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3 (2.00 pm)
(Proceedings delayed)
(2.21 pm)
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON:Mr Jay, I understand that there is an 6
    IT difficulty, so that although the proceedings are
    being recorded, they are not presently being streamed
    live. This is a problem that hasn't previously arisen,
    and I don't feel it's appropriate to wait any longer
    while it is resolved. What it will mean is those who
    wish to follow this afternoon's proceedings will be able
    to do so but not contemporaneously. As soon as the link
    is restored, it will happen, and we will make sure that
    the recording in any event is placed on the web so that
    it is available for anybody to see thereafter.
MR JAY: Sir, may I mention some evidence which is to be
    read or possibly read at this stage. You will have seen
    a statement from Ms Jemima Khan dated 27 November 2012.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
MR JAY: There's no difficulty with that statement.
        Then on Friday and Saturday there was a late flurry
        of evidence. The second supplementary witness statement
        of Mr Hugh Grant, together with an exhibit, which also
        contained a statement of Patricia Owen and a voice file.
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            Page 1
    That arrived at about 4.30 in the afternoon.
Then there was a supplementary witness statement of Mr Paul Dacre, together with an exhibit. That arrived in my inbox at around 9.00 in the evening. It wasn't received by the solicitor to the Inquiry, since the email bounced back, but in any event it was far too late. So there's that statement to address, and then there's a second statement of Mr Mark Thomson, which I understand you haven't seen, of Saturday's date, 4 February.

All I would wish to say is that it's disappointing that this evidence has come so late, but it's for you to decide how to address it.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I can't pretend that I have studied it at length, although I have seen at least one of the statements to which you have just referred. I'm very anxious that this Inquiry is not diverted into a dispute between one of those who's given evidence and one of the newspaper core participants. I think we should proceed to hear the evidence that we need to hear. Mr Dacre has a lot of ground that he can cover and has already demonstrated in the seminar how he has been thinking about the future. I am not prepared presently to publish any of these statements until I've heard some argument as to how far they take the issues that I have Page 2
to resolve, and I'm prepared to do that at some stage that is convenient to the parties.
MR JAY: Indeed. I'm asked to point out -- this, I think, is implicit in what you know already -- that there is no sound going to our annex. I think it's part of the same syndrome as the streaming problem you mentioned.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I didn't know there was no sound. I am also getting information to the effect that there is sound.
MR JAY: Then I will ignore that last message. Maybe the sound has just arrived.

Sir, may we press on then with Mr Paul Dacre?
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, let's do that.

## MR PAUL MICHAEL DACRE (sworn)

 Questions by MR JAYMR JAY: Mr Dacre, if you could kindly make yourself comfortable and provide us, please, with your full name?
A. It's Paul Michael Dacre.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Dacre, I thank you, as I've thanked the editors of other newspapers who have allowed me to visit their newsrooms. I know you weren't there at the time but I'm grateful to you for allowing me to do so.
MR JAY: Mr Dacre, you have signed and dated a witness statement, 25 October of last year. It runs to 48

Page 3
paragraphs. Is this your main evidence to the Inquiry?
A. Yes.
Q. Thank you very much. You also were kind enough to address the seminar which took place on 12 October of last year. Are you content to adopt what you said then as part of your evidence?
A. Absolutely.
Q. Thank you very much. Mr Dacre, in terms of your career, you are the longest-serving editor on Fleet Street. You have been editor of the Daily Mail since 1992, and editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers since 1998. Could you kindly explain to us what "editor-in-chief" means, in particular in the context of each individual title, which I understand has its own autonomous editor?
A. It's a firm principle of my group,

Associated Newspapers, that we -- that the editors of our individual titles edit their papers. They're autonomous. My role as editor-in-chief is to decide the strategy for the group, look after the financial implications of the individual papers, to deal with areas that cover all the papers -- the promotions and marketing strategy -- and, you know, from time to time, have chats with my editors and discuss how we can forward the fortunes of our group and their individual papers.

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Q. Thank you very much.
A. But I would like to stress that just as I am given the freedom to edit by our management, I leave the individual editors of the titles -- it can't be any other way. You can't edit by remote control.
Q. Thank you. I'll come back to that issue in due course. In terms of your career in relation to the PCC and related bodies, you were a member of the Press Complaints Commission between 1998 and 2008. You've been a director of PressBoF since 2004, and when you left the PCC in 2008, you then became chair of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee?
A. Correct.
Q. And I think you remain the chair of the Code of Practice Committee as we speak.
A. (Nods head)
Q. I'm going to take your first statement really as read, and if I may, start off by asking you a number of general questions about philosophy before looking at your ideas for the future and then some more specific matters.

You said at the seminar on 12 October that this Inquiry's panel of experts, I quote, "don't have the faintest clue how mass-selling newspapers operate". I'm not going to ask you to seek to justify that remark, but Page 5
which or what aspects of the operation of mass-selling newspapers require, in your view, enlightenment?
A. That's a difficult question to answer. What I was trying to say was that, distinguished though they are, the assessors come from a somewhat narrow area of journalism. 20 million people read the popular newspapers. I suspect most of these assessors don't read those newspapers and therefore don't understand how those newspapers operate. I think it would have been advantageous for everybody if someone from that background could have been included.
Q. I think the question was more not so much to justify what you say -- I understand the answer you've given -but which or what aspects of the operation of mass-selling newspapers require enlightenment.
A. Well, how they think, how they work, how they are produced. Their values, their approaches.
Q. Let's see if we can delve into that to some extent, and examine it in this way: your role as editor of the Daily Mail, two general points. To what extent does the paper bear the imprint of your personality, your management style and your world view?
A. Well, any editor who edits a paper, his values, his world view will obviously be relevant, but can I deal with this? Because I think it's a bit of a canard that Page 6

I, single-handedly and with great and total willpower, impose my will on the paper. It, again, is a misunderstanding of how newspapers work.

First of all, I employ an immensely diverse range of journalists. We invest, at Associated, in quality journalism. It's our philosophy. We employ the best writers, the best leader writers, the best reporters, the best executives, the best sub-editors et cetera to produce quality papers to appeal to our market.

On any given day, the paper will adopt a position on things in its leader column. I will call a leader conference. It will be attended by some of my top writers, some brilliant leader writers, a diverse assembly of people. We vigorously debate the issues of the day. There is no world view there imposed by me. Diametrically opposed views. On one side, I'd have Alex Brummer, my distinguished City editor, violently disagreeing, on an almost daily basis, with my distinguished political commentator, Simon Heffer. Out of that debate, we adopt a view that we feel best represents our position for our readers in looking after their interests.

Again, you know, the Daily Mail is a huge, huge paper. It's a huge product. It's 120 pages. Are you telling me that I impose my views on the brilliant Page 7
writers we employ? Do you think I tell Sir Max Hastings what to write? A distinguished historian who graces our pages every day? He has his own views. Do you think I tell Janet Street Porter, from a different political perspective, what to write? She's a columnist. Do you think I Craig Brown, one of Britain's premier parodists, what to write? These people would leave if I imposed my view to them.

All our writers -- and I'm leaving out some brilliant ones -- have their strongly held views, many of them different. It's a rich, diverse spectrum of opinion that permeates the paper.

Again, the Daily Mail -- you know, the Daily Mail -different parts in different parts of the country. I appoint editors to reflect the interests of their readers, not impose their wills. In my time, I launched the Scottish Daily Mail. It's now the biggest selling paper in Scotland. The editor there has values and views, which he represents in his papers because he's reflecting his readers' interest, which are totally antipathetic to the views in London. Ditto in Ireland. We started the Irish Daily Mail. It's proving very successful. Some of the views espoused by its editors there make my hair go white, but nevertheless he's appealing to his local market, representing his readers'

Page 8
interests.
Q. I've been asked to ask you to slow down a bit, Mr Dacre.
A. I'm so sorry.
Q. You also say that in order to sell newspapers, you must
connect with your readers' views and reflect their interests and aspirations. That obviously means that you must empathise with your readers' views. Is that right?
A. I hope so.
Q. Does that include your readers' fears and prejudices, do you think?
A. "Anxieties" rather than "prejudices", is the word I'd use.
Q. What is your vision for your organisation as we move forward, Mr Dacre?
A. To sell -- to create as many quality products -- and indeed, you know, I left out before on the list that -it was Lord Rothermere's brilliant idea, but I launched Metro. Did I impose my world vision on Metro? Metro we decided to launch as a paper targeted at young urbanites in London. We decided they weren't interested particularly in political opinion. It's a politically neutral paper, has no leader columns, no political stance. It's been immensely successful with young readers, and again, we appoint an editor who understands Page 9
that market. It's been immensely successful, and we'd like to expand in that area. We're expanding into the Internet area and I repeat, our mantra is we invest in quality journalism, we let our editors edit and we believe that commercial success follows from that.
Q. We know that Associated Newspapers are successful and solvent, unlike some other newspapers. Does it follow from that that you have more resources at your disposal to check the accuracy of stories?
A. We are a well-resourced paper.
Q. In your view, is there any causal relationship between
the decline in newspaper circulation and what you see as the development of a judge-made privacy law?
A. No, I see no connection whatsoever.
Q. Your statement deals with the perennial problem of balancing the public interest against the private rights of individuals. Is it your position that the public has the right to be informed about the immoral behaviour of private individuals?
A. Immoral behaviour of private individuals? That's a huge question. I'd like to, if I may, draw on one of my files here.

My position, I suspect, is that -- we're talking
about privacy here, aren't we?
Q. Mm.

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A. Well, I suspect -- I suspect that the individuals -latitude should be given to papers who look into the lives of people who intrude into their own lives; in other words, into their own privacy. In other words, a lot of celebrities, celebrity chefs, sportspeople make a lot of money by revealing their lives to the public. I believe newspapers should be given some latitude to look into their lives when they err.
Q. Sorry, by "err", do you mean err morally?
A. Well, we're then going into a definition of what morality is, aren't we? Your questions are so broad, with respect, that it would help me if you gave me, you know, more specific examples.
Q. Some would say that the Daily Mail's world view, or at least part of it, propounds the virtues of family life, of traditional matrimony and traditional values. (a) Is that fair, and (b), if it is, if someone's morality doesn't fit into that pattern, is it something which you would feel free to comment on and, if necessary, criticise?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. In your view, I think, Mr Justice Eady has been the vanguard of developing a privacy law which is morally neutral; to use your term, amoral. Are you suggesting that the law should be developing principles Page 11
which instead reflect a moral system?
A. What I -- I mean, let's go back to that. What I was -in that Society of Editors speech, I was trying to say several things. It was a broad speech. I was clearly trying to express the growing concern by newspapers in this country that certain areas of the jurisprudence were going in an anti-newspaper, anti-democratic direction. Number one, we felt that libel tourism was something that was deeply shocking, and I made that point in my speech. We were very worried about the growth of CFAs --
Q. You're going a little bit outside the boundaries of my question.
A. You brought up Lord Justice Eady and I thought it helpful to put the speech in that context.
Q. It was more in terms of the development of a privacy law and of principles of law, not so much CFAs and libel reform.
A. Okay, well, that's the second point. All right, yes, and I accused Judge Eady's judgment -- not the man -- of being amoral and arrogant. Arrogant in the sense that I felt it was worrying that one man, one judge, seemed to be handling some of the more contentious privacy cases. One man seemed to be attaching much more weight to the right to privacy in the Human Rights Act rather

Page 12
than the right to freedom of expression, and, yes,
several -- several very significant cases seemed to indicate that he believed the law should be morally neutral. I'm delighted to see since then that the pendulum has been swinging the other way, and I think there's been some judgments by Justice Tugendhat and Justice Nicol which have been very significant. If I could just refer to them --
Q. Don't worry, Mr Dacre. We know which they are. I think you're in danger of making a legal submission, which others can develop for you in due course.

Can I move on to a different --
A. Can I just -- with great respect, you may know it, but I don't think people listening will know and Tugendhat's words I think strike to the very quick of what I believe in. Is that --
Q. You can come up with one quote, but I think a list of judgments is not necessarily going to assist us greatly because it can be dealt with more economically by written submission. If there's one quote you want to draw to our attention, please do.
A. "The freedom to live as one chooses is one of the most valuable freedoms, but so is the value to criticise, within the limits of the law, the conduct of other members of society as being socially harmful or wrong.

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It is as a result of public discussion and debate that public opinion develops."

Could I develop that point, because I would like just to read out a few quotes by Tim Luckhurst, the Professor of Journalism at the University of Kent.
Q. I don't --
A. It captures beautifully what I think -- and you've asked me the question. It would be helpful if I could just run through them. Is that acceptable?
Q. I don't know how many there are there, Mr Dacre, and there's a lot of ground to cover.
A. But --
Q. It's in danger of turning into a legal submission.
A. No, this is an article by a professor of journalism and you asked me my questions on privacy. I do think it really does capture it beautifully. I think he refers to the subject, the sanction of public interest, and I do think that's --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Dacre, if you want to say it, by all means do. However, we will certainly want to get through all we need to get through, and that means that if we can't finish it, then we'll have to come back and find some other time. But please do.
A. Right, thank you very much.
"The notion that moral failures such as adultery are
Page 14
entirely private and do not matter to the wider world is an affront to the very idea of community. A taste for titillation must explain some people's interest in Ryan Giggs' alleged extramarital activities, but for many others, cheap thrills were the last thing in their mind when they rebelled against private injunctions and remote judges. This (inaudible) majority resent public figures who think they can turn publicity on and off. We reserve the right to scrutinise and censure the conduct of people who have grown rich on our wages, or claim authority over our lives. In asserting democratic accountability, we are proclaiming our loyalty to a virtuous principle. Philosophers have developed a concept called the sanction of public opinion. They concluded that popular materiality should not ban infidelity or imprison men for betraying their wives but it could create an incentive to behave responsibly. People tempted to stray might be persuaded to think again by the certainty that their friends and neighbours would think less of them. Perversion in society has been with us for a long time --"

Et cetera, et cetera. Okay, I think that very well sums up --
MR JAY: I'm sure what he says chimes with your view of the world in many of its ramifications; is that fair?

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A. I think that's fair, yes.
Q. At the seminar, you said that the PCC has changed the very culture of Fleet Street. You said that four months ago. Is that a view which you still hold, Mr Dacre?
A. I do.
Q. You also said:
"The press is vastly better behaved and disciplined [I'm adding the word "now"] than in the 1970s."

Again, is that a view which you still hold?
A. I hold it strongly, yes.
Q. Were you intending to say that, phone hacking aside, the behaviour of the press is in general acceptable?
A. Acceptable? No, there's always room for improvements, obviously.
Q. Of course, there's always room for improvement, but were you intending to say that the behaviour of the press was, in general, acceptable?
A. I think it's much improved than it was. I think there are areas where we can still improve things, but by and large, as I say, I think they have improved to a much more acceptable level. I don't know what you want me to say here.
Q. You refer, again in the seminar, to the myth, to use your term, that the PCC is not independent because editors do not, of course, sit in judgment on

Page 16
themselves. Do you accept that at least there is
a public perception of lack of independence because serving editors are on the PCC?
A. I think that the critics of self-regulation promote that misconception. As you know, the lay members are a majority. In the many years I sat on the Commission, I found the actual editors much tougher on their fellow editors than the lay majority.
Q. Do you accept that there may be something in the related point that given that the jurisprudence of the PCC, to be found in its adjudications on cases, really sets the standards -- there are very few adjudications, as we know -- there may be a tendency for editors not to wish to make adverse adjudications because they're setting standards which may be turned against them subsequently?
A. Absolutely I don't accept that, no.
Q. Okay.
A. Never heard anyone suggest that.
Q. You also said at the seminar that the PCC has genuine sanctions in its armoury. You were referring to the publication of adverse adjudications. Were you intending to say that the sanctions available to the PCC at the moment are sufficient?
A. I think in dealing with complaints, they are, yes. But, I mean, if you're moving into a standards area, then, as Page 17

I said in my presentation, I believe the industry, in the light of what's happened over the last two years, needs to possibly think, where there are exceptional examples of malfeasance, to impose tougher sanctions.
Q. You said "in the light of what's happened over the last two years". What are you referring to specifically?
A. Obviously the revelations about the phone hacking and all those things.
Q. "And all those things"? What other things, if any?
A. Well, I suppose payments to police and -- I wouldn't go much further than that, actually.
Q. Is this right: that your recognition that standards may need to change and the system needs to change is limited to an acceptance that the problem lies in phone hacking and in payments to the police and nothing much he is else?
A. No, clearly -- I think you're trying to put words into my mouth. There are broader issues that the industry needs to look at. You know, the problem of paparazzi. That worries me. I think we need to try and look at that.
Q. I think you also said at the seminar that the PCC code has blunted Sunday newspapers' ability to secure the kind of sensational stories which were the bread and butter of huge circulations in the past. Is it really

Page 18
your view that it's the PCC code which is responsible for that, rather than other factors?
A. No, no, no, no. I was trying to say that one of the results of the industry tightening up its code, trying to behave in a more acceptable way, in a more ethical way, was that the Sunday newspapers used to be given great latitude to reveal truly sensational stories which enabled them to create great circulations. They no longer have that latitude for all kinds of reasons: the growth of the privacy law, the growth of, as I say, the code, the tightening up of the code.

Some people would argue it's a good thing that those papers no longer break those stories. Other people might say it's a pity that they're dying and the political and serious journalism that went along with those sensational stories is no longer being disseminated by those papers. I wouldn't have had the News of the World in my house, but it did break great, great stories and put a lot of serious political coverage in it, actually. That no longer now is reaching their 3 or 4 million readers. I think that's a pity.
Q. You said, as part of your annual report for the year 2009/2010, in your capacity as chair of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, this:

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"They will probably never concede the truth ..."
The "they" is the reference to the critics of self-regulation.
A. Mm.
Q. "... which is that the PCC has over the years been a great success story."

Does that remain your view?
A. Absolutely.
Q. If that is right, in the light of what you've also said, why is there the need for any change at all?
A. Well, it was you that used the word "perception".

I think the code has improved over the years. It's changed, as you know, 40 times in 20 years. I think the PCC, the complaints area, has improved.

Self-regulation cannot be above the law. By and large, the scandals that have emerged over the last few years and recently have been to do with issues that were above the law. Hacking phones is illegal. Paying policemen is illegal. I'm not quite sure what a self-regulatory body was meant to do about that.

However, the perception is clearly, from the Prime Minister down, that self-regulation has broken and therefore I think we need to address that.
Q. I think the thrust of your evidence is that although you don't personally accept that there's a need for change,

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you recognise that there is a political --
A. No, no, no.
Q. Is that right?
A. I accept -- I accept that the PCC, as it was constituted, couldn't deal with press standards and wasn't dealing with it. I've now accepted that in the light of what we've learnt, I think it would be for the good of the industry to have another body sitting alongside the PCC to deal with standards. I said in my presentation I thought this could be run by some kind of ombudsman figure, advised by senior retired editors, and they should have the power to look into malfeasance, abuses of standards, it should have the powers to call editors and journalists and impose some kind of sanctions.
Q. Are you prepared to accept that the culture, practice and ethics of the press are such that a different system is required?
A. I think I would say that the complainants part of self-regulation has been doing a pretty good job and should be allowed to continue doing that. I think -- as Lord Hunt argued, I repeat: I think there's areas where we can improve things by having a standards arm into this self-regulatory system.
Q. I just think in relation to this question, Mr Dacre, is Page 21
the answer "yes" or "no"? Once you've given a "yes" or a "no", then qualify it as you see fit. The question was: are you prepared to accept that the culture, practice and ethics of the press are such that a different system is required?
A. I think a system -- a new system can improve things.
Q. I'm not sure you are prepared to answer the question "yes" or "no" and then develop any broad answer, as you see fit.
A. I don't think I have anything to add to that, really.
Q. Okay. But I think you probably do accept, if you don't tell me, that the public must have reassurance that regulatory regimes are fit for purpose. You would presumably agree with that?
A. Of course.
Q. Does that not include an assessment of any failings in the current regime? Because you don't know whether something's fit for purpose until you've had a look at what may be wrong now. Would you agree with that?
A. I suppose so. I don't quite know what you're ...
Q. Okay. Can I ask you, please, about the new regime.
A. Mm-hm.
Q. I know you have some ideas you wish to share with us, and of course you're going to do so.

Are you will fully signed up, if I can put it in
Page 22
those terms, to the Lord Hunt contractual proposal?
A. Of course.
Q. We've heard from Lord Hunt that the devil may be in the detail. The detail, of course, at the moment, isn't there, is it, Mr Dacre?
A. No.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: To be fair, I think that was my phrase rather than Lord Hunt's.
MR JAY: I think he accepted it.
I just want to understand, Mr Dacre, what you are prepared to sign up to. Are you prepared to sign up to the principle or are you prepared to sign up to the reality, whatever might be found in the detail of it?
A. I really -- I may be missing something but I don't understand the drift of this conversation. I think, if I may be so immodest, it was me who set some of these hares running in my presentation to the Leveson Inquiry. It was I who suggested that we needed a new standards arm and of course I'd be willing to sign up to it.
Q. That leads on to the next question, the genesis of the Lord Hunt idea. Were you central to putting the contract idea out, as it were, and seeking to persuade the industry as a whole to sign up to it in any manifestation of it?
A. No. As an individual editor, I put forward my views on Page 23
the way forward.
Q. But was your view at an early stage -- we know there was a meeting on 15 December last year when a significant number of editors attended. Did you attend that?
A. I did.
Q. Was it your viewpoint at that stage that the contractual proposal was the most desirable solution?
A. I think it's one solution. I don't think it's the only solution. I think it's a very attractive idea if it can have real teeth and it's robust. I think it's an excellent idea. But certainly -- I don't think the contractual part of it was ever suggested by me earlier. I think that was David Hunt's idea.
Q. Okay.
A. And yes, it sounds very interesting.
Q. Some commentators have suggested -- and therefore I put this out as an idea -- that it's only being put forward by the press as, really, an attempt to save themselves from what would happen otherwise -- or what might happen otherwise, pardon me -- namely some sort of statutory solution. Is that a fair comment?
A. Clearly -- it is clearly a determined and robust attempt by the industry to put up a proper form of self-regulatory structure that locks people into self-regulation and somehow avoids statutory regulation, Page 24
which I believe would be thoroughly, thoroughly undesirable.
Q. How do you bring in, then, Mr Desmond into this contractual fold?
A. Now, I have got some suggestions that I'd like to make.

Do you want me to move into those now or do you wish me to discuss -- because one of my central suggestions, it does involve what I call the Desmond factor, and it could be anybody. It's how you lock a major player into self-regulation who leaves not once but twice.
Q. Well, maybe it's the time now to develop your ideas --
A. All right.
Q. -- for the future. Do you mind if we just take them slightly out of order?
A. Sure, sure. Can I just find my paperwork, please, because I've been deluged with so much paper over the last few days. Okay, yeah.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You should have been here for the last three months, Mr Dacre.
A. My sympathy is with you. Yes, please.

MR JAY: Let us assume, Mr Dacre, that licensing of journalists may well be unattractive to virtually everybody, including this Inquiry. So how, in a nutshell, in your view, do you lock papers into self-regulation?

## Page 25

A. Right, we've discussed the civil -- the contract, which I think is attractive and should be explored and it needs to convince Lord Justice Leveson that it would work and it would be robust and have teeth. I'm turning this a little bit backwards, but I think someone else has proposed this arbitration arm to the new system, the new tri-part system of arbitration. I welcome that. If cheap and quick justices can be -- or decisions can be established in this way and in privacy and defamation cases, clearly everybody, but particularly the newspaper industry, would benefit, because you know we're reeling from the extraordinary costs involved in no win no fee cases.

I must say, I welcome it, but I have my doubts. I wonder whether it's going to be as cheap as you think it is. I don't know how such a set-up, such a structure would deal with a Mosley. I cannot believe it's not going to need some kind of secretariat. I cannot believe that when big, big players, very wealthy players, come along, they're not going to bring along expensive silks and then the industry is going to have to supply its lawyers, but nevertheless --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, it could be inquisitorial rather than --
A. Yes, I accept that, but I still think it would involve

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cost and I guess how much cost the industry would bear -- can bear, because of the parlous state of it -I genuinely don't know. But look, it's a very welcome, very positive, very constructive suggestion.

My worry is how much it will lock Desmonds into it. By and large, Mr Desmond -- and this is not Punch and Judy show -- he doesn't produce the kind of journalism -- with the exception of the McCanns, it's more celebrity bland journalism -- that would end up in this court, in this court of arbitration. So I'm not sure how much of an inducement it would be to him -LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It depends whether there was a cost $\$$ regime associated with going to the law which made it more attractive to go down an arbitral route.
A. What I'm trying to suggest -- I don't think, with the exception of the McCanns, his papers are involved in cases that do go to law. They don't produce, by and large, that kind of journalism. OK magazine is very bland, slightly sycophantic journalism. I think the point I wish to make --
MR JAY: I think we're on the point of locking people in.
How are we going to do that?
A. All right. Well, I've just listed two areas where I did have my doubts but I have one suggestion to make -- and I need to stress that I'm not making this on behalf of

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PressBoF. You know, I'm really not, and I'm not making it on behalf of the NPA or the Editors' Code Committee because this is my own idea, I haven't discussed it with any people -- I say it's my idea; it's an idea that we're been thinking about at Associated.
As you've said, there have been several calls to your Inquiry for the licensing of journalists. It is clearly unacceptable. However, I do believe there's an opportunity to build on existing haphazard press card system -- there are 17 bodies at the moment providing these cards -- by transforming it into an essential kite mark for ethical and proper journalism. The key would be to make the cards available only -- only -- to members of print news-gathering organisations or magazines who have signed up to the new body and its code.

The public at large would know the journalists carrying such cards are bona fide operators, committed to a set of standards and a body to whom complaints can be made. Reporters and photographers would use the cards as proof that they are responsible journalists.

There would, however, be universal agreement that briefings and press conferences by government bodies, local authorities and the police, access to sporting, royal and celebrity events, material from the BBC and

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ITV, and information from medical and scientific bodies
would only, only be given to accredited journalists. It
would, after all, be in the interests of those bodies to
agree to this, as many of their members make complaints
to the PCC. Indeed, such bodies would have -- or
shouldn't have access to the new regulator if they dealt
with a non-accredited journalist.
    It is my considered view that no publisher could
    survive if its reporters and writers were barred from
    such vital areas of journalistic interest. It would be
    part of the civil contract, if you like, that the
    ombudsman figure would have the right to recommend that
    accredited journalists guilty of gross malfeasance have
    their press cards cancelled, as the GMC strikes off
    doctors.
    I think the beauty of the system, the attraction of
    the system, is it will be the newspaper industry
    registering and disciplining journalists, not the state.
    There would be no threat to freedom of opinion, because
    non-press card holders would still have the freedom to
    express their views, and commercial interest would
    dictate that every publisher signed up to regulation.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I've been thinking about press cards,
    actually, quite recently, but these 17 bodies, they are
    presumably commercial organisations?
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    A. I don't absolutely know if any of them are. They
    include -- the National Union of Journalists distributes
    a percentage of them. The NPA distributes a percentage
    of them. I think television bodies have their own press
    cards. But there are 17 of them. I am suggesting they
    should come under one umbrella. Whether it's the new
    management committee of the new regulatory arm or
    whether it's under the Newspapers Publishers
    Association, I don't know, but it should be one body
    issuing them, registering them and they actually mean
    something.
        If I'm very honest, the existing press cards don't
    mean much.
    LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Presumably that needn't just be
restricted to print journalism, but could cover digital
journalism?
A. Yes. I haven't thought that through, but in principle,
yes. Digital journalism is global, as you know, and
already there's considerable evidence that news
providers outside Britain enjoy an advantage over our
digital journalists because they are, at the moment,
observing the code, and so they should be. But yes,
those cards could be used by them.
MR JAY: If there's going to be one umbrella body with these
powers of accreditation, how does that differ from
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licensing?
A. Because it's the industry doing it.
Q. You say it would require the universal agreement of a number of bodies, including governments, don't you?
A. Mm-hm.
Q. So the industry does it, but government would have to agree to it; is that right?
A. I think it would be in the governing -- for press briefings of ministries and lobby arrangements, I mean, why shouldn't they subscribe to that? If journalists abuse those systems, then they should have right of redress against those journalists.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think that's quite a good question but somebody may say: on what basis is the government, for example, removing my right to attend a briefing? Are they closed briefings or could they be open to anybody? I don't know. I'm asking the question.
A. I don't know. To use your phrase, the devil's in the detail, but I do think it's in the interests of both sides -- the news obtainers and the news providers. I mean, bear in mind, a huge amount of material comes to the BBC and ITV companies. Why should they not expect that they have the right to deal with accredited journalists behaving responsibly, and why should journalism not expect them to take their part of the Page 31
contract and not deal with journalists who aren't accredited? After all, they often complain to the PCC, these bodies.

MR JAY: So a non-accredited journalist, as a private individual, is this right, would be denied access to a sporting event, a government briefing, anything -- any event or --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He couldn't be deprived access to a sporting event because he could buy a ticket.
A. No, but he could be deprived access to sporting press conferences, interviews with the managers afterwards that are always provided by these bodies --

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I see.
MR JAY: So there would be some restrictions which --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He would be entitled to do what any citizen is entitled to do?
A. He could go and watch the match, yes.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And write whatever he wanted for whomsoever he wished to write it?
A. But he wouldn't have access to the stars after the match, the managers for quotes and things like this, which are given to bona fide journalists.
MR JAY: Okay. So that's one idea you put forward. You've helped us with arbitration. Can you develop, please, with your thoughts in relation to paparazzi, Mr Dacre?

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A. Yes. I mean, like a lot of people, I think we've been distressed at some of the evidence we've heard about paparazzi given to this Inquiry. It's the age-old problem, how you define paparazzi. What is the difference between a paparazzi photographer and a genuine freelance photographer, a freelance photographer working for a newspaper? It's a very difficult area to define. The greatest problem, of course, is that the great majority of paparazzi pictures are sold abroad, where there's a vast, vast market for them, I'm afraid. Our streets are free, in theory, therefore, you know, this needs -- it's a very difficult problem and it's now compounded by the fact that everybody with a BlackBerry or a mobile phone becomes a citizen photographer.

I mean, literally, you can take high quality pictures with your mobile phone and there are lots of -there are several agencies now online advertising for citizen pictures of showbusiness or celebrity or newsworthy events. So, you know, this is a difficult problem.

However, I do think it is beholden to the industry to do something about this. I think the Editors' Code could look at this and the Editors' Code book. My own picture editor, although his evidence wasn't read out, Page 33
suggested a list of guidelines that I think we can start examining much more carefully. Was the subject in a public place when the photograph was taken? Was the photographer standing in a public place when the pictures were taken? Was the subject visible to the members --
Q. I think we did hear --
A. You had all that, did you? Fine. Well, I think those considerations I think need to be considered by the Code.

What I would liking to suggest -- most paparazzi use several agencies to sell their papers to newspapers. I believe those agencies should now be encouraged to join the new self-regulatory body and abide by the code. Agencies that do not sign up to regulation should not be used by picture desks. Papers or magazines who use their pictures should, in the event a complaint is upheld, be penalised -- and the PCC's desist notices have been very successful and it may be worth bearing in mind by this Inquiry that better use be made of the harassment law.
Q. Thank you. There are two further ideas I think you want to share with us. The first relates to privacy.
I think you're suggesting there, Mr Dacre, that the
Editors' Code Committee should commission its own

Inquiry -- it wouldn't just be an inquiry comprising editors but also lawyers -- to consider what the public interest means?
A. Yes, that's a suggestion I'd like to make. I think "privacy" is, as Kenneth Clarke(?) told the Select Committee, is impossible to define. I think the public interest is a different matter. I think at the moment it's too loose in the code and I think it would be a worthwhile exercise at least to set up some kind of inquiry -- experts, lawyers, senior editors could take part -- to define what the public interest is and try and codify that in some way.

It may sound -- the one constituent of British life that hasn't been consulted by this Inquiry is the general public. Maybe it would be useful to take opinion polls of their views of the public interest. But the aim would be to define -- to produce a definition of the public interest which all newspapers in the industry I could subscribe to.
Q. Thank you. Your last point relates to appointments.
A. Yes, it's a --
Q. You're proposing a more independent --
A. I believe so. I believe that at the moment, although an independent assessor is involved, and independent headhunters, PressBoF's appointment of the industry's Page 35
chairman, because it's so opaque, provokes unnecessary controversy. I'm suggesting that in future, senior appointments to whatever self-regulatory or whatever regulating body should be made by an independent panel, which would include lay and newspaper representatives.
Q. Have I correctly understood this: that your proposals, at least as regards appointments and arbitration, would be part of the contractual structure which Lord Hunt has outlined?
A. I think that would make sense, but I stress these are my views. I haven't discussed them with PressBoF, I haven't discussed them with the Editors' Code Committee because there hasn't been the opportunity.
Q. Thank you. So those are your proposals for the future; is that right?
A. They are some of my proposals, yes. I mean, I've given this considerable thought over the last week to see how the industry can make a positive contribution to this and I think they're worth some discussion, thought.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I entirely agree with that, and as I said in relation to your proposals during the course of the seminar, any suggestions that advance the debate are welcome, and it's important that the solution should have the support of your industry. But it has to cope with all the other problems as well.

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A. Of course.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: As I know you understand.
A. Of course, of course, yes.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's how I left it with Lord Hunt
and Lord Black. By all means, carry on and we'll see where we get to. Of course, I'll also be carrying on.
A. Absolutely.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's all to the advantage of the better understanding of what we can do.
A. I think it would help the industry if they could move to some transitional arrangement as quickly as possible, at least to show their good intent, but that's up to the industry.
MR JAY: Or, some would say, to avoid the sword of Damocles.
Would you agree with that?
A. No, I wouldn't say that, Mr Jay.
Q. Moving off that topic -- because I know you were very concerned to address it not at the end of your evidence. I understand you wanted to deal with it slightly earlier, but I did have some general questions.

Can I deal now with the issue of corrections and address some general principles. The Daily Mail now has a corrections page; is that right? I think that was brought in the day before you gave your evidence to the seminar. You gave your evidence on 12 October and the Page 37
corrections page started on 11 October of last year; is that correct?
A. If you say so, yes.
Q. You said at the seminar, I quote:
"I believe corrections must be given more prominence."

What were the underlying reasons for that belief?
A. I think it was an idea whose time had come. There was growing criticism of papers that they buried apologies. It's not a criticism I accept. Our policy, by and large, was always to carry the correction on the page that the article occurred. That was more and more becoming the policy of the PCC, where newspapers had to agree with the director the placings of adjudications, and it seemed to me to have a regular slot in the paper where people could see where the mistakes had been made had great virtue. It's not a page in the paper; it's page 2 , as you perhaps know.
Q. Would you agree that it's a failing in the PCC that it is not able to dictate where an apology or adjudication should go in a newspaper?
A. I'll have to come back to the exact wording on that but they now have agreed that they have to do it in discussion the director of the PCC.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, that's right.
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$\qquad$
A. Yes.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's a conjoined decision. I think Mr Jay's suggestion is that ultimately shouldn't the PCC have the ability to say, "I'm very sorry -- you may want to put it there but we think it ought to be there."
A. I think the director will be representing the PCC in those discussions, so I would hope anyway he was reflecting their feelings.
MR JAY: My understanding of the evidence we heard from Mr Abell last week was that although the rule has been changed such that the location and prominence must be agreed with the PCC, the PCC doesn't have the ability to dictate exactly where it goes.
A. It would be a pretty unacceptable moment for a newspaper not to agree to that. I haven't sat on the Commission for many years. I've certainly heard of no cases of that.
Q. But would you agree with this: that in order to maintain public confidence in any regulatory system, there should be an express rule which enables the regulator, either the PCC or regulator properly so-called, to be able to dictate exactly where a correction, apology or adjudication should be published and in what prominence?
A. Well, as I say, I think it exists in a form already, with the set-up of the PCC. The Irish Press Council Page 39 25
an apology, and it's -- but look, there's no rough -there's no absolute ruling here. I don't rule out the existing PCC -- and it may indeed have done it, insist that the apologies be on the front pages. If an egregious error is made, that may be correct. I'm not arguing the toss with you on that.
Q. So if there were to be a rule which would, in express terms, empower the PCC or successor regulatory body to be able to insist exactly where the apology or correction went, you wouldn't resist that; is that right?
A. Well, I'm saying as far as I can see, it virtually exists at the moment, because the director, representing the views of the Press Complaints Commissioners, has the right to insist where something goes with the paper. If the paper refuses to do that, that would be seen as a very serious position to take and would be viewed very, very dimly, I would have thought, by the Commission.
Q. Was there a policy in the Daily Mail to bury apologies in its online edition?
A. I'm utterly unaware of that. I've never heard that.

The beauty of the Mail Online is that it doesn't have to carry many apologies because it corrects things instantly. It gets the complaint and changes it
immediately, either drops the article, carries a correction -- instantly.
MR CAPLAN: Can I just interrupt to say one thing in relation to the PCC. I do apologise. Our understanding is that although the Press Complaints Commission cannot say where an apology goes, it can say that it has not been given due prominence and find a second breach if the publication is not given due prominence.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's right, but it can't say where it goes. Mr Dacre's point about there only being one big story on some of the newspapers' front page may be dealt with by the argument that if the story was the one story on the front page, there is an argument that if it's appropriate -- and one has to expect everybody's going to exercise power responsibly -- then they should be able to direct the same. But I recognise that lack of due prominence can give rise to another complaint.
MR CAPLAN: Yes, thank you.
MR JAY: Just so that my last question, Mr Dacre, was clear, I'm not talking about the online edition's policy in relation to apologies and corrections; I was addressing the Daily Mail's policy. Was it the Daily Mail's policy to bury apologies which relate to the Daily Mail in the online edition of the paper?
A. You can't do that. It obviously has to appear in the

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print -- if the mistake was made in the print version, the apology will occur in the printed version of the Daily Mail.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean, I can't -- where has that suggestion come from?
Q. Well, it's not for me to answer that, Mr Dacre.
A. Well, but nevertheless, you are making quite a serious accusation. It would be quite interesting for me to know where it came from.
Q. It has been suggested to me by a number of people, but we hear what you --
A. But anybody can make suggestions and then smear a paper in this way. I give you my assurance that every correction or complaint or adjudication we carry regarding the print version of the Daily Mail appears in the Daily Mail.
Q. Thank you. Can we deal with PCC complaints and adjudications. Is it the Daily Mail's policy to avoid adjudications at all costs?
A. No. I mean, if we think we've got something wrong, we take it on the chin.
Q. I think I can be more precise. Do you, as some other newspapers might also do, play the system to this extent: that you wear down complainants and see perhaps the least you can get away with by publishing an

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apology, a correction or a clarification, rather than face the risk of an adverse adjudication? Is that your strategy?
A. I don't know what you're trying to say. If someone makes a complaint to the PCC, they investigate it, they decide whether it goes for adjudication and a decision is made, and then we will carry that ruling against us in the paper and the reasons why the PCC found against us.
Q. But you know well, Mr Dacre, that there's an earlier stage, that if the PCC decides to investigate, there's then a mediation between the newspaper and the complainant, and attempts made --
A. That's a very valuable role they play, yes.
Q. -- an attempt made to reach an accommodation between the two. Of course, it may be in the Daily Mail's interest to avoid adverse adjudications, but do you have a strategy whereby you seek to achieve that by wearing complainants down and --
A. Clearly, we try to avoid it going to adjudication, but where we reach an agreement with both sides on how to solve the problem. If that is a correction placed in the paper on a certain page and the other side is happy with that, then clearly we proceed with that (inaudible). I mean, it would be sensible.
Q. Do you then is help what Mr Davies says at page 367 of his book, Flat Earth News:
"With most of the successful complaints [he's referring now not to adjudications but to rulings] the Mail resolved the problem by publishing a clarification, usually with far less prominence than the original story."

Is that --
A. Yes, but that clarification -- the placing of it would have to have been agreed with the PCC when we were reaching agreement with the other side. That would be part of the agreement.
Q. But that agreement was reached at a point where the other side -- it might be said by some -- had been worn down by a war of attrition.
A. Not at all. They're liaising with the PCC, a case officer. They say, "Look, the newspaper got this wrong about me." The PCC goes on to the newspaper and says, "Look, a member of the public is saying you got this wrong. Will you put it right?" The newspaper says, "Yes, we'll put it right. We can put it right on this page. We can carry an agreed form of wording." The newspaper carries -- the PCC gets back to the complainant. They say, "Yes, I'm happy with that", and it goes ahead. I don't know quite what you're trying to Page 45

## say.

Q. I think your evidence is you strongly repudiate that suggestion?
A. I think I do, yes.
Q. May I move on to Operation Motorman. I think the
starting point for this is paragraph 43 of your witness
statement, the last sentence. This is our page 21819.
You say this:
"Until the Information Commissioner's 2006 reports,
I was not personally aware of the extent that our journalists were using search agencies."

By using the term "extent", were you intending to accept there that you were aware that the Daily Mail was at least using these search agencies?
A. Yes.
Q. But you weren't aware of the scale of the problem --
A. The numbers. The numbers I wasn't aware of.
Q. Were you aware before 2006 that the Daily Mail had been using Mr Whittamore?
A. Yes.
Q. When were you first aware of that?
A. I don't know. We're talking about many, many years ago, and a system that was used by all the media, insurance companies, law firms, everybody. I suspect -- I suspect some time about 2004/2005-ish I think I became aware of Page 46
it.
Q. Can I try and help you or lead you to this extent? The Inquiry received evidence from Mr Peter Wright, the Mail on Sunday editor, and he said that he was aware of Operation Motorman at the beginning of 2004, in view of the Bob Crow story, which of course was published in the Mail on Sunday and not the Daily Mail, which I understand, because the name of the person riding the scooter, who in fact was Mr Crow's PA, was obtained through Mr Whittamore. Mr Whittamore did a check on the registration mark of the scooter and then got the gentleman's name. Do you follow me?
A. (Nods)
Q. Were you aware of Operation Motorman as a result of that particular issue?
A. I suppose I must have been, yes. I don't recall it exactly, but I must have been aware.
Q. Yes, because the -- I think the journalist involved was interviewed and it was going to be part of Operation Glade, if not Operation Motorman. Operation Glade was the Metropolitan Police operation into this rather than the Information Commissioner's --
A. This was a Mail on Sunday journalist?
Q. Yes, it was. So you were aware of it from that route, as it were. Were you aware that in February 2004, the Page 47
managing editor of the Mail on Sunday sent an instruction that Mr Whittamore was only to be used in very limited and circumscribed circumstances?
A. I honestly don't recall, but I may have been told. But you're talking six, eight years ago.
Q. I appreciate that, Mr Dacre, but the question is whether you, in the Daily Mail, responded in the same way or not.
A. From 2005, after the trial in which the -- I recall, and have now checked on the files, we sent a series of emails and letters to staff asking them to observe the Code Committee's guidance note on the Data Protection Act. We wrote to Mr Whittamore and said that -- could he give us an assurance he was acting within the law. As I say, we sent several emails and letters to our staff during that period, yes.
Q. Is this the period 2004/2005?
A. I think it's 2005 -- the trial ended in 2005; is that correct?
Q. April 2005, that's right.
A. Yes, yes. From then to -- the next 18 months, yes, or so.
Q. Do you know when the Daily Mail stopped using Mr Whittamore as opposed to the Mail on Sunday stopped --

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A. I don't know exactly because the actual bills being paid
don't necessarily refer to the time when we stopped
using him. But you know in 2007 we brought the shutters
down and banned absolutely the use of all these -- of
Whittamore enquiry agencies.
Q. It might be said by some -- or indeed by many -- that
looking at the position in 2004/2005, you really should
have conducted an inquiry in the Daily Mail to ascertain
the extent to which Mr Whittamore's services were being
used?
A. I don't think that's fair because everybody --
everybody, every newspaper -- and I see the BBC spent
nearly as much on enquiry agents as we did -- was using
him. We didn't realise they were illegal. There was
a very hazy understanding of how the Data Protection Act
worked and this was seen as a very quick way of
obtaining phone numbers and addresses to corroborate
stories.
Q. Regardless of what other bodies might have been doing
with search agencies, we're talking about what the
Daily Mail was doing with Mr Whittamore, who, after all,
had had his collar --
A. Well, I mean -- no, but I mean all newspapers were
using -- virtually all newspapers were using Whittamore.
Q. Are you saying that that would be a reason for the Page 49

Daily Mail not carrying out a proper investigation into the extent of the possible illegality, Mr Dacre?
A. Well, it's very difficult to say that. The story of Operation Motorman barely registered on the consciousness. I don't think it made much in the papers. One was aware of it, I suspect, that the man had been given a conditional discharge. All newspapers were still using this agency. I repeat: we thought it was -- we believed and the journalists believed that it was to get phone numbers quickly. I'm not sure an investigation at that stage was warranted.
Q. Regardless of how quick and efficient this might have been as a means of obtaining information, the concern, of course, is that this mode of information-gathering was illegal. Didn't that cause you greater concern, Mr Dacre?
A. We didn't believe it was illegal. Our journalists were asking for information and I'm not sure that the implications of the Data Protection Act were understood at that stage.
Q. But didn't you, at the very least, obtain some advice about it?
A. I've said yes, from 2005 on, the Editors' Code Committee issued a guidance note, we repeatedly communicated that to our staff and we wrote to the enquiry agency in

Page 50
question and he gave us an assurance that he was behaving within the law.
Q. You say that you didn't believe that Mr Whittamore was acting illegally. Of course, that was in contra-distinction, really, to the position of the ICO and the police, who did believe that he was --
A. I think the ICO kept saying he had no evidence that journalists were behaving illegally. Repeatedly I think he said that.
Q. He didn't quite say that, Mr Dacre. He said he wasn't prepared to give you the evidence, but his position was not --
A. No, no, this was much later, much later. He felt he couldn't give us the evidence when we asked for it because he said that in itself would have been an offence of the Data Protection Act.
Q. On what basis did you come to the conclusion that your journalists were not or probably not acting illegally?
A. I've tried to explain -- if I could put this in context.

For years, newspapers had vast shelves full of directories, phonebooks. Some of them -- most of them -- all of them had reverse telephone books to get addresses, but it was a laborious process. If you wanted birth and depths, you would have to go to Somerset House. It would take days. If you wanted to Page 51
get up the Electoral Register, that was a long and laborious process.

Somewhere in the early part of the new century, the technology provided for these things to go on CD Roms. Journalists thought they were getting the same kind of information much, much quicker and much more efficiently.
Q. Did you carry out any enquiries to ascertain whether that was the belief of your journalists, rather than speculate, as you've done, and give us evidence as what you hope might have been the position?
A. I think at some stage -- I may have to come back to you on this because I can't recall it, whether it was ' 5 or '6. I think a managing editor had conversations -- held conversations with a lot of journalists and heads of departments and said, "Look, do you know -- what do you believe you were doing here?" They said they were only getting phone numbers and addresses and they didn't seem to think they were behaving illegally.
Q. I don't think you give any of that evidence in your witness statement or schedule 1 to your witness statement, do you, Mr Dacre?
A. I don't know, Mr Jay.
Q. When you got the second report through from the Information Commissioner and saw that the Daily Mail was

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top of the league, with 958 transactions which were positively identified as illegal, involving 58 journalists, what was your reaction to that?
A. Well, obviously it brought things home to me. I would point out that when we subsequently got to look at the files, there was a lot of double counting in there. I would point out that other titles had almost as many complaints. I would point out proportionally the Observer, as many as us, coming out one day a week.

Look, everybody was using them. Law firms use them even now. Local authorities use them. Insurance companies use them. We were trying to get addresses and phone numbers to corroborate news stories, to check the facts.
Q. How do you know that you were trying to get addresses and phone numbers to corroborate news stories?
A. Because that was the main use to which they were put.
Q. How do you know that, Mr Dacre?
A. Because I, at the time, talked to my managing editors.
Q. Because we know from the material -- and we've seen some, not all, of the underlying material -- that there were requests made by Associated titles for police national computer checks and friend and family numbers. Those couldn't reasonably have anything to do with checking out news stories, could they?

Page 53
A. Of course, yes. You need to get to the people in a family to check a story, and also we don't know whether the reporter asked friends and families. We established that often Mr Whittamore supplied information that wasn't necessarily asked for.
Q. In one case -- it is quite a stark case -- the request was made for friends and family numbers and there were ten phone numbers and that cost $£ 500$, and an Associated title paid $£ 500$ for it. That couldn't have been an unsolicited request, could it? Do you know the one we're talking about?
A. I don't know.
Q. Is it your evidence that the reason for the request for friends and family numbers was in order to contact any one of those individuals in order to corroborate stories rather than to find out who the friends and family were of someone who was of interest to the Mail? Do you see that?
A. If they were of interest and they were involved in a major story, and you needed to get to them or information about them, yes, you would try to talk to them or members of their family.
Q. Is it your position that that is within the Data

Protection Act; in other words, not in breach of Section 55 ? Request for friends and family numbers?

Page 54
A. I would say that that information could all be obtained legally, but it would take time. This was a quick and easy way to get that information.
Q. Yes, but that would tend to suggest that it was illegal, because --
A. No, not at all. Time --
Q. -- very often legal routes --
A. Time -- time is everything in journalism.
Q. Often illegal routes are quick, easy, but also, I'm afraid, expensive, as we know this one was, $£ 500$ for ten friends and family numbers. On the face of it, it looks as if your titles, or one of them -- I think it was Femail actually in this case -- was seeking to obtain those numbers in order to snoop around the target to see who might be of interest to the Mail?
A. Those are pejorative words. They were to find information or check facts, as we heard about.
Q. You don't have the first clue, do you, in the particular example? I think you're know the one I'm referring to, do you, Mr Dacre?
A. I really don't know what you're talking about, no.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think you might have the chance t $\phi$ find out which example, but I'd like to cut through a lot of this, if I can, and ask this: I don't know whether you've seen the information that the core Page 55
participants have seen, including leading counsel acting for Associated, but it seems to me that it is extremely difficult to justify some of the requests that were made. I'm not saying you knew about them, but my question is: do you admit the possibility that at least some of these enquiries could not be justified by the type of explanation that you have given? I'm not concerned to ask how many or who because that's a detail which, for the purposes of my Inquiry, I don't believe I need to go to, but I would be keen to know whether, as a broad proposition, you are prepared to accept that possibility.

Now, what I think we'll do is I think we'll take a break, because we need a break to give the shorthand writer a few minutes off, and I would have no difficulty at all about your discussing that question with Mr Caplan, if you wish to.

I'm not trying to label your newspaper at all. I'm simply trying to get the overall picture so that I can move on, because I don't want to spend more time on what is a very long time ago than is absolutely necessary. I'm sure you'll understand that.
I hope that doesn't cause embarrassment to you or to Mr Caplan. Thank you.
( 3.38 pm )
( 3.54 pm )
MR JAY: Mr Dacre, over the short break, have you been able to ponder an answer to Lord Justice Leveson's question?
A. I'll do my best. I don't want to bore you, but I do want to stress that this was ten years ago and it was a system being used by everybody. But from what we know now, I would accept there was a prima facie case that Whittamore could have been acting illegally. I don't accept that this is evidence that our journalists were actively behaving illegally. We have to know the facts, whether there was a public interest. We don't know what the journalists asked for, we don't know what it related to and whether it actually was provided, whether the information was actually provided.
Q. You accept, therefore, a prima facie case; is that right, Mr Dacre?
A. That Mr Whittamore may have been behaving illegally, yes, from what we know now.
Q. But you accept that you didn't carry out an investigation in 2006 or earlier to ascertain the facts, don't you?
A. Because, as I say, we didn't know then what we now know.
Q. But what was set out in the Information Commissioner's second report was quite clear, wasn't it, in relation to Page 57
the Daily Mail: 958 transactions --
A. As you keep saying, and I'm pointing out the BBC paid nearly as much as we did on such enquiries, and what I want to stress is I immediately acted with huge willpower and vigour to stamp out and change all this. We did so more than any other paper. Goodness knows I don't know what more I could have done. I banned the use of these agents. I wrote the Data Protection Act into our journalists' contracts. I held seminars on the subject. And I'm glad to note that the Information Commissioner accepts now that the Daily Mail and Associated Newspapers titles no longer use these agents.
Q. Given that you did not investigate at the time, you're not in a position to say whether a public interest defence would have operated in any individual case, are you?
A. I'm not, but equally I -- no.
Q. No. Is Mr Whittamore's data, or rather data obtained as a result of his activities, still on the Daily Mail's systems?
A. Can you explain that? I'm sorry.
Q. Well, Mr Whittamore provided Associated with a vast array of data. We know from the report 958 transactions had been positively identified. Have those data been

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erased --
A. No, as I said, when we looked at the books eventually, we found a lot of double counting. But anyway, go on, sorry.
Q. Have you conducted any Inquiry to ascertain whether those data are still on your system?
A. I don't think the data is on the systems, no. I didn't look into it but I'm sure it's not. I think we have references to bills and that's all. In fact, I'm sure that's all.
Q. The information must have been given through Mr Whittamore to Associated's journalists. Associated's journalists -- just wait --
A. I'm so sorry.
Q. They must have put it somewhere. They must have filed it. It was provided, presumably, by telephone in virtually every case. They must have kept a note of it. Are those data still on your system?
A. I think that's a misunderstanding how it works. It would have been given to the individual journalist.
Q. That's right. That's what I said.
A. Yeah, but with a telephone phone call, he would have made a note on his notebook possibly. I don't know, but it wouldn't have gone into our computer system I don't think.

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Q. No, not necessarily your computer systems. I said "systems" more widely, by which I include filing systems.
A. No, because this would have been individual journalists rushing to a story, needing to ascertain how to get in touch with people, and it would have been given over the phone presumably by Whittamore to that journalist.
Q. The information must have been stored somewhere and retained; would you accept --
A. No, not necessarily, it wouldn't.
Q. How do you know?
A. Well, let me enquire and come back to you, but I don't think so. I think it's a misunderstanding of how journalism works. They're rushing to a story, they are in a car, they phone the news desk and the news desk tells them what they know. The journalist then possibly contacts Whittamore, he gets the phone numbers and that's how it happens.
Q. The point is being made to me by others, and therefore I'm advancing it, that it can't be said that this is prehistoric because it could still well be the case that these data, prima facie illegally obtained, are still somewhere in Associated's offices, because you've made no steps to erase them or destroy them. Is that fair or not?

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A. I can't say any more than I've said. I don't think it was necessarily recorded or filed.
Q. It must have been written down. It's not something --
A. Why? It's just a few phone numbers or an address or a name.
Q. But an address or a registration mark or --
A. Yes, the reporter would have written it down and --
Q. Common sense would dictate you would have to write it down unless you had a photographic memory. Wouldn't you accept that?
A. Yes, but in the reporter's notebook.
Q. Which might still in Associated's offices?
A. Funnily enough, it's so long ago that most of the people involved have actually left the paper, are working elsewhere or emigrated.
Q. In 2009, the Information Commissioner made a public statement both to the Select Committee and to the Society of Editors conference that he would provide relevant information on request to editors. Why did Associated wait until July 2011 to ask for it?
A. I've looked at that. I think I, in common with the rest of the industry, weren't aware that he'd made that offer. As I say, at a previous Select Committee hearing, one of my senior managing editors had actually asked for the access to Whittamore's books. At that Page 61
meeting, as you know, the then Information Commissioner, Richard Thomas, said he couldn't do that because that would be an offence itself under the Data Protection Act.

I gather this offer was made by the next Information Commissioner. It wasn't picked up by us. We'd been asking, as I said, over the years. Subsequently, at a Society of Editors informal lunch, that offer was again made by the new Information Commissioner and at that stage we took it up.
Q. Is it really your position -- does it amount to this: that given that the Daily Mail were acting in good company with everybody else who was also acting in breach of the Data Protection Act, there was no need for the Daily Mail or any of Associated titles to do much about this?
A. No, it's not my position, but when you knew that every other paper was doing it, I suppose one dropped one's guard slightly. All I'm trying to tell you is when I did know the extent of it, I moved decisively and ruthlessly to stamp it out. Other newspapers didn't, and we did.
Q. And that was in 2007, wasn't it?
A. Precisely.
Q. Okay. May I move on to another topic, please, and that
is -- it relates to some evidence we heard quite recently on, I think, Thursday afternoon. It's the Baroness Hollins evidence. It's under tab 37, please, of the bundle, and a piece in the Daily Mail dated 12 November 2005. The reason why it's appropriate to ask you this is that her evidence was that the Daily Mail was, as it were, the worst offender. Have you seen that evidence, Mr Dacre?
A. I -- yes, I have.
Q. Do you have the piece to hand? It's a piece by Lucie Morris --
A. I have got the piece to hand, yes.
Q. Thank you. The headline is "Abigail, the brother who dotes on her and the riddle of another random brutal attack".
She made two complaints about this. The first complaint relates to identifying the brother by name and by stating -- which was the case and is the case -- that he was born with learning difficulties. Why did the Daily Mail print that information?
A. Can I say as strongly as I can that this, I believe, shows how the Inquiry doesn't understand how newspapers work. To my mind, this is a story and a feature handled with superb sensitivity. I've been through it. I think it's written with massive compassion. I think the Page 63
family come out of it wonderfully. The love between the brother and sister is extraordinary. The religious faith of the family comes across. The learning disability -- the mother and the son wrote a book about that, on how to handle court cases for people with learning disabilities. I think that's a wonderful message to get out to the public. I think that was an extraordinary story. A girl stabbed, paralysed, having a baby. We then learn that her brother was stabbed in similar circumstances years ago. An open court discussed that case. It was reported by the local papers. That's how our journalists knew about it. I repeat: I think this story was handled with massive sensitivity.
Q. I don't think Baroness Hollins' complaint related to the lack of sensitivity or compassion. It related to the identification of her brother and as well the attempt to link this attack, namely on her daughter, with the attack on the brother when there was no need --
A. I think the police initially discussed that possibility with the family. Both stabbed in mysterious circumstances. It's not an absurd suggestion.

As to the identifying the brother, I'm afraid we have an open court system. His name would have been revealed in court. If anybody had wanted to take

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revenge on him, they knew who he was.
Q. That may be right, Mr Dacre, but we see a photograph of the brother on the next page. We see his name. Why was that information in the public interest to print?
A. Because it had already appeared in a court case, and it's an extraordinary story. It's a moving story. It tells you volumes about the experience of people with learning disabilities and the problems they face in court. The story also revealed that his attacker was out of his mind on drugs, an interesting point the public should know about, and those who demand the decriminalisation of drugs should consider.
Q. I'm not sure you were making that point in this article, were you?
A. I think it's part of it, yes.
Q. But the attempt --
A. I think it's a very --
Q. The attempt to link the two attacks, when you referred to the "riddle" of another random brutal attack -I mean, the attacks were entirely disassociated, weren't they? They were tragic coincidences. One occurred one year, the other occurred several years later. There's no nexus between the two.
A. I think most reasonable people, members of the public, would say, "What an extraordinary coincidence." It Page 65
raises questions about policing. It raises questions about what kind of people commit these attacks, and indeed it emerged later that the man who attacked her, or committed suicide and was presumed to have attacked Abigail, was another huge drug user.

I refer to the piece -- it said:
"It did cross their minds in those first few hours that perhaps Abigail had been the victim of some kind of revenge attack by associates of the man who were jailed for Nigel's attack. The police asked them about every possible enemy the family may have had and the link was explored by detectives."
Q. So I think your position is that Baroness Hollins is being oversensitive by being critical of this article; is that right?
A. I don't know the circumstances of Baroness Hollins, but I would like to point out that two years later she gave an exclusive interview to our health pages. It's headlined "Abigail's journey":
"Two years after Abigail Witchalls was paralysed by a deranged attacker, her psychiatrist mother describes her amazing recovery and surprisingly insists we must not toughen our mental health laws."

That article was exclusive to our good health pages and it subsequently received an award from the Mental

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## Health Media Awards.

"The awards organiser told the journalist she'd been dominated by one of the great and the good and described the article as the most uplifting piece about recovery from mental illness he had ever read."
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's very interesting, though, isn't it, Mr Dacre, that a president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, professional lady, who has gone through all this and who has been prepared to provide information as you've just described, should feel so strongly about an article which you applaud?
A. I do, actually, yes. I'm sorry.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But there is an interesting inconsistency, isn't there? I'm not saying who is right or who is wrong but there is a lady who has been through all this, who feels victimised by this. I mean, you doubtless heard her evidence or have seen it.
A. I did.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And yet you feel very strongly tha there is absolutely nothing wrong with it at all, and on the contrary --
A. If it clearly distressed her, Baroness Hollins, then I hear that, but I am saying I cannot understand how this piece could have been written more sympathetically. I don't think it intrudes into their grief because Page 67
subsequently she wrote very, very fully about it. I think it's in the public interest to know about this story. We need to write about crime as journalists, so the public can have faith in our institutions, the police and the courts.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I agree with that entirely, and I've publicly said that, wearing a different hat, on more than one occasion. But I am just pointing to the difference of view, because whatever you might say about some people, this is a lady who is clearly in tune with the Mail because she was prepared to be interviewed, but still felt very strongly about what you'd done on this occasion.
A. I can't explain that inconsistency.

MR JAY: Another piece, under tab 25. It's the Jan Moir piece, 16 October 2009.
A. Could I just gather my notes, please?
Q. Yes, of course. I don't know whether you have it separately or in the bundle we provided.
A. I don't know. Right, okay.
Q. I don't know whether this article is available for putting up on the screen. I can't think of any reason, unlike the previous article, why it shouldn't go up on the screen, although it attracted vast number of complaints at the time.

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The version we have has a different headline from the original headline. Do you see it? The headline we see is "A strange, lonely and troubling death".
A. That's the one I have here, yes.
Q. The original headline was this: "Why there was nothing 'natural' about Stephen Gately's death." That's right, isn't it?
A. This is a terrible thing to admit. If you say that -I don't know. Can I get back to you on it? It's very rare for us to change a headline.
Q. It's clear that was so --
A. We're not talking about the Mail Online, are we?
Q. -- because that's made clear from the PCC adjudication. This is the Daily Mail, not the Mail Online.

No, I think you're right, that the online article was originally headlined "Why there was nothing --"
A. Well, let me --
Q. Just hold on.
A. All right sorry, but it is very unhelpful.
Q. You're right; the article we see, this is the original and correct headline. The online edition had a different headline, "Why there was nothing 'natural' about Stephen Gately's death", and that headline was changed fairly quickly. Do you follow me? Do you know why that was so?

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A. I haven't got a clue. As I said, Mail Online has its own separate editor. I'll make an intelligent guess: that -- it's done in an enormous rush this, okay? It's done very fast. The online moves 24 hours, changing its stories all the time. My guess is they might have seen that headline and half an hour later thought it was a little insensitive and changed it.
Q. Okay. When the furore blew up at the time, presumably you became immediately aware of it; is that right?
A. Well, the following day or whenever it was, yes.
Q. What was your view about this piece when you read it?
A. When I read it in the paper?
Q. Yes.
A. My view was that perhaps when the furore -- perhaps the timing was a little regrettable. I think the piece -the column could have benefited from a little judicious subediting. But I -- you know, I'd die in a ditch to defend a columnist to have her views, and I can tell this Inquiry there hasn't a homophobic bone in Jan Moir's body.
Q. Right. Because many have said -- and so I suggest to you that it may be the case so you can comment -- that the whole tone of the article is homophobic and there was a cack-handed attempt, if I can put it in those terms, to link this man's death, which was due to

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natural causes, with his particular lifestyle.
A. Okay. Well, can I just --
Q. Do you accept that?
A. No. Before I answer that, can I just place this in a context? Jan Moir's column, it's opinion, was placed on page 37 of the Daily Mail.
Q. Mm-hm.
A. There it is. That day and previous days, these were the headlines that appeared in popular newspapers: "Stephen killed by 8-hour binge", "My hot romp with Stephen and his hubby", "I did have sex with Stephen on night he died", "Cops: Stephen had smoked cannabis".

I would suggest that on page 37 of the Daily Mail was not the same tone as that kind of material and other people had said far more offensive things, and the timing, again, was inappropriate.

You keep using the phrase "a lot of people" complained about this. You realise that these are all online complaints and this is an example of how tweetering can create a firestorm within hours. A well-known celebrity, who admitted he hadn't read the article, said it was unpleasant. It was then tweeted to other people who retweeted and we had a viral storm. Most of those people conceded they hadn't read the piece. That's where the 25,000 complaints came from to Page 71
the PCC.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It may, of course, be that all the headlines are legitimately subject to some criticism.
A. I'm trying to put it in context, that even though there were certain words that I would have liked to have removed in this piece, I think the theme was fair comment. Indeed, Matthew Paris, probably one of our more brilliant commentators and a sincere gay rights campaigner, reached the same conclusion.
MR JAY: Let me just read out some of it:
"But hang on a minute [this is on the penultimate column on the left-hand side]. Something is terribly wrong with the way this incident has been shaped and spun into nothing more than an unfortunately mishap on a holiday weekend ..."
A. What are you reading from?
Q. I'm reading from the print edition, the left-hand column, penultimate paragraph.
A. Yeah, yeah.
Q. "... mishap on a holiday weekend, like a broken teacup in the rented cottage."

I'll miss out some words:
"The sugar coating on this fatality is so saccharine-thick that it obscures whatever bitter truth lies beneath. Healthy and fit 33 -year-old men do not

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climb into their pyjamas and go to sleep on the sofa, never to wake up again. Whatever the cause of death is, it is not by any yardstick it is not by my means a
[italicised] natural one."
That's going too far, isn't it?
A. I've already said that the piece could have benefited from judicious subbing.
Q. But you presumably approved this piece before it went out, didn't you?
A. I think I am famous over 20, 22 years an editor for the amount of hours I put in at the office. It's a very rare night when I leave before 10 o'clock. On that night in question, when that piece went in the paper, I was at a delayed birthday present for my wife at the opera.
Q. Okay. I think you accept that there are parts of this article with which you're not comfortable; is that right?
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He's said that.
A. I've said that several times, although I repeat I would die in a ditch to defend any of my columnists' rights to say what they wish, and my right to suggest that occasional sentences or words could be adjusted. I repeat: Ms Moir, who used to work for the Guardian, by the way, hasn't a homophobic bone in her body.

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Q. In fairness to you, it should be pointed out that Janet Street Porter wrote a highly critical piece against Jan Moir --
A. That's how the paper dealt with it. We had another eminent columnist. She profoundly disagreed with Ms Moir. We conducted an online debate and published lots of letters from readers. It should be said, by the way, that very view of our readers complained about it.
Q. Do you mean by that complained directly rather than to the PCC?
A. By email or letter to us or phone call.
Q. Can I deal with Mr Jefferies? There were libel proceedings, I think it's right to say, which culminated in a settlement and apology. Is that right?
A. Yes, but contempt proceedings weren't taken against us.
Q. That's right. The contempt proceedings were taken against the Mirror Group and News International. The piece itself is under tab 23. It's dated 31 December 2010 and it's our page 31969. Do you have that?
A. I don't know.
Q. Then the next page, 31970.
A. Yes.
Q. It should be made clear that the Attorney General took the view, as has already been pointed out, that contempt proceedings should not be taken against the Daily Mail

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in relation to this piece, and some would say it's less defamatory than pieces we see elsewhere and which the Inquiry --
A. I would certainly say that, and indeed on television at the time, which for some reason, seems to have got away with this completely.

Can I just explain -- there's several factors considered here. Over the years, I think the Attorney General has been less and less clear on what constitutes contempt, and it may be welcomed that Dominic Grieve is now providing more guidance. I think standards did slip in this area. I'm prepared to accept that. I think our treatment of this story was at the very modest end of offensiveness.
I repeat -- I want to go back to the point I made before. The police made this man a suspect. We need to be able to report crime. Police need an independent press, but the press need an independent police force. It is very, very helpful in these cases, the publicity given by the police to help solve the crime.
Q. But those matters, taken either individual or cumulatively, are not a justification for this sort of piece?
A. No. I apologise to Mr Jefferies. We learnt from the process. I repeat: ours, I think, was the least

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offensive of many of the papers that day, including one of the broadsheets, and we've learnt from the experience.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is there something about the fact that if one paper starts a particular line, there's something of a snowball effect and it might impact on the way in which other newspapers report the same story?
A. I think there may be a temptation to that, yes. I think this all occurred on the same day from memory, but yes, I think the way the boundaries are pushed by the press collectively almost encourages some papers, not all papers, to push the limits too far.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But that's itself a potential problem. I mean, obviously you're looking at what your competitors are doing all the time, because you see it online --
A. Yes, it's a potential problem, but I repeat -- you know, contempt of court hasn't been tested for many, many years. I think it was becoming too relaxed, and I think people felt they could get away with more and more, particularly television companies, and I welcome Dominic Grieve's firm guidance now as to standards we should observe.
MR JAY: This was over the holiday period. Were you, as it were, in the saddle the night before, 30 November?

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A. I do apologise, the Portuguese police. The family
    appointed their own public relations expert, and I think
    this was seen by some papers as giving the green light
    that anything that kept this in the public domain and
    increased the possibility that the girl would be spotted
    would be helpful. I think that was a terrible mistake.
Q. You disassociate the Daily Mail, I suppose, from these
    other newspapers?
A. No, I think looking back there was obviously the odd
    article that we regretted. I think -- but I think, on
    a balanced view of the Daily Mail's performance on that
    story over the years, I think we were at the more
    responsible end.
Q. Or, perhaps uncharitably turning around, less
    irresponsible than other newspapers; is that fair or
    not?
A. No.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's interesting. That's the third
    example we've just looked at -- Gately, Jefferies,
    McCanns -- where there has been, as it were, a snowball
    effect. It is an interesting aspect of these very
    difficult, very high profile stories.
A. Yes. Gately was only over a few days, I think.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh yes.
A. And Jefferies was only over a few days. This was a --
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what? One-year, two-year story?
MR JAY: That's right. It's only right, Mr Dacre, that
having mentioned three stories where some might say the
Daily Mail is worthy of criticism, there's a story which
I'm sure you would say is rather different, namely the
Stephen Lawrence story. There was a famous headline,
wasn't there, in 1997, where you -- and I think you will
freely agree that you were responsible for the
headline -- named the murderers, as you described them.
Two, of course, have been found guilty now. I'm right
about the date, it was 1997, and there were further
articles you wrote very recently about it.
That, I'm sure, is something that you are very proud
of; is that right?
A. I am very proud. The Daily Mail is very proud of it.
Q. It has been suggested -- and I put this forward just so
that you can deal with it, but obviously I'm not
expressing any opinion. It's been suggested by some
that the reason for the Daily Mail siding with the
Lawrence family was the fact that Mr Neville Lawrence
did plastering work in your home several years
previously. Some would say that's very uncharitable
suggestion, but I offer it up for comment by you.
A. Well, it is an uncharitable suggestion. I mean, are you
really telling me that I would risk going to jail,

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I would risk destroying my career, I would put my proprietor and my paper in that position, and that I couldn't take a principled stand against something I felt very strongly about, and that was only because this man, at some stage many years previously, had done some plastering work for me? I really do find that insulting and it's with more sorrow than anger that I respond to it.

Are you really suggesting that when the Daily Mail launched a great campaign to provide the relatives of the Omagh victims support in their action to take civil action against the terrorists who ruined their lives -and we raised money for them, and we financially indemnified them, and the historic decision -- the courts awarded damages to that family -- are you saying that's because I knew someone from the Omagh campaign? Well, I served in Ireland sat some time. Are you really saying that because I know someone who carries plastic bags that we launched our great campaign to ban plastic bags from Britain? Are you really saying that I needed to know someone involved in the Garry McKinnon case, in which an Asperger's victim, a vulnerable Asperger's victim, is being extradited because of our unbalanced extradition laws to America? I did that because I knew someone?

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LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't think you need to --
A. I'm trying to make the point that we do a lot of campaigns, we passionately believe in it, and I find the suggestion -- the begrudging suggestion on the left that we can't do that quite disgrading(?).
MR JAY: I'm really the vessel through which a suggestion has been made, Mr Dacre.
A. I realise that. I'm very --

MR JAY: When you say "you", I think you're directing it to the world at large, rather than ad hominem to me, but may I move on and address the case of Mr Grant. I'll do it quite shortly, because I know that --
A. Hang on a minute. I have to find my Grant file, please.
Q. Our tab 36, a piece in the Mail 22 November 2011. Do you see on the right-hand side, about halfway down, the paper's response?
A. I'm so sorry.
Q. Do you have this one, Mr Dacre?
A. What page is it?
Q. It's our tab 36 in the bundle we've prepared for you. It's the piece in the Mail, 22 November.
A. 30 ... I have 34 ...
Q. 36.
A. 35 ... I know this sounds very stupid, but I have a 35 and a 37. I don't seem to have a 36. I have 35,

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Hugh Grant's witness statement. I don't have a 36 .
Q. It may be I can take is quite shortly, but if you want to see the exact wording, please ask.
A. Okay.
Q. The paper's response -- the Mail on Sunday said -- and I'll read it on out:
"The Mail on Sunday utterly refutes Hugh Grant's claim that they got any story as a result of phone hacking. In fact, in the case of the story Mr Grant refers to [I think have you it now] the information came from a freelance journalist who had been told by a source who was regularly speaking to Jemima Khan. Mr Grant's allegations are mendacious smears driven by his hatred of the media."

Now, that terminology, "mendacious smears driven by his hatred of the media", was that your form of words, Mr Dacre?
A. Can I explain the circumstances of that? I was off that day on an outside appointment. Not off; out of the office on an outside appointment, and I was driving back and the 4 o'clock news came on the BBC and the headline was as followed:
"Another major newspaper group has been dragged into the phone hacking scandal. Actor Hugh Grant has accused the Mail on Sunday -- Associated Newspapers' Mail on Page 85

Sunday of hacking phones."
It was a terrible smear on a company I love. We had to do something about it. I discussed with the Mail on Sunday's editor what our response was. A long convoluted press statement was being prepared. I was deeply aware -- and he was deeply aware -- that you had to rebut such a damaging, damaging allegation, and we agreed on the form of words: "It was a mendacious smear."

Let me explain why I feel it was a mendacious smear. You will have read -- you have already interviewed our legal director on this for a considerable amount of time. Our witness statements have made clear that Associated is not involved in phone hacking and we've denied phone hacking in this instance, anyway, specifically. Mr Grant, on previous occasions, had made this allegation -- if I could just refer to them --
Q. I think we've noted those.
A. I don't think you have, because you haven't admitted our latest statement, have you?
Q. Can we try and take this more economically, Mr Dacre?
A. It is terribly important --

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, but hang on. I'm a bit concerned that you've made your decisions based upon a radio headline. Did you actually see the transcript

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before you made --
A. But I had to rebut the fact that your Inquiry was being told that we, Associated Newspapers and Mail on Sunday, was hacking into phones.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But did you ask precisely what Mr Grant had said?
A. Yes, of course. I had that because I was in liaison with the office.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So you knew that the headline did no reflect what he'd said?
A. Yes, but that -- the damage was being done and I'm glad to say that once we got our statement out, we had a much, much more balanced reporting of it by the BBC and other media. But if that had been allowed to stand, it would have been devastating for our reputation.
MR JAY: I just wonder, Mr Dacre, whether you didn't shoot from the hip a little but too fast on this occasion.
A. Not at all. It needed rebutting instantly. This is how modern communications work. It is my view that Mr Grant made that statement on the opening day of the court -Hacked Off, the organisation backed by the Media Standards Trust, attempted to hijack your Inquiry with that highly calculated attempt to wound my company, and I --
Q. I'm not altogether clear, Mr Dacre, whether you're

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saying that Mr Grant perjured himself. That's what "mendacious smears" might suggest.
A. I'm not going to go into that area. I've tried to tell you the context of why we had to rebut this.

I mean, let me say as clearly and as slowly as I can: I have never placed a story in the Daily Mail as a result of phone hacking that I knew came from phone hacking. I know of no cases of phone hacking. Having conducted a major internal enquiry, I'm as confident as I can be that there's no phone hacking on the Daily Mail. I don't make that statement lightly, and no editor, the editor of the Guardian or the Independent, could say otherwise.
I'm prepared to make this -- I will withdraw that statement if Mr Grant withdraws his statements that the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday were involved in phone hacking.
Q. I'm not sure I'm in a position to broker a deal between you, but can I just ask this, Mr Dacre: why didn't you come back, as it were, in the measured way you're coming to this Inquiry and then just say --
A. I've tried to explain -- sorry.
Q. And then say at the end:
"In the circumstances, Mr Grant is incorrect."
A. Because then it would have been too late. By then, it

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would have been too late. My company would have been smeared, my newspapers would have been smeared and I wasn't prepared to allow that. This is how modern, instant communications work. It's not in the measured slow way of the court.
Q. But of course, Mr Grant had already made the statements, and you were then saying it was a mendacious smear, which, if anything, inflamed the situation.
A. No, he'd made his earlier statements, saying that we'd used Paul McCullen (sic) -- and incidentally, McCullen said we didn't hack phones and Mr Grant on that day said we did. He'd already made these statements. We'd emailed his lawyers to tell him he was inaccurate. He knew that we were denying it, yet he repeated that.
Q. Is this not an example of attack being the best form of defence?
A. No, it was a perfectly sensible way to defend the reputation of my company, my newspapers.
Q. By being aggressive. Do you accept that?
A. Well, I think Mr Grant was being very aggressive by saying we hacked phones.
Q. Mr Dacre, I'm not -- because others may be more concerned to do so -- going to go into the underlying facts. I'm concerned only with "mendacious smear". Do you follow me? You've given your evidence on that, Page 89

## I think.

A. Thank you.
Q. There's one point which arises on your supplementary
statement, if I can just draw attention to that quite briefly. I'm not concerned with most of it, for obvious reasons. I think it's in paragraph 16. I'm just going to read this out and ask for your comment.
"Mr Grant has attacked press intrusion and harassment after the birth of his love child following a 'fleeting affair' with former girlfriend Tinglan Hong, yet he has repeatedly publicly spoken of his desire to be a father, either with Liz Hurley or particularly around the time he was promoting About a Boy, a film in which he single-handedly brings up a child."

Are you saying there that in the light of Mr Grant's public statements about his wish to be a father, it is effectively open season, that the Daily Mail and everybody else is entitled to explore the circumstances of the child's birth --
A. I'm not saying --
Q. -- even if the mother wishes to remain private?
A. With respect, I'm not saying it's open season. What I was trying to show here was that Mr Grant has spent his life invading his own privacy, exposing every intimate detail of his life --
Q. That wasn't the question --
A. Hang on, please let me finish. Particularly he's spoken frequently about his desire to have a child,
particularly at the time when he was making a film about a child. It seems to me a little bit ripe that when he does have a child, he and his press representatives won't confirm or deny that. I mean, it's not a question of intrusion. In fact, the story broke on an American website and that was the way it came out into the open.
Q. But there's a whole apparatus of intrusion which is involved here: trying to get information from a private hospital, sending a photographer around to the mother's house --
A. That's not an intrusion. When someone has a baby, the press, through the ages -- popular newspapers have sent photographers around to ask if they can take a picture. It's as old as time itself.
Q. Is it part of your analysis or argument that you are entitled to intrude into these matters because of what you set out in paragraph 16 , that Mr Grant has stated publicly that he would like to be a father?
A. I don't say we have a right to intrude; I say we have a right to make enquiries, legitimate enquiries. Mr Grant is a major, major international celebrity. People are very interested in his life, a life -Page 91
a narrative of a life which he's created with those people.
Q. What about the position of whom you describe as the former girlfriend, who might and probably does have no interest in these matters?
A. I don't know.
Q. You don't know? Is that something that you're ignoring or just sweeping under the carpet?
A. No, it's legitimate for the press to ask for a photograph or to make enquiries about when someone has a baby by a major international film star, and it worries me that you can't understand this.
Q. Can I ask you just this question about this statement: did you write this statement?
A. Which statement?
Q. The second statement of Friday's date.
A. The --
Q. The one we're looking at now.
A. Oh, I see. Obviously I knew about it and had a hand in it, yes.
Q. It's your --
A. Well, obviously --
Q. It could be said a number of possibilities, that you asked someone else to write it and then you checked through it --

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A. Obviously, I didn't write all this but I wrote it --

I had input and it was done at my behest, yes.
Q. Language like "love child", did you put that in or did someone else?
A. Where is" love child"?
Q. First line of paragraph 16.
A. I'm sorry, it's a shorthand phrase used by newspapers.
Q. By you?
A. Well, I'm a newspaper man.
Q. Why are we seeing this statement last Friday at

9 o'clock? Why not earlier on?
A. Well, because I'd been deluged with so many questions and so much paperwork on this earlier in the week that I only got around to it then. I apologise for issuing it late, but I did want to make the point that there's a whole celebrity industry out there. You don't seem interested in this.
Q. No, I think the Inquiry is interest in this, and it would have been, if I may say so, more valuable, if there were good points made in this statement about which the Inquiry is neutral, to have provided the Inquiry with this material much earlier --
A. Oh, I --
Q. -- perhaps even before Mr Grant was called so these points could be put to him. Do you see that? Page 93
A. As we didn't know what he was going to say at that stage, I'm not sure that's correct.
Q. Certainly soon after he gave evidence on -- I think it was 21 November, rather than two and a bit months later. Do you see that?
A. In retrospect, yes. I don't think it negates what I'm saying. I think the Inquiry has ample time to consider it now.
Q. You've known for a considerable period of time when you were coming along to give evidence, haven't you, Mr Dacre?
A. I'm trying to explain to you how -- as well as being editor-in-chief, I'm the day-to-day editor of the Daily Mail. We've had an enormous amount of enquiries from your Inquiry which I've tried to deal with. In an ideal world, yes, it would have been nicer to get that to you earlier. I repeat: I don't think it undermines what I say, which is a valuable debate, and I wish we could spend the time discussing the fact that the celebrity industry exists and how the press responds to it.
Q. May I move on to another topic. As I've said, that's as far as I feel I should go with Mr Grant and "mendacious smears". Tab 28, which is a piece which was in the Daily Mail, although we only have the online edition.

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"Cancer danger of that night-time trip to the toilet".
A. Right, can I get a minute to get my file on it. Right.
Q. The reason why this has been chosen, (a) it's been drawn to the Inquiry's attention online, but secondly, some would say it's illustrative of the type of popular science story that the Mail is good at, or not, as the case may be.

First of all, we can see it's apparently by a Daily Mail reporter. We don't know the name of that reporter, do we?
A. No, but that's a common newspaper -- a practice common to all newspapers. Actually it's a layout device to break that line, if you put a Daily Mail reporter on a story that possibly came in from an agency and the Daily Mail reporter might have put a -- would change some of it.
Q. So is this right: that agencies specialise in this sort of story. They look at scientific articles, they try and summarise them, and they put the most attractive or sensationalist spin on them. Is that fair?
A. No, I don't accept that at all.
Q. The underlying article, which I've obtained from Israel, which was published in the Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics journal for 2010, is a very precise and, some would say, uninteresting article, save for Page 95
scientists, about flashing light at mice for one-hour pulses and seeing what happens to cell division in the brain. The conclusions of the two researchers -- it's Dr Ben-Shlomo in Haifa and Mr Kyriacou in Leicester -is that there was some sort of association between cell division and changes in the cells, but they find no causal relationship between turning on lights for a short period of time and cancer.
A. May I read what their press release said:
"Just one pulse of artificial light at night disrupts circadian cell division ... damage to cell division is characteristic of cancer."
Q. You're reading from what?
A. I'm reading from the press release that accompanied this story, presumably from the University of Leicester and Haifa University.
Q. Are you reading from a press release which the press which the Press Association or someone else --
A. No, no, no, a press release would have been handed out by the university.
Q. Could you read it out again?
A. "Just one pulse of artificial light at night disrupts circadian cell division. Damage to cell division is characteristic of cancer."
Q. The article, which is referred to specifically in the Page 96

Daily Mail piece, says something more precise. It refers to an association between the disruption of circadian clock in mammals and interference in the regulation of cell cycle and malignancy, and it says:
"The molecular intracellular signalling pathways by which light regulates and modifies the expression of the cell cycle in tumorigenesis genes is not yet clear. The increased relative risk for cancer among shift workers raises the question of whether this is a causative phenomenon or spurious association."

But it says nothing about increasing cancer by flicking on light switches when one is going to the toilet.
A. Yes, I can read that quote, but I can also say that our -- it was (inaudible) the agency that supplied us with this story. They included the line about going to the loo. They got this man talking to one of the researchers and they put that over as a quote. Unfortunately, in the copy -- it was taken out of a quote and put in the copy.
Q. The University of Leicester felt so strongly about this that they put out a press release which made it clear turning on the light to go to the toilet does not give you cancer, and saying:
"There's no connection between illuminated nocturnal Page 97
calls of nature and cancer, despite what concern newspapers are claiming."

Then they mention the Daily Mail.
A. I've equally read out to you either their press release or the University of Haifa's press release.

Can I just put it in some context? This was a small little story at the bottom of page 18 and I categorically dispute this -- that we adopt an irresponsible attitude to medical or science stories. Every week we have a 14-16 page good health supplement that is full of wonderful information about the developments in medicine.
Q. If it was possible for me very straightforwardly by email to request a copy of the original article from Haifa, as it happens, because the key author has given her email address, why didn't the Daily Mail do exactly the same before publishing a piece in its paper?
A. You misunderstand how journalism works. The Daily Mail 18 has hundreds of stories in it. Thousands of stories in a week. It's 120 pages. If they come from an agency, a reputable agency, we put them in the paper.
Q. Because the Daily Mail publishes loads of material which suggests alleged causes of cancer or material which says certain things prevent cancer --
A. That's a caricature of the Daily Mail, with great

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respect. I checked with my news desk on this. They receive two or three stories a day which we don't put in the paper or they don't put in the paper because they don't trust the providence. Those stories regularly appear in other papers, including the broadsheets.
Q. Because one of the authors, Professor Kyriacou, told AOL Health:
"The switching on of lights causes cancer when you go to the bathroom at night is an eye-catching fabrication of the press."

In other words, of you. Presumably you don't, at present, accept that?
A. I've read out their press release to you.
Q. You don't accept this is an example of imprecise journalism, if I can put it in those terms?
A. I don't, really, I'm afraid.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Do you think there is a point, though, that actually great care has to be taken? I heard the evidence last week -- I think it was last week -- from a lady who is concerned with the way in which science is reported, and she provided a whole host of -- a large number of examples of headlines which actually caused enormous concern and damage, and was keen to encourage me to look at ways of facilitating the better reporting of science. Do you think there is Page 99

## something in that?

A. Well, I think we should address this constructively,
but -- you know, the great challenge for a newspaper is to take an incredibly complicated subject like this -in this instance, this was done by an agent's report -no one in this room understood a word of what you were saying when you read out the description -- and put in language which is accessible to people -- ordinary people who don't have a scientific or medical background.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I agree with that, and indeed I have applauded a number of articles in a number of newspapers which do create understandable pieces around extremely complex subjects. But that carries with it an enormous responsibility as well, doesn't it?
A. Yes, of course.

MR JAY: I'm not sure that the article, which I have provided to Associated, is that complicated. The authors are saying quite clearly that there is no established causal relationship between flashing light pulses at mice, even for one-hour periods, and cancer --
A. I can only keep reading out this press release. And incidentally, you know, our paper's done an immense amount of good on the medical front. We've carried campaigns on osteoporosis, on Alzheimer's, prostrate

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cancer. A huge amount. We've done a series on it, raised money for these complaints.
MR JAY: May I move off science --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think that was the point I was
making when I addressed my question to you.
A. Fine, thank you. Indeed, I'd ask you to get the representative of those three areas and ask them to come here, because I think they would sing our praises very highly.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You don't need to convince me about10 the good work that can be done.
A. I understand.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: However --
A. I understand.

MR JAY: Mr Dacre, I would like to ask you about
Mr Morrissey's case, only because in a succinct and, if I may say so, well-written submission, a number of points are made. It's under tab 34. I don't have the URN number, although it has been provided.

Mr Morrissey is a well known television actor. He's best known for a comedy, "Men Behaving Badly", and this was a piece in the Mail published in March 2011 where the headline was: "Man behaving badly -- TV star banned from bar near his idyllic French retreat after locals object to 'le binge drinking'."

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What happened here, if I can seek to summarise the position, is that a Mail reporter did try and contact Mr Morrissey, or through his agent, before publication. The allegations were strongly denied. The point was made that Mr Morrissey did not want his privacy compromised and yet the Mail went ahead and published. So far so good. Is that what happened, so far as you're aware?
A. Well, our journalist had spent several days interviewing the bar owners and his clients and believed the story. They had ample evidence for the story and support for the story. The allegations were put to Morrissey's PR agent, who initially denied that he had ever drunk at the bar. She then admitted that he had attended it and had left the bar without paying for his drinks, as the article alleged.
Q. But Mr Morrissey was denying the main thrust of the article, which was about binge drinking, wasn't he, so far as you were aware?
A. "His solicitors did not deny that he'd been banned for drunken rowdy behaviour. They simply stated that he, Morrissey, was unaware of any ban and had no means of knowing if it was true. Morrissey has been accused of rowdy, drunken and intolerable before. See attached article on his flight from Australia on a BA plane."

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Q. The questions which I have been asked to put to you in relation to this: do you accept that whether or not Mr Morrissey had been banned from a bar for alleged rowdy or drunken behaviour was not a matter of any significant public interest?
A. No, I deny that. I think it's a matter of public interest.
Q. What was the public interest?
A. This man is a famous actor, a celebrity who appears in television programmes. He's a role model to young people. It doesn't seem to me a very attractive way of persuading young people to behave properly.
Q. Isn't it simply the case that it's rather amusing that the television comedy is called "Men Behaving Badly" and here we have Mr Morrissey allegedly behaving badly. That's what interests the Mail and nothing much more than that, isn't it?
A. No. No, it's a major celebrity. It was an interesting story. At odds with his image as a TV actor.
Q. Right. The point is then made that -- I think this must be accepted by you -- the allegation was nonetheless obviously potentially highly damaging, as well as extremely insulting and hurtful. Do you accept that?
A. I accept that our journalist spoke to people and when it later came to be looked into and it was possibly going Page 103
to court, the people who had given them this evidence weren't prepared to go to court to stand up the story. Obviously we did pay damages, we made amends. He issued a unilateral statement in open court in which he said he felt fully vindicated.
Q. I think we're moving on a bit, Mr Dacre. The question was: the allegation was obviously potentially highly damaging, as well as extremely insulting and hurtful. Do you accept that or not?
A. If untrue, it was damaging, yes. Not hurtful.
Q. The next point was made:
"It wasn't necessarily or desirable that the piece be given immediate publicity."

Do you accept that?
A. I'm sorry, what are you trying to say?
Q. That you should have carried out further enquiries, particularly in the light of Mr Morrissey's denial. That's the point which is being made. Do you accept --
A. Well, his PR admitted that he had attended the bar, having first denied that he'd ever drunk there, that he'd left the bar without paying for his drunks and that we had a picture of a poster put up by the bar in question: "Do not serve this man."
Q. You're making it sound as if, Mr Dacre, you shouldn't have settled the libel action, which you did do, didn't

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you, and you paid him and apologised?
A. I have explained very carefully that the people who alleged this and gave us this story were not prepared to go to court. It does happen. You know that it does. But I'm saying we acted properly, we offered amends, we paid damage, we carried two apologies and he read out a unilateral statement in court in which he said he felt fully vindicated.
Q. Do you accept that Mr Morrissey's denial of the allegation was not included in the articles?
A. I'd have to look at it but I don't know. I can get back to you on that. We carried the statements from the PR, didn't we?
Q. This was a whole-page spread, wasn't it?
A. It was one page, I believe. Yes, one page. Two-thirds of a page. Hardly.
Q. Inn't this a classic example of a story whose value, if it exists at all, is only to entertain, but it is an intrusion of privacy --
A. If true, which we clearly believed at the time, I think it is a valid story for a middle market paper, a lot of whose readers watch his programmes, to carry.
Q. Because it might amuse them; is that right?
A. No, because I think it interests them and I think it has some relevance. Allegedly, we believed he had behaved Page 105
in this irresponsible fashion.
Q. What happened then was a letter of complaint was written by solicitors to you on 23 March 2011.
A. To me?
Q. Yes. To the editor-in-chief.
A. It would have just gone straight to our legal department.
Q. The letter made it clear that if a retraction and apology were given promptly, he would forego any claim to damages. Is that right or not?
A. I don't know. I can get back to you.
Q. The letter apparently went unanswered for a month. Is that typical?
A. It's very untypical. I'd be surprised if that was true.

Let me look into it, I'll get back to you.
Q. The line that was taken when there was a reply from your legal department on 21 April was that the articles were not defamatory to Mr Morrissey and what's more, they portrayed him in a sympathetic light, which is a phrase you have given us in relation to another piece.
A. I think that was the Abigail --
Q. Yes.
A. Yes. Totally different.
Q. Yes. But do you feel that that was a fair way of putting it, that the article portrayed him in

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a sympathetic light?
A. I don't know whether that was said. I don't know who said it. I'm very happy to look into it and get back to you.
Q. It was also said in the letter that the Mail did not stand by its story. It did not, as it never would, suggest the allegations of rowdy drunken behaviour by Mr Morrissey were true or that he had in fact been banned from the bar, but you refused to withdraw or apologise for publishing the allegations; is that right?
A. I'm sorry, you keep asking me questions. I don't know. This came in very late last week. We will look into it and we will get back to you in a very considered way.
Q. The upshot was that there wasn't an apology, there were libel proceedings --
A. We published two apologies.
Q. Eventually you did, didn't you, Mr Dacre? There was an offer of amends and eventually a libel settlement. But one aspect of this -- the final aspect of this which I should deal with -- is paragraph 24 and 25 of the submission, which I know you have.

It's that during the course of the litigation, your solicitors decided to proceed with the publication of an apology, and that was done in the Corrections and Clarifications column, which was a fairly new column -Page 107
it had only been set up a few days before -- and that was done on 18 October without reference to Mr Morrissey, wasn't it?
A. I'm very sorry, Mr Jay. I can't answer these questions. I repeat: I'm an editor-in-chief of a major publishing group. I edit the Daily Mail on a day-to-day basis. I don't drill down into this micro detail on these things, but I promise I'll get back to you very, very fully with the full answers to all these questions.
Q. So you don't drill down into the detail, even when they're extant libel proceedings; is that right?
A. No, I don't.
Q. Is it going to be the practice, though, of the Mail in future to publish apologies in the clarifications and corrections column? Because after all it's not an apologies column; it's a clarifications and corrections column, isn't it?
A. I think if an apology is needed, that's an appropriate place to put it. I don't think it's occurred yet, so we need to look into that.
Q. I can see that if it's just an error, one would want to correct it quickly and prominently, but isn't it slightly misleading that if an apology is going to be included, the column is just described "clarification and corrections" rather than "apologies" as well?

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A. Then I'd expect in that column it would be worded as an apology. I believe the Guardian does this, exactly this, puts its corrections and --
Q. It may or may not do, but at the moment I'm asking questions of the Mail's editor and not the Guardian's editor. It might be said that it's all been buried here. Is that fair?
A. What, on page 2?
Q. Under a column at the bottom which says, "Clarifications and corrections". Is that really prominent enough?
A. I can't win here. We now start putting our corrections on page 2, which everybody's welcomed as a major step forward. Before, we would have carried on the apology on the page of the article where it was carried. I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't, it seems to me.
Q. But, ultimately, there was a statement in an open court?
A. Yes. Which Mr Morrissey said he felt fully vindicated.
Q. Yes, and I think there was a further apology; is that correct?
A. I don't know.
Q. But this case was carried out under a conditional fee agreement, which you, of course, are very hostile towards, aren't you?
A. No, I think it's an admirably well-intended bill, piece of legislation designed to help people, but I think it's Page 109
been hijacked by predatory lawyers charging exorbitant fees.
Q. But without a conditional fee arrangement in this particular case, I think it's fairly clear that Mr Morrissey would not have been able to bring that action against your paper?
A. I don't know. I would have thought Mr Morrissey was wealthy enough to bring that action.
Q. He says in paragraph 5 of his statement he was in an IVA at the time -- he's put that in his statement, so there's no reason why I shouldn't make reference to it -- from which you might make reference that without a CFA he wouldn't have been able to take you on. Do you see that?
A. I don't know. I need to look into it and get back to you.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He says so in terms in paragraph 39 but we've got the point.
MR JAY: I think there may be a wider point here, that the curbing of CFAs -- which may happen anyway, regardless of what this Inquiry does or does not do --
A. I understand that.
Q. -- will or might leave organisations such as yours in
a more powerful position than they're even in now. Would you accept that?

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A. I don't accept that, because at the moment we are having to fight cases which cost us in excess of $£ 500,000$, in which ultimately as little as $£ 5,000$ damages are awarded. I don't know enough about the Morrissey case. I think he was inclined to accept our original offer of amends and I think this, because this is a no win fee, his lawyers wanted him to ask for much, much more to cover their disproportionate fees and their success fees and their after-the-event insurance arrangements.
Q. I think they would have got those anyway, Mr Dacre, but let's move on.

If I can just deal with the issue of CFAs as a separate matter, was there -- indeed it's clear there was -- there was a meeting involving you, Rebekah Wade, Murdoch MacLennan and Jack Straw over CFAs, or maybe it was a dinner. It's referred to in our tab 9. It's
A speech you gave. The fourth page of that speech. If I can just lock it in in terms of time, it's a speech you gave to the Society of Editors. I'm not clear entirely when this was. I think it was probably before mid-2008, when the 2008 Act came into force in relation to Section 55 of the Data Protection Act, but we can see from page 4 you say this:
"Thirdly, there's to be action on the 'scandalous' greed of CFA lawyers. That adjective is not mine, by Page 111
the way, but Justice Minister's Jack Straw's in a recent speech on the subject. For following Number 10's intervention all those months ago, there have been many constructive meetings between the industry and the Ministry of Justice on what to do about CFA.
"A few weeks ago, I, Rebekah Wade and Murdoch MacLennan saw Jack Straw who assured us that, in the next few months, he is set to unveil proposals to reform CFA, including capping lawyers' fees."

Can you tell us the circumstances in which you met the then Lord Chancellor?
A. Yes, I'm very happy to tell you the circumstances. I think you'll find about a year or so earlier, I, Mr MacLennan and Mr Hinton, the senior members of the newspaper industry, had become increasingly concerned about potential threats to press freedom, and had asked for a meeting with the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. We outlined what our worries were. There were threats to the coroner's reports -- reporting of coroner's courts, there were threats to freedom of information, this he were going to charge for it. We were deeply worried, for reasons you well know, about CFAs and we were very worried about the proposal to amend the Data Protection Act so that journalists should be jailed, which we felt would provide a huge chilling

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effect on journalism and would mean that Britain is the only country in the world which would jail journalists.

He was sympathetic to that, said he would arrange a meeting for us with Jack Straw and that was the context of that.
Q. Yes. Thank you. Was it over a meal or was it in his offices?
A. Jack Straw? I think it was in his office over a cup of coffee. I don't recall. I've had meals with Jack Straw over the years. I've known him -- we were at university together.
Q. Yes. Or was it because of your long association with Jack Straw -- as you said, you knew him from university, obviously some years before -- that you had access to him coupled with the fact that you're one of the most powerful editors in Fleet Street?
A. Every industry sees politicians to put their case and their worries. I don't think it's anything to do with my relationship with Jack Straw. It's very senior members of the newspaper industry were very worried about these developments and he was kind enough to see us, to hear our concerns.
Q. Were you, generally speaking, on good terms with Mr Straw or not?
A. There have been times I've been on good terms, there Page 113
have been times when I've criticised him in the paper and not I'm sure those terms were so good. I don't quite know where this is leading.
Q. I think all that's being -- might be suggested is that you were close to Mr Straw, you'd been to university with him --
A. I then had --
Q. You had his ear, you were able to try and persuade him --
A. I think that's a --
Q. -- to bring in legislation to abolish --
A. -- terrible insult to Mr Straw. He's a very independent minded man, a very robust man. I'm sure he has many legal friends, by the way.
Q. Out of interest, did he say that he would take steps to abolish CFAs? I think that's what you're suggest --
A. No, I think that's probably shorthand in the speech. I can't recall what he said. I think he was sympathetic and conversations went on as to what could be done about this. We weren't involved in them, necessarily.
MR JAY: Okay. I probably have another quarter of an hour. I don't know how you feel we might proceed. I was hoping to finish in three hours, but I'm --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: We started late and had rather a longer break.

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MR JAY: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sure, Mr Dacre, you want to deal
    with this so that you don't have to come back.
A. That's the understatement of the year, your Honour.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh, I can do better than that.
A. I'm sure you can.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Does it cause anybody inconvenience
    if we carry on?
MR JAY: Not every point that I might put is going to be
    put.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON:Mr Jay, we are going to have anothe
    short break to give the shorthand writer, who is working
    extremely hard, the opportunity to have a rest, but
    we'll just have a couple of minutes. Thank you.
(5.11 pm)
            (A short break)
(5.15 pm)
MR JAY: Mr Dacre, I've edited down my questions and I can
        I move to a miscellany of different topics, if you don't
        mind. First of all, you tell us in your statement that
        you turned down editorships of the Times and the Daily
        Telegraph because you felt you would not be guaranteed
        editorial independence. What, if anything, is your
        evidence base for that statement?
A. Well, my evidence is I've worked as an editor for the
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1 Rothermere family for 22 years, I've worked for the present Lord Rothermere and his father. There's not a day I don't feel very privileged and grateful for having done so, because they allow--
Q. I'm sure --
A. Excuse me, please let me finish! Because they allow me total freedom to edit my paper. It is not my experience that editors of other papers are allowed that freedom.
Q. It's really that point I wanted to explore. I'm sure that you are given editorial independence at the Mail and I wasn't questioning that. I was questioning --
A. Well, you can't -- no one can be sure of that. It's quite rare in Fleet Street.
Q. I was taking it as a given, but I was --
A. Well, I don't --
Q. -- trying to explore with you the evidence base for your statement that you don't think you would have been guaranteed such independence elsewhere, do you follow me, and I just wanted to know what your evidence base was.
A. Rupert Murdoch has been a very great proprietor in his time, but I don't think he would have given me the freedom I wished to have as an editor.
Q. Are you prepared to elaborate on that or not?
A. Well, as I say, I think he's been a very great

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|  | proprietor who obviously has deep problems now, but in | 1 | you're making it clear there that you had access to |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | the past, not so much now, I don't think there's any | 2 | Brown, you were lobbying him and he was on-side; is |
| 3 | doubt that he had strong views which he communicated to | 3 | that right? |
| 4 | his editors and expected them to be followed. The | 4 | A. I am saying that like many people in different |
| 5 | classic case is the Iraq War. I'm not sure that the | 5 | industries we have problems and ours was a fairly major |
| 6 | Blair government -- or Tony Blair would have been able | 6 | dustry, the press industry employs thousands of |
| 7 | to take the British people to war if it hadn't been for | 7 | eople. We asked to see the Prime Minister about it, he |
| 8 | the implacable support provided by the Murdoch papers. | 8 | agreed to see us and he was sympathetic to some the |
| 9 | There's no doubt that came from Mr Murdoch himself. | 9 | ases we made. |
| 10 | Q. In relation to Section 55 of the Data Protection Act, | 10 | Q. We heard from Mr Thomas that it was Mr Brown to spoke to |
| 11 | I think you cover this in an article in the Guardian, | 11 | $r$ Thomas and ended up with the position that the |
| 12 | 10 November 2008, which was under our tab 33. You say | 12 | amendment to Section 55 would not be brought in as |
| 13 | this, it's on the first page just under the lower | 13 | tended, but instead there would be a statutory |
| 14 | holepunch: | 14 | instrument, which in due course might permit it to be |
| 15 | "About 18 months ago | 15 | brought in. You will recall -- |
| 16 | News International and Murdoch MacLennan of the | 16 | A. I don't know about Mr Brown's role in it, but that's |
| 17 | Telegraph [seems to be the same people all the time, but | 17 | a description of what happened eventually. |
| 18 | not Rebekah Wade on this occasion] had dinner with | 18 | Q. You were intending, of course, to achieve that will very |
| 19 | Gordon Brown and raised these concerns." | 19 | consequence, that Mr Brown would have a role in it and |
| 20 | A. I've already told you about th | 20 | speak up -- |
| 21 | Q. Well: ' | 21 | A. It didn't intend that at all. We had a dinner with him |
| 22 | "We had a meeting with Jack Straw. | 22 | to outline our concerns, he was kind enough to hand the |
| 23 | This is a separate one with Gordon Brown? | 23 | matter over to the Justice Department. Mr Straw and his |
| 24 | A. That's what set it in train. It was he who aske | 24 | fficials were -- listened to our case and that was the |
| 25 | Straw to look into our worries. Page 117 | 25 | outcome. <br> Page 119 |
|  | Q. Those concerns you're referring to there are concerns | 1 | Q. But surely it was your hope, if not your expectation, |
| 2 | with conditional fee agreements but we're off that | 2 | at you would be able to bring Mr Brown on-side and |
| 3 | issue, we're onto Section 55. Then you say: | 3 | once he was on-side, he would use his influence as |
| 4 | "[We also raised] a truly frightening amendment to | 4 | Prime Minister to them help the press out. That must |
| 5 | the Data Protection Act, winding its way through | 5 | have been your state of mind, mustn't it? |
| 6 | Parliament, under which journalists face being jailed | 6 | A. We wanted to make a Prime Minister aware of our |
| 7 | for two years [et cetera]. This legislation would have | 7 | concerns, just as I suspect Rolls Royce meets with him |
| 8 | made Britain the only country in the free world to jail | 8 | order to make him concerned about the worries to the |
| 9 | journalists and could have had a considerable chilling | 9 | engineering industry. |
| 10 | effect on good journalism. | 10 | Q. Why were you opposing the amendment of Section 55, the |
| 11 | "The Prime Minister -- I don't think it's breaking | 11 | ossibility of a prison sentence, if it was your |
| 12 | confidence to reveal -- was hugely sympathetic to the | 12 | position that breaches of the Data Protection Act were |
| 13 | industry's case and promised to do what he could to | 13 | no longer occurring at, for example, your titles? |
| 14 | help. | 14 | A. Well, in the public interest they could, couldn't they? |
| 15 | "Over the coming months and battles ahead, Mr Brown | 15 | Q. I didn't catch that. |
| 16 | was totally true to his word. Whatever our individual | 16 | A. In the public interest they still can, can't they, or |
| 17 | newspapers' views are of the Prime Minister -- and the | 17 | could. |
| 18 | Mail is pretty tough on him -- we should, as an | 18 | Q. But if you were confident that a public interest defence |
| 19 | industry, acknowledge that, to date, he has been a great | 19 | would be made out, there would be no question of any |
| 20 | friend of press freedom." | 20 | sentence, let alone a custodial sentence, would there? |
| 21 | A. This was my speech to the Society of Editors, it was | 21 | A. Yes, but there's a great difference between what |
| 22 | intended for consumption by editors. You say it was an | 22 | a reporter believes when he's starting out in an |
| 23 | article in the Guardian; it was my speech to the Society | 23 | inquiry, he can believe at that stage that he was acting |
| 24 | of Editors. | 24 | in the public interest and at the conclusion of his |
| 25 | Q. Yes, I think they had just reprinted it verbatim. So Page 118 | 25 | inquiry, finds he wasn't. We thought this would put Page 120 |

30 (Pages 117 to 120)
journalists in a very difficult position and we are,
I think, eventually there was a clause put in that it
would be in the reasonable expectation that a journalist
was --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: There was a heightened defence that
there's a justification that is both subjective and objective, so it wouldn't just be what the court thought was in the public interest but that what the journalist reasonably thought was in the public interest would be sufficient. Doesn't that cope with your concern?
A. Yes, but -- yes, it did, and that was as a result of our conversations with the (inaudible). It was put in at that stage, I believe.
MR JAY: I may be wrong, but I think the introduction of this part-subjective element was going to be part of the defence to Section 55 even with the custodial sentence in any event.
A. I'm not sure it was. I need to look into it and get back to you.
Q. Wasn't this the case, though, of you, with respect, overstating or unreasonably overstating your position and, what's more, influencing government to come to a conclusion which was palatable to you?
A. I think that's a preposterous suggestion, with great respect. It was a principled position that the industry
adopted. I don't really want to live in a country where journalists are jailed when they're trying to make legitimate enquiries, and --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't want them to be prosecuted
for making legitimate enquiries either, but I'm not so sure that the amendment does that. But I think we've travelled over the territory.
MR JAY: Yes.
Overall, do you mind me putting this question: was your relationship with Mr Brown better than your relationship with Mr Blair?
A. You could say that, yes.
Q. I didn't catch the answer?
A. You could say that.
Q. "You could say that"? Perhaps that was an example of understatement, was it?
A. Mr Brown I first really got to know when he asked me to review the 30 -year ruled into the release of state papers and I headed a panel comprised of distinguished historian and a distinguished civil servant and eventually we recommended it was reduced to 20 years that the papers should be released and I'm very proud that's been passed into law. That's how I got to deal with Mr Brown.
Q. The final question: you're obviously proud of the Daily

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Mail --
A. I'm very proud of the Daily Mail.
Q. -- and you've been there for probably -- well, we know, very nearly 20 years. Are you equally as proud of the Mail's online operation?
A. I'm very proud of the Mail Online, which last week became the world's biggest internal newspaper site.
Q. The but are you equally as proud of it, particularly the standards which they exemplify --
A. It's only been going for couple of years so it's evolving and clearly everything can improve, but I think to come from a cold start to being the world's number newspaper internet site is an achievement that British journalism should be proud of.
MR JAY: There may be or may not some further questions, but thank you very much.
A. Could I just say one thing? You have painted a very bleak picture of the Daily Mail by highlighting what are rather rare things. Cases like Mr Morrissey's are rare. They're not everyday. We produce hundreds and hundreds of stories every month, thousands if not millions of story on the Mail Online and Daily Mail every year. Most of those go down very well with our readers and provoke no complaints from the people concerned.
MR JAY: That you very much --
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A. So you've presented a somewhat one-sided picture of the Mail.
MR JAY: Thank you, Mr Dacre.

## Discussion

MR SHERBORNE: Sir, it's a somewhat unsatisfactory position we've reached now at almost 5.30 . There are a number of matters that I wanted to pursue with Mr Dacre, lines of inquiry which I have pre-notified Mr Jay, and which, as I understand it, have been notified to the other core participants. They relate to three matters, which have previously been the subject of evidence by Ms Hartley, whose supplemental statement, you'll recall, was received too late for them to be dealt with when she gave her evidence.

They're the evidence surrounding the birth of Mr Grant's daughter, the plummy-voiced film executive story and the "mendacious smears" attack on Mr Grant, as part of the wider attack, we say, on witnesses who have given evidence to this Inquiry.

It's fair to say that unfortunately this has become rather personal as against Mr Grant, when we say this is really about the wider culture, ethics and practices of the press. I know, sir, you understand that point, and I hope the other core participants do as well.

I say we've reached an unsatisfactory position
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because it's actually worse than that. There are
a number of matters that I need to deal with as a result
of Mr Dacre having gone to some lengths, understandably,
to introduce into his evidence his latest witness
statement, which, sir, you indicated you would want to
hear submissions about before these matters were dealt
with today.
That latest supplemental statement, of course, was
received by Mr Jay personally, I think, at 9.30 pm on
Friday. Mr Grant's witness statement, which has not
been read into the record, was actually sent to the
Inquiry's solicitors at 4.30 pm on Friday, within,
I would submit, reasonable time for it to be dealt with.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: 4.30 pm on Friday?
MR SHERBORNE: Mr Grant wasn't, of course, giving evidence.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, I know, but anyway. Carry on.
MR SHERBORNE: I can go through the history of it --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, no, don't go through the history
Mr Sherborne.
MR SHERBORNE: There's no objection, of course, to that
statement, but those are matters that I need to deal
with Mr Dacre, and I do fear that that's going to take
some time. It obviously depends on the answers, but it
will take some time, and you'll recall that this is a
matter which really goes all the way back to the morning
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of 22 November, when I raised serious concerns, as did
Mr Garnham on behalf of the Metropolitan Police, as to
the article that appeared, the press statement that appeared online, which was put out by Associated Newspapers, in which it referred to all of those matters, and then concluded with the "mendacious smears" accusation.

It was at that time, sir, you recall, that you asked Mr Caplan to consider --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I remember how this has emerged. 10
MR SHERBORNE: And it was only as short a time ago as
11 January when Ms Hartley gave evidence that at the end, as you'll recall, I laid down the marker that I would need to deal with these matters with Mr Dacre, when he came to give evidence on 6 February, and it's only right that he should do so.

That's why I say we've reached a very unsatisfactory position that at 5.30 pm I'm about to begin questions, with your permission, which will take us some time beyond 6 o'clock.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, they won't, because I've not given anybody half an hour as yet.
MR SHERBORNE: I understand that, but this is a matter, as I say, which has some considerable history to it, and quite a lot of warning has been given that these matters

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would need to be dealt with.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But I've not as yet given any core participant the right to cross-examine anybody for quite as long as that. I've allowed certain questions. Let's see what Mr Caplan has to say.
MR CAPLAN: Sir, I would suggest that these questions do not and should not be put by Mr Sherborne. You'll remember, sir, when Mr Grant gave evidence I did not cross-examine him. I said evidence would be filed. I think if I had applied to cross-examine him, it would have been given very short shrift.

Sir, the procedure to which we have all been working is that core participants put questions which are relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference through Inquiry counsel, and on very, very rare exceptions have you given leave for core participants to cross-examine a witness. The Information Commissioner was one.

Sir, the three issues that Mr Sherborne has highlighted are all to do with Mr Grant. The "mendacious smear" is a matter which has been covered by Mr Jay already. The issues concerning the birth of Mr Grant's daughter and the issues concerning the plummy-voiced executive are issues which satisfactorily, insofar as they are relevant, can be dealt with by evidence on paper.

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Sir, you have said many times that you're concerned with the general issues and the important issues here of culture and practices of the media, and with respect, these are issues in respect of which no finding of fact is in fact required.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I agree, but --
MR CAPLAN: I'd also mention one other thing, if I may, and that is that the story in relation to the plummy-voiced executive in any event is a story which was published in the Mail on Sunday, in respect of which Mr Wright was the editor.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand that, but the response to it, Ms Hartley said and indeed Mr Dacre has said, involved him.

I understand the point. I am concerned with the culture, practice and ethics of the press generally, but there is no doubt that this particular dispute has achieved a significance -- maybe rather larger than it merits but undeniably has achieved that significance, and indeed the additional statement that Mr Dacre has signed deals extensively with the relationship between his newspaper and Mr Grant.

I think that it would be wrong to prohibit
Mr Sherborne from asking some questions, and I'm not going to, but I am going to require him to do so very

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I want to think about the second statement of Mr Dacre.
MR SHERBORNE: Mr Dacre's already given the evidence which is contained in his statement in answer to Mr Jay. He introduced a number of items he tried to read out from the schedule which was attached to it and he has concluded, as I say, in his answers the nub of the point that is contained in the latter half of his supplemental statement.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, if --
MR SHERBORNE: I'm not going to be able to ask him the questions that I wish to ask him without, in fairness to him, putting to him what is in Mr Grant's supplemental statement.
MR CAPLAN: I was just going to say -- I don't want to interrupt proceedings. I know if possible we want to conclude Mr Dacre's evidence as quickly as possible, so I hear what you say and the sooner, if I may say so --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right. If it means that all these statement goes in, then so be it.

Mr Dacre, I am prepared to carry on because I'm conscious of your other responsibilities, but if you feel you'd rather return at some other time, then equally I'm prepared to adjourn now.
A. I'd rather deal with them now.

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right.
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Questions by MR SHERBORNE
MR SHERBORNE: Can we deal with your latest supplemental statement, Mr Dacre, and although Mr Grant will respond to it by way of a further statement, can I deal with two points. The latter half of your statement appears to be a further criticism of Mr Grant. Can I summarise it in this way, because of the time: that contrary to the impression he gave in his evidence about not wanting to be in the press or to have his picture taken, firstly in fact he is all too happy to be photographed, even in the street, for example, which is what you say, and second, he was keen to get himself into the media and promote his commercial ventures as much as possible. Is that a fair summary of the latter half of your supplemental statement?
A. Yes, that is reasonably fair, in the sense that I believe Mr Grant has spent his life opening up his own life to the public, invading his own privacy and discussing the most intimate details of his life.
Q. Can I start, then, with your accusation that Mr Grant is only too happy to be photographed in the street.
A. I don't think I say that.
Q. You do. Paragraph 14. I took the wording from your statement.
A. Paragraph 14 ?

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Q. 14 of your witness statement.
A. No, I don't say it's happy. I say there are thousands of published photographs of Mr Grant that can be classified as follows, and I denote the various classifications.
Q. You do use the words, don't you? Can I just look at paragraph 14 :
"He's happy being photographed in public places."
A. In paragraph 14 ?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes. I'm sorry, you're right. You're right, yes. I presume, as he's smiling in the pictures.
Q. You see, that's the precise opposite, Mr Dacre, of what you've attacked him for in the past. Are you aware of that? Can I quote you an article?
A. Excuse me, I don't think I've ever criticised Mr Grant.
Q. You say in your statement that he's only too happy to be photographed in the street.
A. I include that as one in four categories of photographs that have appeared of Mr Grant, thousands of them in British papers over 12 years.
Q. Can I read to you what the Daily Mail wrote on 3 May 2007 in an article by Alison Boshoff which was about the notorious incident, if you remember, when Mr Grant kicked a baked bean tin at a paparazzo who was waiting

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for him. Your article says this:
"Grant, as usual, was annoyed to be photographed in the street."
A. What year was this?
Q. 2007, your newspaper. Do you accept that that is inconsistent with what you say in your statement now?
A. I really can't believe this Inquiry expects me to remember something that happened five years ago in the Daily Mail in a feature. The point I'm trying to make is here is a man who has assiduously, throughout his life, backed up by a huge celebrity PR industry, courted the press.
Q. In the same article it says this:
"Despite the fact that they played such a big part in making him both famous and wealthy, Mr Grant detests the media."
A. That's the original article, is it?
Q. Yes.
A. If you send it to me, I'll look at it and get back to you in detail, but I can't possibly be expected to answer something that occurred in an article five years ago.
Q. You see, the same inconsistency applies to the promotion of his films. In your latest statement, you say that he "mercilessly promotes his films, commercially exploiting Page 133
his life in the process", but in an article which Mr Grant brought proceedings over, on 24 February 2007, you said precisely the opposite. You said this, Daily Mail, February 24, 2007:
"Much to her disappointment, it turned out that Hugh didn't like socialising at all. In fact, he hated it. He even resented having to promote his films."
A. Well, in that case, he's a very good actor.
Q. But you see, you apologised to him for that article in a statement in open court, which is exactly the same one as we have in relation to the plummy-voiced executive. Do you remember that?
A. Which one are we talking about now, sorry?
Q. A statement in open court that Associated Newspapers consented to in 2007.
A. I don't remember it. I shall go back to the office, I'll look into it and send this Inquiry a written submission if you require it. This is years ago.
Q. What I'm putting to you, Mr Dacre, is this: that this latest statement that was put together for you, as you say, with examples, no doubt, provided by people within your organisation is just another shooting-from-the-hip attack on Mr Grant, instead of simply responding to correct the record if there is an inaccuracy.
A. I categorically deny it. That is certainly not shot

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from the hip. It's a very considered argument. Over the years -- and we give ample, ample examples -Mr Grant has invaded his own privacy with great proficiency.
Q. I'm not going to take you, given the time, to the number of witnesses who have been attacked in Associated Newspapers' publications who have given evidence to this Inquiry --
A. You're giving a very partial impression of the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday.
Q. To be fair to you, Mr Dacre, it doesn't just relate to Associated Newspapers. There are other newspapers which have dealt with those who have given evidence here in a way which we say has vilified them, but since we're dealing with Mr Grant, we've seen the article that was written about him after the birth of his daughter by Amanda Platell. Do you remember it?
A. I remember that, yes.
Q. In which he was described, would you accept, in extremely nasty terms?
A. That was a strong column -- a columnist's strong views. Ms Platell is a star columnist of the Daily Mail, a very talented lady. She was expressing her views, as -I think it's labelled a comment page.
Q. Can I just read you very quickly some of the bits -Page 135
A. Was this not submitted earlier to the Inquiry? Is it necessary to read it out again?
Q. What it does, Mr Dacre, is it shows that the attacks which have been launched on various individuals for giving evidence are simply one way of just generating more stories. Do you understand what I mean by that?
A. I'm afraid I don't, no.
Q. Look, Amanda Platell describes the birth of Mr Grant's daughter on 3 November in these terms:
"Once a most loved actor, the truth is Grant has become a lonely, bitter man, consumed with hatred of the media who helped make him a star. One can only imagine how scarred his abandoned daughter is going to feel. It remains to be seen if the self-obsessed Mr Grant will be able to give any long-term commitment apart from a financial one, by dipping into his fortune."
That's written on 3 November, but Ms Hartley has exhibited to her supplemental witness statement an email from Mr Todd, one of the journalists who was trying to cover the birth of Mr Grant's daughter. The email that was sent to Mr Grant's assistant on 25 October, nine days earlier, says this about the birth:
"Hi Sarah [that's, of course, Mr Grant's assistant]. Further to our conversation earlier, this is to inform you we are intending to publish an article that Hugh

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Grant became a father for the first time on 26 September to a baby daughter born at the Portland Clinic in central London. The mother is Tinglan Hong. We think this is wonderful news."

It's hardly consistent, is it?
A. Yes, but it's -- with great respect, it demonstrates
a failure to understand how a newspaper works. This was a showbusiness reporter. He wants to get a story. He approaches the public relations representative of Mr Grant and says he'd like to write a story about it. It would have been very helpful at that stage if that public relations expert had told the truth and we could have published a sensible story and it wouldn't have had to wait for it to break on an American website.
Q. Let's come to the way in which it broke, shall we? You believe, don't you, in the importance of total journalistic integrity? Do you accept that?
A. I believe that journalists should behave with integrity, yes.
Q. You believe that throughout these events, your visits demonstrated total journalistic integrity, don't you?
A. My managing editors have looked into this and I think they're satisfied that we employed legitimate and correct journalistic procedures.
Q. Can we explore that a little bit. Can we start with Page 137

Ms Hong's mobile number and how Associated Newspapers got it.

Ms Hartley says that a journalist somehow got an address for Ms Hong, went to the flat and was provided by the girlfriend of the current resident with at least the lettings agency's identity and details. Is that right?
A. If Ms Hartley has told this Inquiry that, yes, I'm sure that's absolutely correct. Very honest woman.
Q. You've seen Mr Grant's supplemental statement, haven't you?
A. I haven't, no. You mean today's?
Q. The one served on Friday at 4.30.
A. No, I haven't seen it, no.
Q. Can I ask that you be given a copy of it? I'm surprised you haven't seen it. It was circulated, as I understand it, to all the core participants at 4.30 last Friday. Can I hand it up. (Handed)

You see, what Ms Hartley did not say, but we see from Mr Grant's supplemental statement -- if I can ask you to turn to the first exhibit, which is a letter from the girlfriend of the current resident. What Ms Hartley did not say is that the journalist who spoke to the girlfriend of the current resident didn't say he was a reporter from the Daily Mail at all.

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A. Well, my managing editor -- officers interviewed him and he insists he did. I'm sure he did.
Q. Here is a letter from Helen Ireland, who is the woman that he spoke to, and she says this:
"At no point did he identify himself as a member of the press. I've only recently been made aware of the previous tenant's circumstances, so would have asked a reporter why he wanted details. Although I would still have not been able to supply them with an address, I would have refrained from telling him who the letting agent was and where they were."
A. I don't know what you're wanting me to say. I've told you: a reporter represented himself as coming from the Daily Mail and I suspect this person in retrospect -and I don't want to put words into her mouth and make imputations -- probably regretted it and is saying that she hadn't heard that he was from the Daily Mail.
MR CAPLAN: Sorry to interrupt, but we just haven't had notice of these questions.
A. I know and it is -- I mean --

MR CAPLAN: Mr Dacre and I did not know these questions were going to be asked, but Mr Dacre is obviously giving the best answers we can to questions that are coming --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Had you seen this statement?
MR CAPLAN: The statement was served on us late on Friday Page 139
night. Mr Dacre has been busy, in fact, dealing with matters for the Inquiry, and in fact he has not actually seen this statement. He's been dealing with a lot of other material, and had I known he was going to deal with specific questions like this, obviously --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand.
MR CAPLAN: He'll do the best he can, but this is not a productive way, if I may say so, to deal with it. I didn't know, and we had no notice, these questions were going to be asked.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand the point, and if
Mr Dacre hasn't seen the statement, it's rather difficult for him to be able to deal with it.

I equally understand why you want to pursue them. I am keen to ensure that you've had the opportunity to ask Mr Dacre such questions as you feel are necessary within the constraints that I have given you. To what extent do you wish to go further into Mr Grant's further statement on the basis that doubtless this evidence will be served and be put into the Inquiry and people will be able to make submissions upon it as they will. It's unlikely that Mr Dacre is going to be able to unpick precisely what the reporter said to this lady, however much time he's given.
MR SHERBORNE: Sir, Mr Dacre in his supplemental statement
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relies on what Ms Hartley said in her supplemental.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
MR SHERBORNE: You will recall that when she finished giving
evidence, I said that we'd not had sufficient notice,
which you accepted, for me to deal with it with
Ms Hartley and I would have to deal with it with
Mr Dacre when he came to give evidence on 6 February.
It's clearly on the transcript.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I'm not challenging that for one
moment. It may be that the better course is to find a vehicle through which these questions can be asked,
but not necessarily now. I understand that you have
responded. I understand equally that there must
inevitably be limits on what Mr Dacre could have done over the weekend in any event and it may be that we will have to come back to it.
MR SHERBORNE: I understand that, and as I said, in order to
be fair to Mr Dacre, I think it is only right that he
has an opportunity to read this statement, because there
are matters in there which do relate to the evidence he
has given not only in relation to the birth of
Mr Grant's daughter, but also the plummy-voiced exclusive story.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But --
MR SHERBORNE: Then of course he's gone further, as you Page 141
heard in his evidence, than simply to make the "mendacious smear" accusation again, but rather to say this was a deliberate attempt by Mr Grant to hijack the Inquiry and to cause damage to his newspaper.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand.
MR SHERBORNE: So there are points I need to put, and I do stress that it is only fair to Mr Dacre that he has an opportunity to read this latest statement that was put in on Friday afternoon, and I am happy, as I said before, to deal with it in due course, but not at ten to 6.
A. Would it be helpful if you put your questions to me in writing and I dealt with them in writing back to the Inquiry? I can assure this Inquiry I will give them every -- the most considered attention and respond in the best way I can.
MR CAPLAN: That was the suggestion I was going to make to you, in that this part of -- these questions and this line of inquiry should be dealt with in writing.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm not so sure whether that's going to be satisfactory but the answer is this: whatever way is satisfactory, this isn't.
MR SHERBORNE: Indeed it isn't, sir.
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And I will revisit tomorrow how we address this particular set of issues. I'm not prepared

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to carry on. There is a limit to the time that I think is appropriate, given all the things that I have said about the focus of this Inquiry, to descend into some of the detail, but equally I understand that the issue, as I said to Mr Caplan, has become rather totemic and therefore requires further thought.

What I think we ought to do is stop now, revisit how we are going to address it, the extent to which it requires Mr Dacre or Ms Hartley, and think about it again. I'm not saying that I'm going to -- how I'm going to resolve it but I do think it's only fair to everybody that it's resolved rather more carefully than is likely to be possible at 10 to 6 on Monday evening.

Right. Mr Dacre, I understand the position you adopt. I am not prepared to allow you to be required to answer questions which you haven't had the opportunity to think about. I'm equally not prepared to shut out some of these lines in the light of the evidence and the allegations that have been made. Equally, I'm not prepared to take a great deal of time over what may not constitute central features of the over-arching aspect of the Inquiry.

So I will review how best to deal with it at some later time. It may or may not require you to return shortly, but if you do have to return, it will be Page 143
shortly. I'm sorry about that, but I think that this is simply not a sensible way of proceeding. I take entirely the point that you've made; I equally understand what Mr Sherborne has said. This just, however, isn't sensible.

In the meantime, I am very keen that those who are contemplating what the future should look like should take on board what you've said, which may or may not provide an additional avenue of legitimate Inquiry, but they should certainly look at it, and I'm grateful to you for continuing to think about these issues.

You should not believe, as I think two or three times you've said, that the Inquiry is taking a rather blinkered and only negative view of the press --
A. I didn't say "blinkered".

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, you didn't. That's my word.
A. I wouldn't have used that word. But I would ask your Honour to accept that perhaps inevitably the way the Inquiry has been conducted and televised, the British public are receiving a very bleak and one-sided view of the press which isn't fair or isn't true. A great industry that employs thousands of journalists --
LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm not sure that's entirely fair, because I think each of the editors who have given evidence have not only spoken of the very good work that

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