, a kind of compartmentalised, parcelled-off 1 before you became leader of the opposition. 2 part of political debate, is the way I remember it. But 2 3 3 it was certainly something people knew about and had Q. Were you aware that Mr Brown had written, I think, to 4 a sense of, but it was just -- neither for government or 4 the Cabinet Secretary seeking an inquiry following the 5 for opposition was it a place you were going to go to. 5 publication of that piece? 6 Partly, I think it relate to what you, sir, said at 6 A. This was after he stopped being the Prime Minister? 7 the beginning, which is that there had been a history of 7 O. Yes. 8 looking into this area and -- you know, without success. 8 A. I think -- yeah, I must have been aware of it. I must 9 Q. So even as late as 2008 to 2010, part of the thinking 9 have been aware of it. Well, now I say that --10 10 I definitely became -- well, let me just refigure my which may have underlay what Mr Blair said and which you 11 have cited, was that carried through into the Brown 11 memory here. What I -- I knew after the election -- and 12 government, in your view? 12 you sent me something in the bundle about this, but I'm 13 A. Well, I mean, the Brown government did -- Gordon talked | 13 pretty sure it was after the election that Mr Brown had 14 yesterday about some of the things he did to change the 14 discussed having a public inquiry before the election, 15 15 lobby system and so on. I don't think that was really as I understand it, but I believe I found that out after 16 16 getting at the main issue. He said yesterday he didn't the election. I certainly can't recall having 17 17 feel he had a mandate to deal with the main issue, but conversations with him about it before the election. 18 that issue was around and was off the table, basically. 18 I remember his speech in the House of Commons where 19 Q. I've been asked to put to you a couple of questions, 19 he talked about the inquiry but that was July. I could 20 really, in relation to the Brown period, if I can so 20 well have known about it. I don't know whether it was 21 describe it, by another core participant. The first 21 public at the time. Was it public at the time? 22 22 question is this: were you aware of off-the-record Q. It wasn't public at the time. The consideration given 23 23 briefings against Tony Blair and other government to a public inquiry before the election took place 24 ministers by, in particular, Ed Balls, Charlie Whelan or 24 in March 2010. 25 Damian McBride? 25 A. Right.

Page 30

Q. The Treasury Solicitor was involved and Sir Gus 1 I think the first leader to do it, in April. There 2 O'Donnell, as he then was, was involved? 2 needed to be an inquiry separate from the police 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Which election are we talking about? 3 inquiry, but I think it was too much acting as if it was 4 Mr Miliband's election or the General Election? 4 business as usual with News International at that stage. MR JAY: The General Election. 5 Things would, of course, change very soon after. 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think Mr Miliband was talking about 6 Q. Can you remember approximately how long you stayed at 7 7 that party? his election. 8 MR JAY: I think we were talking about that event --8 A. I can't remember. I really can't remember. 9 A. Similar elections. 9 Q. Okay. Those are the questions I've been asked to put to 10 Q. -- Mr Miliband found out about subsequently. But then 10 you on that. 11 11 there was a further request Mr Brown made There's one final question from -- I think it's the 12 in September -- I think it was 7 September 2010 -- which 12 same core participant. He draws to our attention a text 13 you may or may not have known about? 13 message which Mr Michel sent to Mr Adam Smith on 14 14 A. I don't think I did know about it then. It's quite 2 February 2011. We can bring this up on the screen for 15 hazy, but I don't think I did know about it. 15 you. It's page 12761 in the MOD3 file. There we go. 16 Q. Going back to the New York Times piece, of course, it 16 17 was in the middle of a very full-on period for you, but 17 "I did tell the Labour leader what the core of our 18 did that piece sort of come across your radar at the 18 thinking was ..." 19 19 Just whether you can assist us --20 A. Yes. In fact, I have an article from the Guardian on 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Hang on, you'd better just tell us 21 3 September, where I put -- which has words from me in 21 where we are in the chronology. This is 2 February, so 22 it about the allegations, and perhaps not surprisingly, 22 what's happening at this time? 23 because of the nature of the allegations, my words were 23 Q. The bid has not been referred to the Competition 24 about the Prime Minister and Andy Coulson and what the 24 Commission. I think it was public knowledge at that 25 implications were for him. So I don't think I read the 25 stage that undertakings were being considered, but Page 33 Page 35 1 piece. I think I read the Guardian follow-up. 1 the undertakings themselves were not formally announced 2 I remember being in Warwick and Leamington when I found 2 to Parliament until 3 March 2011, if that helps. It may 3 out about it, so I must have been on a campaign tour, 3 be that you have no recollection at all. It may be you 4 and I definitely clocked the sort of Andy Coulson part 4 do recall --5 of this. 5 A. I didn't -- I don't think I met -- in fact, I am pretty 6 Q. But it didn't cause you to ask for a public inquiry or 6 sure I didn't meet Fred Michel or have a phone call with 7 anything similar at that stage? 7 him. I think it would have been the case that -- he 8 A. No. 8 definitely was having meetings with our Shadow Culture 9 Q. Moving forward to the next year, a core participant has 9 Secretary, Ivan Lewis, who was meeting all, you know, 10 asked me to put to you the News Corporation summer party 10 opponents of the bid, proponents of the bid, so I don't 11 on 16 June 2011 when you met Rupert Murdoch. The 11 know if that's what it refers to. 12 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: One has to be a bit careful, because question is: did you raise the issue of phone hacking 13 with him or any other senior News Corporation or 13 sometimes Mr Michel referred to people as recipients of 14 News International executive? 14 information or the providers of information when 15 15 A. I think I say in the answer to question 15, actually, actually he means a member -- or indeed a comparatively 16 just for convenience -- I explain this. I say I recall junior member -- of that person's staff. 16 17 a relatively short conversation with Rupert Murdoch for 17 A. (Nods head) 18 a few minutes at the summer party. I believe it was 18 MR JAY: Well, we simply don't know. I've been asked to 19 about US politics and international affairs, and 19 draw that to your attention and you've addressed it, 20 I believe I should have raised the issue of phone 20 Mr Miliband. So that deals with those items. 21 hacking with him. I didn't, which is something I think 21 May I move forward in your statement, please, to 22 22 I said last summer. question 13. The question is about Mr Tom Baldwin. He 23 23 Why do I say I should have raised it with him? was recruited by you in December 2010 as one of your two 24 Because I think in retrospect -- and it's easy to have 24 communications advisers; is that correct? 25 25 hindsight -- I'd called for an inquiry or review, A. Correct. Page 34 Page 36

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- 1 Q. Can you tell us, please, about the recruitment process
- 2 in a nutshell. Who is primarily responsible for it and
- 3 how was it undertaken?
- 4 A. Well, it was a sort of -- as these things tend to be,
- 5 a word-of-mouth process. My then Chief of Staff and
- 6 myself, we were looking for people who could assist us
- 7 with the media. What were we looking for? We were
- 8 looking for people who had a knowledge of the political
- 9 lobby, because -- you've heard, I think, about the
- 10 political lobby and the nature of the lobby, and that's
- 11 very, very important, I think -- someone who understands
- 12 the rhythms of the lobby, somebody who could project
- 13 stories -- or people who could project stories, because
- 14 we hired two people -- and then thirdly -- and this was
- 15 very important -- somebody who was in line with my
- 16 political sympathies, because I think it's not just
- 17 a sort of technocratic job.
- 18 I became leader in September and I believe they were 19
- both -- Bob Roberts, who was from the Daily Mirror, and 20 Tom Baldwin, were hired in December, so it must have
- 21 taken us a couple of months or so.
- 22 Q. He, as we know, worked at The Times for 11 years between
- 23 1999 and 2010. To what extent was that history relevant
- 24 to his merits, as it were?
- 25 A. It wasn't really particularly relevant. I mean, it was

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- 1 bid, because on 25 January, we had called for it to be
- 2 reporter. That was certainly relevant, as I say,
- 3

relevant that he'd been a significant political

- because I wanted somebody who knew the rhythms of the
- 4 lobby, knew how the lobby worked, had relationships in
- 5 the Westminster lobby, but he wasn't somebody who had
- 6 particularly close relationships with executives at
- 7 News International, for example, Rebekah Brooks and so
- 8

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- 9 Q. Lord Ashcroft, in a book called, "Dirty times, Dirty
- 10 Politics", which was published in 2005, didn't, I think,
- 11 make any specific allegations against Mr Baldwin,
- 12 although suggested that he might have been involved in
- 13 some way. Was that specific issue one which you
- 14 discussed with Mr Baldwin?
- 15 A. Well, it's complicated, this, because when I hired
- 16 Mr Baldwin, Lord Ashcroft hadn't yet made the
- 17 allegation -- the specific allegation that he would
- 18 later make, that Tom Baldwin had blagged his way, if
- 19 that's the right term, into Lord Ashcroft's bank
- 20 account. That was an allegation he made the
- 21 following July in a blog, once the whole Milly Dowler
- 22 situation, the Andy Coulson -- the heat being on
- 23 Andy Coulson. But once that all arose, when he did make
- 24 that allegation, I did, of course, ask Tom Baldwin about
- 25 it. He denied it. My Chief of Staff spoke to the

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- former editor of the Times, the person who had been his
- 2 boss. Peter Stoddart, who also said he believed the
- 3 allegation was untrue.
- 4 Q. So at the time you hired Mr Baldwin in December, can you
- 5 remember specifically what questions you asked?
- 6 A. I would have asked him: has he done anything which
- 7 would, if you like, bring the Labour Party into
- 8 disrepute, bring myself into disrepute, bring himself
  - into disrepute, in relation to the specific job that
- 10 I might be asking him to do.
- 11 Q. Okay, and you've covered what happened consequently.
- 12 Can I ask you, please, on a slightly different
- 13 issue -- at tab 10 in our bundle, there's a an email
- 14 which Mr Baldwin had a hand in and which was leaked.
- 15 It's dated 27 January 2011, making it clear that the
- 16 issues in relation to the BSkyB bid, which one might
  - call the plurality issues, and the phone tapping issue
- 18 should not be linked. Was that something which matched
- 19 your own assessment at the time?
  - A. Yes. It was a position that I had agreed with our
- 21 relevant people on this issue. Why do I say this and
- 22 why did we take the position that we did? It was
- 23 because we felt we had two robust positions: a robust
- 24 position on phone hacking, which is that there should be
  - a police inquiry, and a robust position on the BSkyB
    - Page 39

referred to the Competition Commission. At that point,

- 3 Jeremy Hunt was pursuing the undertakings in lieu.
- 4 We felt we had a robust position. We were in
- 5 a position where Labour front benchers were becoming
- 6 apparently the victims of phone hacking and lots of them
- 7 were being bombarded with questions about this. This is
- 8 essentially what we call a line to take for people,
- 9 about the fact that at that point -- although later we
- 10 would change our view after the Milly Dowler
- 11 revelations -- at that point, we didn't believe the
- 12 issues were linked.
- 13 Q. But your view changed in July 2011; is that correct?
- 14 A. Yes, it did.
- 15 Q. In relation to what happened in 2011, we perhaps
- 16 shouldn't start in July; we should start in April. You
- 17 collect together the key events under paragraph 14 of
- 18 your statement, but we can probably confine ourselves to
- 19 the highlights in the annexes themselves, which are
- 20 under tab 3 in this bundle.
- 21 A. I'm sorry, Mr Jay, I'm being slower than you. It's
- 22 annex 3, is it?
- 23 O. It's tab 3. It starts with annex B1 and there are
- 24 a whole collection of annexes --
- 25 A. Yes, I'm with you now. Thank you.

1 Q. The first relevant event is 19 April 2011, when you 1 On 05 July 2011, you did call for a public inquiry. 2 2 asked for a review after the police inquiries had been This is at page 06593, towards the end of that 3 completed and any criminal cases that flowed from it. 3 interview, which was with Chris Gibson of ITV. It's in 4 4 What sort of review were you thinking of at that stage? the middle of page 06593. I hope you have the same 5 A. I think I wasn't entirely sure. At that stage I felt --5 pagination? 6 I felt that the allegations about hacking -- I can't 6 A. I have, thank you. 7 7 remember what had been -- exactly had transpired in the Q. You say: 8 8 time previous to that, but the welter of allegations "Yes, there should be a public inquiry. I think it 9 around hacking meant that simply saying, "Let's leave it 9 probably will have to take place after the police 10 10 to the police" felt to me to be inadequate, and inquiries are complete." 11 I thought it was right to speak out on this and, if you 11 So that was your first call for what, in the end, 12 like, up the tempo of our position, because I thought 12 has become this Inquiry. 13 that things were getting to a stage where something more 13 There was an interview with Kirsty Wark for BBC 14 needed to be said about what would happen after this. 14 Newsnight on 7 July. That starts at 06599. I just ask 15 That's why I said what I did, and I wasn't quite sure 15 you to deal with one point she raised with you. At 16 whether it would end up being a review or an inquiry but 16 06600, level with the upper hole punch, she suggests 17 I felt a marker needed to be put down that this couldn't 17 that you were slow off the mark: 18 just be: "Well, let's have some people prosecuted and 18 "I mean, on Monday night's Newsnight, Tom Watson 19 19 that will be the end of it." said that you were as guilty as Clegg and Cameron on not 20 Q. But they would naturally have to wait, it was your then 20 only letting the Dowler family down but simply not 21 21 thinking at least, until the police enquiries and pushing hard enough on this whole issue. You were 22 prosecutions had been completed? 22 running to catch up." 23 A. Sure, sure. 23 You obviously gave an answer then. Is your answer 24 24 Q. Can I ask you: at the bottom of this page, 06590, you the same now? said that your clear view was that self-regulation 25 25 A. Yes. I was too slow to speak out. I think it's worth Page 41 Page 43 1 continues to be the right thing. But were you arguing 1 saying, if I can take this opportunity, Mr Jay, that 2 there, in effect, for a maintenance of the status quo? 2 that moment of -- what was significant about that 3 A. I think I wouldn't use that phrase now. I think that's 3 moment, that interview I did, was not actually calling 4 partly because my thinking as evolved, frankly, and 4 for the inquiry, important though the inquiry is to the 5 I think it's the wrong phrase. I much prefer the phrase 5 long-term future of the press in this country; it was 6 which the Prime Minister used in Parliament and I know 6 calling for Rebekah Brooks to go or consider her 7 other people have used it too: independent regulation. 7 position. I knew at the moment that I was, as I said in 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. One has to read those two 8 my opening remarks, crossing a Rubicon because this 9 sentences together: 9 would be seen by News International as pretty much an 10 "My clear view is that self-regulation continues to 10 act of war. 11 be the right thing. We don't want the government So I think in retrospect, I would have preferred if 11 12 regulating the press." 12 I'd said "more earlier". We've already talked about the 13 13 A. Exactly. inquiry that I called for in April and what I did 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So the point you're making is that 14 in July. 15 you're talking about a binary option. 15 Q. She also asked you about Hayman Island trip, and you 16 A. Exactly. 16 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Either it's the government or itself. 17 "What I say to you is this: that I learnt lessons 18 Actually, I think you're right. I think that the 18 from that episode." 19 language has moved on, and correctly so. 19 What lessons precisely are to be learned from that 20 20 A. I think what I was worried about -- thank you, sir. episode, if any? 21 I think, Mr Jay, what I was worried about was looking 21 A. I think transparency is part of the answer. I think 22 22 like I was saying that the outcome of this should be I say it's not about who you have dinner with or who you 23 23 government regulation of the press, you know, in a way meet, but it's important to speak out without fear or 24 that could be misconstrued. 24 favour, and I think that's the most important lesson. 25 25 MR JAY: Certainly. There should be no interest too powerful in this Page 42 Page 44

- 1 country, whether it's in banking or in the press or
- 2 anywhere, that politicians don't speak out about if they
- 3 think there is wrongdoing. Not to muzzle the press, but
- 4 because, you know, that is the job of democracy, is to
- 5 speak out. That is what the people elect us for and
- 6 that is the most important less that I learned from all
- 7
- 8 Q. Thank you. By 8 July in your speech, you were coming
- 9 out with some ideas for putting the PCC out of its
- 10 misery. This is your toothless poodle speech. You
- 11 still use the terminology "a form of self-regulation",
- 12 page 06607, but when we look at what the new body should
- 13 possess by way of its attributes, you're looking for far
- 14
- greater independence, proper investigative powers --15 I know you deal with all this in the recommendations
- 16 section of your statement, but are we moving there, in
- your evolving thinking, towards the sort of position you 17
- 18 are at now?
- 19 A. Yes, and in a way, the reality is that at this moment --
- 20 we are probably three or four days after the initial
- 21 hacking revisions about Milly Dowler, me speaking out,
- 22 the game having dramatically changed, in my view --
- 23 I felt it was important to start to give some
- 24 interpretation to where this was all going to go because
- 25 I was worried, at that point, I must say, that there

- 1 where, you know, really our position needed to
- 2 significantly be strengthened and hardened up. I'd
- 3 actually already done the interview saying that, as it
- 4 turned out, so I think there was broad support for what
- 5 I was doing.
- 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Miliband, we have a break for the
- 7 shorthand writer, so we'll just take that.
- 8 (3.12 pm)
- 9 (A short break)
- 10 (3.23 pm)
- 11 MR JAY: Mr Miliband, I owe you an apology. I mentioned to
- 12 you beforehand that I would raise this at the start of
- 13 your evidence but I then omitted to. As many have
- 14 already correctly observed, your wife is a member of the
- 15 set of chambers where I am joint head. We have not,
- 16 however, previously met outside the circumstances of
- 17 this Inquiry.
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I ought to make it clear that I've
- 20 known that for some time.
- MR JAY: Yes. There's a misunderstanding about it. We are, 21
- 22 of course, self-employed in independent practice. We
- 23 are not partners and people perhaps need to understand
- 24
- 25 A. She and I were partners at one point, but we're now Page 47
- 1 would be a big hullabaloo and then people would all
- 2 forget about it, which can happen with these things. So
- 3 I thought it was important to put a marker down.
- 4 I don't say that every dot and comma of the proposal is
- 5 necessarily right, but I think the broad picture is
- 6 similar to where I would be at the moment.
- 7 Q. Thank you. There was a longer interview with Mr Andrew
- 8 Marr, I think on his Sunday breakfast show on 10 July.
- 9 It starts at 06608. It speaks for itself. There's one
- 10 point, though, that I would like to deal with.
- 11 At the bottom of 06609, Mr Marr's question suggested
- 12 that you may have been warned off the line you were
- 13 taking by colleagues within the Labour Party. I wasn't
- 14 quite sure what your answer was to that question. Were
- 15 you being warned privately that this was something you
- 16 shouldn't be doing?
- 17 A. No, that's not my -- that's not really my recollection.
- 18 I mean, certainly it's the case that what I did was
- 19 controversial. What I did on that Tuesday morning, 20 I believe it was, was controversial. Actually, as it so
- 21 happened, I gave the interview about Mrs Brooks and
- 22 about the inquiry and all of that, and then I went to
- 23 the Shadow Cabinet. There was actually pretty clear --24 I would say pretty much universal support at the Shadow
- 25 Cabinet for the idea that this had now got to a stage
  - Page 46

- 1 married, actually.
- 2 Q. Page 06830. You pick up on a number of points, most of
- 3 which we've already covered --
- 4 A. I'm sorry, Mr Jay, would you mind --
- 5 Q. Sorry, this is question 15, page 06830, where we ask you
- 6 to address specific meetings and interactions with the
- 7 two Murdochs, and you've covered those. One question,
- 8 though, in relation to the next page, top of the next
- 9 page. You say you had a conversation with
- 10 Mrs Rebekah Brooks on the evening that Vince Cable was
- 11 stripped of responsibility for the BSkyB bid. Can you
- 12 remember in particular what she said and then what you
- 13 said in reply?
- 14 A. So -- I obviously don't have Rebekah Brooks' number or
- 15 anything, so I think through the political editor of the
- 16 Sun, is my recollection, Tom Newton-Dunn, she requested
- 17 a conversation with me, I believe that -- early that --
- 18 early evening that day. I think the conversation took
- 19 place later on that evening. I was quite surprised to
- 20 be called by her, because we didn't have a particular 21 kind of relationship like that.
- 22 She was obviously very annoyed about Vince Cable and
- 23 what he'd done. I basically said that we also believed
- 24 that Vince Cable should no longer have responsibility
- 25 for this. We'd actually called for Vince Cable to

1 resign earlier on that day because we thought it just 1 not your sort of individual self-employed Twitterrer or 2 2 called into question his appropriateness, I think was something but I think there's clearly an issue. 3 the phrase that John Denholm, Shadow Business Secretary, 3 Thirdly, something which is accessible. Accessible, 4 4 used, but we were in favour of a fair process, providing fast-track justice or redress for individuals. 5 5 I basically said. I think they're the main -- I go into another --6 It was a relatively short conversation, and I think 6 I talk about investigative powers in my evidence, but 7 7 I talked to her again at the News International party they're the main -- and ability to enforce corrections, 8 8 and maybe one other event, but that was the only time which I think is important, but I think they're the main 9 9 she phoned me. things that I would be seeking from a system, a way 10 10 Q. At that stage, we know she wasn't the editor of the Sun; forward. 11 she was the CEO of News International. 11 Q. Is it your conception of this system that it should be 12 12 voluntary or contractual, or would you include within 13 13 Q. It may be not possible for to you say, but could you contemplation a statutory architecture or underpinning? 14 divine or discern what the intention was behind her 14 A. This comes to the nub of the issue, doesn't it, Mr Jay? 15 wanting to speak to you? 15 I've read Lord Hunt's, David Hunt's, evidence to you and 16 A. If I'm honest, I wasn't very clear about it. She rang, 16 indeed thought a lot about it, as has Ms Harman, as she 17 very annoyed about what was happening, and I didn't --17 will say. My anxiety about Lord Hunt's approach is 18 beyond that, I wasn't clear there was much greater 18 whether it can achieve comprehensiveness and 19 19 purpose to the call. The next day, by the way, I think independence. I think it's admirable what Lord Hunt has 20 it was, we then called into question whether Jeremy Hunt 20 tried to do, because I think he's moved at fairly short 21 21 was an appropriate person to be in charge of the bid, order to try and develop a better system for the future. 22 reflecting our view about what fair dealing meant. 22 Where does that take me to? It takes me to the 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: In reality, she was trying to obtain 23 following position: I'm not for statutory regulation of 24 24 political muscle for the argument she wanted to develop, content, as I indicated earlier, enforcement of balance 25 25 or anything like that. I think there is a pretty strong presumably, and trying getting the opposition on side to Page 49 Page 51 do whatever was appropriate. 1 case -- in fact, I put it higher than that. I haven't 2 2 yet seen a way forward that can get the principles that 3 MR JAY: The future now, Mr Miliband. You've seen, I hope, 3 I have outlined without some kind of statutory, I would 4 the draft criteria for a regulatory solution, collected 4 say, support or -- one way of putting it is statutory 5 under tab 7 of the bundle. These outline some general 5 support for the system. 6 6 principles of application for what should provide an Now, I think it would be very important in any such 7 effective and credible system, and this, as it were, 7 system to make sure that -- I mean, it's very simple, 8

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underpins or informs any recommendations the Inquiry

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might make.

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Against that backdrop, I come to section 5 of your statement on page 06819, at the point where we really left off, slap in the middle of the page. I'm going to invite you to elaborate each of these points as you see fit, Mr Miliband.

15 A. Thank you, Mr Jay.

> I think your draft criteria are definitely a very good basis. I haven't done a sort of big textual analysis of them, but it seems to me that they're in completely the right direction.

Let me try and simplify, in my own perhaps more layman's terms. I think that what we need on redress is something which is independent of the press, of politicians, something which is comprehensive, covering all newspapers and indeed magazines -- and indeed there's clearly a question about Internet organisations,

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8 really -- that you're setting up an independent body

9 whose job it is to enforce some version of the code, and

10 I think -- this has come up in your evidence -- I think

11 it would be very important to insert in any bill

12

constitutional safeguards on the freedom of the press.

13 Very, very important.

14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The example that I have given to

a number of people is the way in which the

16 Constitutional Reform Act in section 3(1), I think,

17 identifies the constitutional independence of the

18 judiciary. It's quite difficult to see how anybody

19 could judicially review a decision on the basis that it

20 didn't comply with that statutory exposition, but

21 equally, the purpose of it seems to me to be to enshrine

22 the recognition of the importance of the free press, an

23 independent press, to assuage the concern that has been

24 expressed that any statute can be very, very simply

25 amended and so suddenly become Zimbabwe, is how some

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1	people have put it, perhaps not using that country as an	1	like to see the Inquiry looking at the question of
2	example, although it has been used. Does that	2	whether we should have lower limits.
3	reflect	3	There's a question about where these limits should
4	A. Yes, it does. I think I want to take heed on this	4	be set. I should say we should have no worries of
5	issue, because I think it is a very legitimate fear that	5	someone owning up to 20 per cent of the newspaper
6	Lord Hunt has expressed and that members of the press	6	market. I think there is then a question of between 20
7	have expressed, which is that there's two possible	7	to 30 per cent. Where would you set a limit? That's
8	objections to the approach I've outlined: on the merits	8	where I'm coming from, because I think it's good for our
9	objections, which we can discuss, and, if you like,	9	democracy to have plurality in the market.
10	a slippery slope argument.	10	I think then there's a secondary issue about what we
11	What I thought was interesting about Lord Hunt's	11	do about cross-media ownership, and I think there to
12	evidence was he seemed to me I don't want to	12	sort of paraphrase a well-worn phrase, I think when we
13	mischaracterise him to be more inclined to the	13	look at the Communications Act of 2003, it now looks
14	slippery slope argument, ie once this gets into	14	like a sort of analogue act in a digital age, and
15	Parliament, goodness knows where it will end.	15	I think it will therefore need to be updated anyway, and
16	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He said in terms there were members	16	I think there's then a question about whether you should
17	of both houses who would want to use the opportunity to	17	have an overall limit about how much control one
18	curtail the freedom of the press in other ways.	18	organisation has on the market.
19	A. I think what's interesting about that, sir, is I think	19	My aim in this I want to be very clear about
20	it maybe offers a chink in light in this, because as	20	this. My aim is not to stifle one particular
21	leader of the Labour Party I have set out my very clear	21	organisation or another. My aim is plurality and
22	position about the limits of what I would want to see.	22	a sense that there is a sort of that one organisation
23	I would not countenance this becoming a licence for some	23	does not exercise overweening power.
24	massive bureaucratic assault on the press.	24	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Can I ask you to reflect upon your
25	I make this point also: that actually there's	25	answer in this way, Mr Miliband? You are the first of
	Page 53		Page 55
1	a defamation bill currently before the House of Commons.	1	a very few people who I can legitimately blame, if
2	The house of Lords, I believe, it's starting in. There	2	that's the right verb, for the breadth of the terms of
3	will be a Communications Act. These also could lend	3	reference of this Inquiry. I have to get on with it,
4	themselves to people putting forward ideas which would	4	and I am, but I am concerned about the extent to which
5	be problematic.  But the reason I think there's a chink of light is	5	it is appropriate for me to start to opine about
6		6	percentage market shares, because that involves all sorts of competition issues which would require
7 8	that people like Lord Hunt, who I think are very well motivated in this, need reassurance from people like	7 8	themselves quite detailed analysis
9	myself that we recognise and we are acutely conscious of	9	A. Of course.
10	this question of the limits of any statutory I think	10	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: both in fact and in law. I said
11	"recognition" is another word that is used and that you	11	earlier today that I wasn't, either in the bar or on the
12	used, sir, and I am very conscious of it.	12	bench, a media lawyer, although I'm picking that up and
13	MR JAY: Your second main theme, towards the bottom of this	13	have done some during my career. I'm certainly not
14	page, is the issue of media ownership matters, including	14	a competition lawyer. I wonder what you would say
15	cross-media ownership rules. May I invite you to	15	and I've not reached a view about it, but just for you
16	elaborate those issues, please?	16	to comment if the limit of my aspirations in this
17	A. Yes. This proceeds, Mr Jay, from my very simple	17	area was to set out the concerns that various witnesses
18	observation that part of News International's power and	18	have expressed, and the counterbalancing arguments, and
19	lack of accountability and arrogance came from its share	19	suggest appropriate authorities examine the position.
20	of the newspaper market. I think just at the very	20	A. (Nods head)
21	starting point of this, I don't believe that one person	21	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm not trying to shirk my
22	should continue to control 37 per cent or it's now	22	responsibility, but neither am I trying to bite off more
23	34 per cent, post the Sun on Sunday 34 per cent of	23	than I could or should legitimately take on.
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the newspaper market. My strong instinct is that's too

much, and I would like to see -- I submit that I would

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A. Obviously it will be for you to decide the way forward,

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and I think I would totally understand your instincts on

1	this. I don't have the terms of reference to hand.	1	which Mr Cameron helpfully and graciously offered, and
2	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, the terms of reference I can	2	I think it was a view of the I can't speak for them
3	get them for you now. One moment. There is no doubt	3	but I think it was the collective view that it was
4	that they do include cross-media ownership. One moment.	4	important that this limb of the terms of reference was
5	(Pause) It's to inquire into the culture, practice and	5	there.
6	ethics of the press, including contacts and	6	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, Mr Miliband, I know, because
7	relationships between national newspapers and	7	I was on the receiving end of different versions of
8	politicians and the conduct of each of them, contacts	8	these terms of reference which grew rather like
9	and the relationship between the press and the police	9	a mushroom cloud.
10	and the conduct of each, the extent to which current	10	A. I may have been partially responsible for that, sir, so
11	policy and regulatory framework has failed, including	11	I apologise.
12	the related issue of data protection, and the extent to	12	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I have no doubt you are, yes.
13	which there was a failure to act on previous warnings	13	MR JAY: The third point you make by way of general
14	about media misconduct.	14	recommendation relates to whether decisions made about
15	So one would have to think about what one meant	15	competition and plurality issues should be left to
16	about policy there. But then it is certainly:	16	politicians or should go to regulators, and you have
17	"To make recommendations for a new and more	17	a view about that, I think.
18	effective policy and regulatory regime which supports	18	A. Yes. I think this is the biggest sort of the
19	the integrity and freedom of the press, the plurality of	19	clearest dilemma. There are very difficult issues we
20	the media and its independence, including from	20	face, but this is a very clear dilemma between, on the
21	government, while encouraging the highest ethical and	21	one hand anybody reading sort of accounts of the way
22	professional standards."	22	that these decisions are made and the sort of pouring
23	And here's the one that bites:	23	over them that takes place would say, "Well, isn't it
24	"For how future concerns about press behaviour,	24	just easier to get politicians out of this?" If I think
25	media policy, regulation and cross-media ownership	25	of myself as aspiring to be Prime Minister, I think: do
	Page 57		Page 59
1	should be dealt with by all the relevant authorities,	1	I really want this headache of these decisions being
2	including Parliament, government, the prosecuting	2	made and then people thinking: has the right decision
3	authorities and the police."	3	been made?
4	So on a proper construction, I'm required to make	4	But my answer to that is: the right course can be
5	recommendations for how concerns should be addressed,	5	followed and the right standards can be upheld by
6	rather than necessarily to say, "This is the answer",	6	politicians. I believe that significant decisions that
7	but I'm not trying to construe these terms of	7	we made in government showed that, and I think there is
8	reference well, I am, actually like a statute,	8	a public interest in keeping the politicians in, because
9	because I don't want to exceed my brief.	9	I think that politicians do need to make you know, in
10	A. Of course.	10	the end, we are elected to represent the public interest
11	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But I want to provide something	11	and regulators have a very important role.
12	that's meaningful and helpful, which is why I raise with	12	My suggestion on this I have a concrete
13	you whether that approach and I'll have to think	13	suggestion on this is that I believe that there is
14	about it quite a lot would be sufficiently helpful to	14	a case for saying that if a politician wants to depart
15	keep the ball in the air in relation to this issue.	15	from the recommendations of the Competition Commission
16	A. Sir, I can just submit to you that I would request your	16	or Ofcom, whoever it is, that decision should be
17	consideration of these issues and you will have to come	17	challengable by appeal. So in other words, if I'm the
18	to your conclusions. I understand your caution about	18	minister and I get recommendations from the Competition
19	the complexity of some of these issues and the role of	19	Commission that a bid should be blocked or should go
20	regulators.	20	ahead, and I take a different view, then there should be
21	I just add that it might be helpful for you and	21	recourse to the Competition Appeals Tribunal to say not
22	I'm sure Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg will not mind me saying	22	simply was it a reasonable decision but on the merits.
23	this that part of this being inserted into the terms	23	Now, that's the best I can come up with: to give
24	of reference arose out of discussions that we had in the	24	politicians a role, because I think it is important that
25	run-up to the publication of the terms of reference,	25	role is it maintained, but provide, if you like, some
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1	sort of sense of constraint, a greater constraint or	1	outside the day-to-day views that you hold and which
2	higher bar.	2	might impact on you because of the reaction of those
3	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's actually given the decision to	3	that are going to be affected, in a way that isn't
4	the regulators.	4	difficult, for example, for a nuclear power station
5	A. Ultimately.	5	decision when you were the Secretary of State
6	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Because you've made the Competition	6	responsible for those decisions.
7	Appeal Tribunal. Another way of doing the same thing	7	I have not necessarily articulated that very
8	would be to say that if there is to be such an issue	8	clearly, but I hope you've understood what I'm asking
9	and I'll come on, because I want to share with you some	9	you.
10	concerns about this if there is to be such an issue,	10	A. I have, sir. Let me make two points, if I may, in
11	then policy considerations and the view on policy could	11	response. I think the first point is that I think
12	be set out in writing by the minister, publicly	12	it's worth me saying just more clearly why I believe
13	available "These are my policy views" and fed into	13	that the politicians' role there's a case for
14	the decision, and then it's just appealed in the normal	14	a substantial role remaining for politicians. I think
15	way, which actually is broadly it's just a slightly	15	regulators are appointed to make technocratic decisions
16	different way of saying the same thing, I think, because	16	but I think that there are times when regulators will
17	of your right to appeal to the Competition Appeal	17	take a particular I hesitate to say this, but sort of
18	Tribunal on the merits, not just on whether it was	18	ideological view about what the meaning of the law is
19	a reasonable decision.	19	I know this is a very tricky area take a particular
20	I don't ask you to commit yourself, and I'm not	20	slant. And I think therefore the minister, as the
21	committing myself.	21	arbiter of the ultimately of the public interest
22	A. Mm.	22	should have a right to say, "Well, hang on a minute,
23	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But I understand the point that you	23	I think this regulator's gone down the wrong road on
24	have made. The concern that I have is this: I have sat	24	this. I think they've misunderstood what actually the
25	on many cases of judicial review in areas where I have	25	law demands."
	Page 61	_	Page 63
1	a perfectly understandable personal reaction. It	1	If I can give a very specific example, which is
2	doesn't matter what it is, whether it's to do with wind	2	perhaps a very admittedly an unusual example. In the
3	farms or nuclear energy or whatever. Arms sales was	3	end, why did the BSkyB decision go down? Well, we put
4	another one that I was involved in sitting judicially.	4	a motion in Parliament. Now, I'm certainly not
5	I am able utterly to ignore my personal views and to	5	
6			recommending that as a way forward for these kind of
	decide the issues that I have to decide according to the	6	decisions, but to some extent, that was motivated by
7	decide the issues that I have to decide according to the law. That's the oath I took and I've not found it	6 7	·
7 8	-	۱ ـ	decisions, but to some extent, that was motivated by
	law. That's the oath I took and I've not found it	7	decisions, but to some extent, that was motivated by a sense of where the public interest lay. That is the
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1	I think that the default position for us, as	1	sure that the press is strong because it comes to its
2	politicians, must be to try our very, very hardest to	2	work with clean hands, but I also feel that it shouldn't
3	use the recommendations that this Inquiry eventually	3	be the press versus politicians, and that we have the
4	makes to provide a framework for the future and not to	4	opportunity of achieving a settlement which moves beyond
5	become an academic textbook.	5	the immediate turbulence that has occasioned the setting
6	Q. Thank you. Are there any other matters you feel we	6	up of this Inquiry, because we're talking about things
7	haven't covered? If not, that concludes what I have to	7	that have probably been wrong for decades.
8	ask you.	8	We now have the opportunity of this Inquiry, but we
9	A. Thank you very much, Mr Jay.	9	need to end up without vanquished or victors and to
10	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Miliband, thank you very much for	10	achieve a cross-party working together, and also to have
11	your time.	11	the engagement and involvement with the newspaper
12	A. Thank you, sir.	12	industry, broadcasters, but also campaign groups, and
13	MR JAY: The last witness today is the Right Honourable	13	I think that's what this Inquiry provides us with
14	Harriet Harman.	14	an opportunity which we have not had before to do. So
15	MS HARRIET HARMAN (affirmed)	15	that's why I feel it's a great responsibility of all of
16	Questions by MR JAY	16	us to try and achieve that outcome, not to make smart
17	MR JAY: Your full name, please?	17	points or score any victories. I don't think that's
18	A. Harriet Harman.	18	what would be in the public interest.
19	Q. You've kindly provided us with a statement dated 16 May	19	Q. Thank you. I've been asked to raise with you this small
20	of this year. Are you content to tender this to our	20	point in relation to the 1992 Labour Party manifesto,
21	Inquiry as your formal evidence?	21	which did include pledges, as you rightly say in
22	A. Yes.	22	paragraph 7, in relation to Calcutt and also in relation
23	Q. In terms of your career, currently you're deputy leader	23	to concentration of media ownership.
24	of the Labour Party, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and	24	You say in that paragraph:
25	also Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and	25	"We felt that because we made these pledges and
	Page 65		Page 67
1	Sport; is that right?	1	because we were committed to introducing a robust press
1 2	Sport; is that right?  A. Yes.	1 2	because we were committed to introducing a robust press complaints system and tackling media monopoly, the
2	A. Yes.	2	complaints system and tackling media monopoly, the
2 3	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. You've been a Member of Parliament since October 1982</li></ul>	2 3	complaints system and tackling media monopoly, the Murdoch press was determined to stop us getting into
2 3 4	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. You've been a Member of Parliament since October 1982 and you held front bench positions in the previous</li></ul>	2 3 4	complaints system and tackling media monopoly, the Murdoch press was determined to stop us getting into government."
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- 1 singularly absent in 1997, and that was the reason for
- 2 their being absent, which was not to estrange or inflame
- 3 or otherwise discourage the Murdoch press. Is there
- 4 force in a that observation?
- 5 A. Well, I think it goes back to what Tony Blair said in
- 6 what became known as his 2007 "feral beast" speech, is
- 7 that we, after all those years in opposition and
- 8 believing that we wanted to get into government to do
  - things on the health service and on unemployment and on
- 10 whole range of things, that it felt necessary to do more 11
- assuaging, neutralising, courting. That was the 12 decision that was taken, and that did feel like it was
- 13 necessary.

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- 14 But I think that we're in a very different situation 15 now. Because of the appalling revelations, I think that
- 16 that's broken open a situation where we can have
- 17 a discussion with editors of newspapers across parties
- 18 that we haven't had the opportunity to do before and I'm
- 19 very keen that we should not lose that opportunity, and
- 20 we all have to try and make sure that that happens, but
- 21 with the framework of this Inquiry. It wouldn't be
- 22 possible without the framework of this Inquiry.
- 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Of course, there's a risk, isn't,
- 24 there, that the press will combine in the same way that
- 25 it did after Calcutt and, as it were, circle the wagons?
  - Page 69

- wedded to saying, "Whatever you come up with is fine by
- 2 me", because I'm not saying it necessarily will be.
- 3 I just don't know. I'm talking about the press, that
- 4
- 5 A. I think if they circle the wagons around the status quo,
- 6 then we will have heard the heart-lending testimony to
- 7 this Inquiry of the Dowlers, the Watson family, the
- 8 McCanns, and nothing will have changed, and that can't
- 9 be acceptable. So I've been trying to encourage them
- 10 that they don't need to fear Armageddon or Zimbabwe,
- 11 that there can be a reasonable settlement here, which is
- 12 not the thin end of the wedge, which absolutely defends
- 13 and enhances press freedom but which gives redress and
- 14 protects against too much concentration of media
- 15 ownership, and that, it seems to me, is what is really
- 16 important.

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- 18 people to bring forward bits of legislation using the
- 19
- Defamation Act or using any future defamation bill or

And as Ed Miliband said, there is an opportunity for

- 20 using any future communication bill. So I think that's
- 21 a concern that they should have anyway, but I think
- 22 around a set of proposals that we could all agree on.
- 23 That would be the way forward and that should be
- 24
- 25 MR JAY: In your discussions with editors, is an emerging

Page 71

- A. One of the reasons why I've been talking to individual
- 2 editors is to, in a way, encourage them to circle the
- 3 wagons, but around a set of principles which everybody
- 4 can agree on, which is that there does need to be
- 5 redress for people where the code is breached. I think
- 6 most people think the code is fine. The problem is it's
- 7 not effectively enforced.
  - But because of the constitutional sensitivities, it
- 9 might feel better for the press to come out and propose
- 10 collectively to you a solution, which then would help
- 11 you shape your thinking and then we could take forward,
- 12 if necessary.
- 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I have no doubt about that at all,
- 14 Ms Harman, and indeed, from last September, when we
- 15 first started the seminars prior to the commencement of
- 16 the Inquiry, I made it clear to anybody who would
- 17 listen -- and I've said it publicly -- that this isn't
- 18 my problem; this is yours. But the solution that they
- 19 come up with has to work, and it has to work for me, by
  - which I do not mean me personally, but for me
- 21 representing the public, which has been the backstop,
- 22 background to this Inquiry.
- 23 Of course, we're just about to embark, after we
- 24 finish this module, on suggestions for the future, but
- 25 I think, as I made clear earlier this week, I'm not
  - Page 70

- consensus apparent?
- 2 A. Well, there's been, I would say, more of a sense of what
- 3 they don't want than what they do want, which I've
- 4 pointed out to them and said it would be good for them
- 5 to put forward what they do want, what they don't want,
- 6 and also that it would be good for them to agree -- and
- 7 they're not obviously used to working quite collectively
- 8 like that. But I think that in a way it's their
- 9 responsibility not just to say, "It's down to you, sir",
- 10 but to do something and we'll reserve our right not to
- 11 like it. I've said that's not what they should do, and
- 12 I have encouraged them that we would not be looking to
- 13 get political advantage, score points, fight the next
- 14 general election on this. I think people want this
- 15 sorted. You know, they want a strong free press and
- 16 they want it to act fairly.
- 17 So it's been really just trying to urge them to come

forward with their own solution, but not a dressed-up

- 19 version of the status quo. If it leaves a situation
- 20 where people can choose not to be part of a new redress
- 21 system, then it's pointless, because the individual in
- 22 respect of whom the code is being breached shouldn't
- 23 have to work out whether or not -- "Oh, well, it's been
- 24 breached but I can't do anything about it because the

newspaper's not in this" -- you know, has not decided to

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18 (Pages 69 to 72)

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- 1 enter into this contract.
- 2 Q. Has a consensus emerged then as to what they don't want?
- 3 A. They don't want a slippery slope. It's a very unusual
- 4 situation for me to be speaking on behalf of editors of
- 5 the press, but -- I don't think they want a slippery
- the press, but I don't think they want a suppery
- 7 consensus where actually, if the front benches agree,
- 8 then they don't need to face a slippery slope because we
- 9 can give assurances that we would back up what went
- 10 forward and stop it getting out of shape.
- 11 And I think that, yeah, there are a lot of people in
- 12 the House of Commons or the House of Lords who have very
- bitter feelings and scores to settle, but actually, if
- 14 the front benches agree and we get the argument onto the
- right plane and we have the constitutional safeguards
- which actually say we're doing the absolute minimum and
- we're doing it with constitutional hesitation, then
- 18 I think it is possible.
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So without speaking for the press --
- 20 they'll speak for themselves -- do you want to elaborate
- 21 upon what you believe this could look like?
- 22 A. Well, I suppose it could be called a statutory
- 23 recognition. I think it's a process of elimination,
- 24 really. The contract model has the problem which is --
- 25 I think the definition of a contract is an agreement
- 1 freely entered into by two parties. If it's freely
- 2 entered into, they can decide at the outset or
- 3 subsequent newspaper owners could decide they're not

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- 4 going to enter into that, and I think that that is just
- 5 a show-stopping problem, and therefore you have to have
- 6 a situation where the new body, operating on the code,
- 7 which most people think is fine --
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I wouldn't want you to think that
- 9 I necessarily thought that the whole code was fine.
- 10 I just make that point. I wouldn't want it to be
- 11 assumed that I don't think there aren't areas of the
- 12 code that need to be revisited. I'm not saying there
- are at this stage, but I'm just -- I didn't pick it up
- the first time you said it. The second time, I thought
- 15 I'd just better add that.
- $16\,$   $\,$  A. I mean, I would throw in one thing on the code, which is
- 17 that it rightly affords protection for young people and
- children, but actually there is a vulnerability for the
- 19 very elderly which probably should be added in. But
- 20 I think by and large the focus and concern has been the
- 21 lack of enforcement on it, so I think that some
- 22 statutory recognition of it, sufficient to enable this
- 23 new body to actually make their rulings enforceable
- against somebody, so that people don't just have the
- option of saying, "Well, you've had this compliant,
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- 1 you've adjudicated on this complaint, but we're going to
- 2 take no notice of what your finding is."
- 3 MR JAY: But would a statutory recognition be sufficient to
- 4 bring those who do not wish to participate in any
- 5 contract into the fold?
- 6 A. I think it would have to, and it might not even be
- a sort of joining model. But I think that any model
- 8 which just requires you to join it voluntarily, and if
- 9 you don't doesn't apply to you, that's not -- that is
- 10 the status quo, basically.
- 11 The contract deals with the issue of people who join
- and want to leave, but it doesn't deal with the people
- who don't want to join. That's the problem, and I think
  - that that just does look too much like the status quo.
- 15 It's not enough of a change.
- 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Or join now, because they absolutely
- have to, but will sump out at the first opportunity.
- 18 A. Well, I think the argument that if they do it under
- seal, that they are bound at least for five years, but
- 20 then there could be what happens after that or ...
- 21 I just don't think it's good enough. It does need to
- 22 have some statutory empowerment, some statutory
- 23 recognition, but I think that it really must do the
- 24 very, very minimum, because I do think -- and I do share
- 25 the press' concern -- that government, in particular,
  - Page 75
  - must not be allowed the temptation to kind of interfere
- with press reports and press activity which is critical
- of them, because I just think they can't resist that
- 4 temptation.
- 5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Have you considered the Irish model?
- 6 A. Well, it's ... um ... good. I think it's as yet
- 7 relatively untested but it tries to have statutory
- 8 underpinning or an independent system.
- 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's the point.
- 10 A. Yeah. I mean -- yes. I don't think that we'd have
- tablets of stone, because we want to be flexible, but
- 12 there are, you know, various criteria which have to be
- met. I mean, I've resisted the temptation of actually
- thinking that I know what the answer is and just
- 15 **promulgating it.**
- 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Just telling me?
- 17 A. Because I think that in a way we have to leave enough
- scope and flexibility for there to be an agreement about
- 19 this and we have to move away from: "Well, actually, I'm
- 20 going to take this position." We have to leave
- ourselves enough scope without being wishy-washy.
  LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm very comfortable with the
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm very comfortable with that. It's
   why I said what I said last September and have said to
- 24 every editor and proprietor who has raised the topic
- 25 with me during the course of the Inquiry that agreement

Day 84 PM Leveson Inquiry 1 on principles would be extremely important. But getting 1 2 2 a way forward is, to my mind, essential. 3 3 A. I think we've got as far as agreeing the principles. 4 4 It's just how you put those principles into action. 5 I think that a lot of the discussion around the Inquiry, 5 6 I can kind of see the topography of the principles. The 6 7 7 next stage is, you know, quite how you can do it with 8 8 being as minimalist as possible, and also taking the 9 9 opportunity of putting in the constitutional safeguards 10 10 around the public interest. 11 11 I think that the new guidance issued by the 12 12 Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to public 13 interest reporting is incredibly helpful. We all know 13 14 14 that when it comes to sentencing, you can argue the 15 public interest and mitigate your sentence, but in terms 15 16 of substantive offences you have no defence except in 16 17 17 relation to data protection, even if you are 18 a journalist acting in a public interest --18 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But that's actually why I -- it was 19 20 during the course of the Inquiry that editors said that 20 21 21 there ought to be a public interest defence to crime, 22 which obtained from me the comment that it would be 22 been inappropriate --23 rather odd if the result of this Inquiry into 23 A. Yes. 24 24 allegations of gross press misconduct was 25 a recommendation that the misconduct shouldn't be called 25 Page 77 misconduct but should be legitimised by the creation of 1 1 2 a defence. But it did cause me, as you're probably 2 convict, can say, "Well, the jury have convicted and 3 3 aware, to invite the Director of Public Prosecutions to 4 4 consider whether to issue, publicly, guidance on the 5 second limb of the code test, with which I know you are 5 alternatively: "It wasn't a defence but I'm satisfied 6 familiar, in relation to journalists. He has done that 6 that what you did was done for good motive or whatever, 7 7 and is consulting on it at the moment. 8 8 I hope that that will do much to assuage the 9

that, and I don't see that in a way as a sort of quid pro quo for a proper redress system. It just means that if you do have a piece of legislation, you can take the opportunity of putting that in. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, I'm not so sure that that

doesn't create its own dangers because then you'll get a whole raft of satellite litigation around arguments as to the applicability of the defence. If you take phone hacking as an example:

"I really believed that by hacking into this person's telephone or his email I would be able to uncover X. A source gave me the information, I'm not prepared to name the source, and therefore I felt this was all entirely legitimate, and therefore I must have a defence. Even though I didn't get anything that remotely proved that which I was concerned about, but got an interesting story anyway, actually, the reason I did it all was for this reason."

I wonder whether, first of all, you can't rely on the discretion of the prosecutor. Secondly, you can't rely on what juries have done forever where there have

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: -- and oppressive prosecutions.

Thirdly, you'll forgive me if I also rely slightly Page 79

concerns of the press, that in some way there is insufficient recognition of the importance of investigative journalism.

12 A. But I don't think you'd be providing a protection for 13 wrongdoing of the sort that the evidence has been in 14 front of this Inquiry -- would be --

15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Absolutely not.

A. I certainly think that it's been made much clearer in terms of the decision to prosecute, but I can -- I do actually think there would be some benefit of looking at further safeguards in terms of substantive defences. You know, it might be that you think the press is being unduly nervous about it and that they ought to be not feeling: "Well, even though we really think this would uncover a crime, we can't do it because we can't rely on the prosecutor's discretion being exercised sensibly."

But I think that there would be some judicial for Page 78

on the integrity of the judge who, if the jury do

I understand why, but this was near and therefore that's

entirely relevant to the question of sentence", or,

and therefore I discharge you."

I wonder whether there isn't enough protection 9 there. That's three layers of it. I don't ask you to

10 commit yourself, Ms Harman.

> A. I mean, I can see the protections at the beginning and the protections at the end. I think that -- you know, my main concern is that we make some progress, we have

14 a redress system, we have protection against too great

15 a concentration of ownership. I think it's

16 an opportunity. I'd put it no higher than that. We've

17 already made progress because of the guidance from the

18 DPP, but I just think it's an opportunity. But my main

19 concern is that we move on the question of redress for

20 individuals and concentration of media ownership.

21 MR JAY: In terms of concentration of media ownership, could

22 you outline, please, your proposals for the future

23 there?

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24 A. Well, really, just to -- I don't want to reiterate what 25 Ed Miliband said, but that as well as having cross-media

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1	ownership addressed, there is also the issue of
2	ownership of newspapers. The fact that things are
3	changing fast doesn't mean that you are rendered unable
4	to take any action. The fact that newspapers have
5	declining readership doesn't mean that they're not still
6	influential, so I think the question of ownership
7	discretely of newspapers, even where there's not
8	cross-media ownership, is actually an issue.
9	If I might say, to be encouraging, that I think that
10	the issue in your terms of reference of having media
11	ownership addressed I think it is very important.
12	I mean, I do think it was the combination of what I call
13	the impunity, ie no redress, and invincibility, size and
14	power it's those two things that laid the basis for
15	the culture which we saw a very ugly face of in evidence
16	to you.
17	So I think if you were to go into all the massive
18	detail about the issues, then I think at least it would
19	be helpful I mean, obviously, you know, as Ed
20	Miliband said, it's very much for you to decide, but
21	I think it would be helpful for there to be at least an
22	assertion of the problem and the role it's played in it,
23	and the necessity for there to be a solution, even if
24	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	then Ofcom or somebody else plays a bigger role in
25	delineating it, but I think it getting a good redress
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1 2	system for individual complaints doesn't take us all the
2	system for individual complaints doesn't take us all the way we need to go.
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