1 1 are straightforward and simple, the publisher should 2 2 (2.00 pm)short them out. 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. I think there is also -- there would be a view in 4 4 MR JAY: Lord Black, may we look at the draft regulations, here that, of course, there may be circumstances where 5 5 please, before we go back to your witness statement. an individual -- perhaps his or her relationship with 6 These are under tab 6 of the bundle which has been 6 a particular newspaper had broken down to such an extent 7 7 that that wasn't possible. Obviously in those 8 8 circumstances, the complaints arm of the regulator would LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. 9 9 take over right at the start. This is just intended to MR JAY: It's our page 00052. If you look at the opening 10 10 three regulations, the remit of the regulator: be a statement of the norm. 11 11 Q. Thank you. Regulation 25, this deals with when "The regulator shall regulate the following material 12 12 published by the regulated entities, subject to the a standards investigation is triggered. We saw three 13 13 exceptions ..." categories in your witness statement. There are four 14 14 And you define the material as editorial content in categories here but that doesn't matter. It's the 15 various places, whether it be printed or electronic 15 definition of "systemic failure" in 25.1 of page 00056: services and then there are various exceptions. In 3: 16 16 where it appears that there has been one or more 17 17 significant or serial or widespread breaches of the "Regulator shall not deal with ..." 18 3.3, for example, concerns about matters of taste, 18 Editors' Code or ethical standards which indicate 19 19 a systemic or serious failure at one or more regulated decency and due impartiality. 20 Would you agree that one could have, in principle 20 entities. 21 21 and in practice, secondary legislation which precisely So "systemic failure" includes serious failure, 22 reflected these regulations? 22 doesn't it? 23 23 A. I dare say in any set of regulations you could have A. As we discussed earlier, there could be examples where 24 24 a parallel set of regulations which were based in one single complaint had made clear that the governance 25 25 within a newspaper had broken down to such an extent statute. That's the nature of obligations on Page 1 Page 3 1 a publisher. So it would be impossible to disagree with 1 that it could trigger an investigation. So it may just 2 that assertion. The question is why you would do it. 2 be one episode. I think it is more likely to be where 3 Q. Mm. Then in regulation 8 -- it may be we've covered 3 there is evidence of veal breaches that have built up 4 this to some extent already -- complaints and mediation. 4 over time, but it could be one. 5 This our page 00053. In the second sentence: 5 Q. That arguably goes wider than that because it's the 6 6 "Regulated entities are expected to try and resolve breaches which indicate the relevant failure. The 7 their issues with the complainant directly where 7 relevant failure, although it's defined as a systemic 8 possible." 8 failure, is in fact either a systemic failure or 9 This is to obviate the need for a complaint having 9 a serious failure. So you could have one single serious to be made in the first place, is it? 10 10 failure which is indicated by one or more serial 11 breaches; do you see that? 11 A. This is to try to push more complaints back directly to 12 the publisher to deal with, on the basis that that's 12 A. Indeed, and that's why this is drafted in this way, to 13 13 likely to be quicker for the complainant, and indeed it give the trust board the maximum amount of discretion to 14 14 be able to trigger an investigation if it's clear that is in the grain of what we're trying to do in terms of 15 15 increasing transparency and accountability within one of those pertains. 16 16 publishers. Q. Regulation 31, just to cover a point that you made 17 before lunch, is where a regulated entity refuses to 17 Q. Although one wouldn't expect a regulator of doctors or 18 lawyers to be placing such an obligation on its 18 provide information. That refusal will be notified to 19 regulated entities. Would you agree with that? 19 the investigation panel. So that, as it were, the 20 20 A. But this is, I think, symptomatic of the fact that refusal will trigger or might trigger an investigation 21 actually in newspapers, quite often simple inaccuracies 21 because in itself it in itself is regarded as a serious 22 22 can occur just as a result of an accident. I think if infringement, isn't it? 23 23 you are a doctor and a small accident occurs, that's A. Correct. 24 probably a rather different matter than if a fact is got 24 Q. The rest of it is probably self-explanatory, apart from 25 25 the issue of fines or financial sanctions which we see wrong in a short local newspaper report. So where those

Page 2

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1 in annex B. This is page 00063:

- 2 "Power to impose the sanction resides with the trust
- 3 board on a referral from the standards and compliance
- 4 panel."
- 5 That is annex B clause 1.1. Then there are various 6 guidelines. In 2.1:
- 7 "The trust board shall have the power to fine
- 8 a regulated entity up to 1 per cent of its annual
- 9
- 10 But then there's a cap of £1 million in 2.2, so in
- 11 effect whichever is the higher.
- 12 But responsibility for these guidelines I think
- 13 resides with the IFB; is that correct?
- 14 A. In promulgating them in the first place, but as I said
- 15 earlier, they will become part of the regulations, so
- 16 they will, at that point, become the responsibility of
- 17 the regulator.
- 18 Q. Thank you. Can I go back then to your proposal
- 19 document, paragraph 40, the paragraph which deals with
- 20 complaints.
- 21 A. Bear with me one second, Mr Jay.
- 22 O. 00089.
- 23 A. This is paragraph 40 of the proposal document?
- 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The statement?
- 25 MR JAY: The proposal document.

Page 5

- 1 serious breach and that leads to a referral from the
- 2 complaints arm to the publisher because it raises
- 3 contractual disputes, so that when people go to the
- 4 complaints committee of the new regulator, they know
- 5 which are the various ways that their complaint could 6
 - possibly end.
- 7 That may help -- to go back to an issue you raised
- 8 earlier -- if necessary, to funnel more substantive
 - complaint through to an adjudication. I think that sort
- 10 of gradation of different types of sanction --
- 11 identifying that and making it transparent could
- 12 actually be an important new element of the complaints
- 13 committee.
- 14 Q. Although many of these sanctions are not within the
- 15 power of the complaints committee, they would require
- 16 a referral to or action by the compliance and
- 17 investigation panel, for example; is that correct?
- 18 A. Such as? I'm looking in paragraph 43 -- in the form of
- 19 resolution, published apologies, formal reprimand
 - through an adjudication. Those would all be within the
- 21 power of the complaints arm.
- 22 Q. Yes, but any fine would have to be via referral to the
 - compliance investigation panel.
- 24 A. If a complaint was so serious that it warranted
- 25 investigation with potential financial sanction, that

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1 A. Yes, dealing with complaints. I have it.

- 2 Q. I think it may be important to identify where this new
- 3 complaints arm of the trust board -- or the new
- 4 regulator, pardon me -- differs from the current PCC, in
- 5 what respects. Is it fair to say that the only real
- 6 difference is this: serving editors will no longer be
- 7 appointed by PressBoF or the IFB, but by the relevant
- 8 industry trade association?
- 9 A. That's one difference in the composition of it. I think
- 10 there may be some differences in process, but in the 11 composition, that is correct.
- 12 Q. As for process, how would you identify the relevant
- 13 differences between the PCC and this complaints
- 14 committee?
- 15 A. I think it's fair to say that probably in the way that
- 16 sanctions have been dealt with in the Press Complaints
- 17 Commission, there's been a certain degree of opacity
- 18 about them, both about the way the complaints are 19 actually resolved and indeed how they're recorded. What
- 20 I've been proposing in this document is that there
- 21 are -- that the regulator would in fact have a ladder of
- 22 sanctions from a fairly straightforward correction
- 23 through to a breach of the code that's remedied and
- 24 identified in statistics, through to a formal reprimand
- 25 of the editor, right up to where there has been a very Page 6

- 1 would have to be passed over to the relevant arm, yes.
- 2 Q. What the PCC does, if you compare paragraph 43 with
- 3 that, primarily it does informal resolution, which we
- 4 can see here. It does published apologies. I don't
- 5 think it does formal reprimands -- but I may be
- 6 corrected on that -- and it does adjudications but only
- 7 occasionally. So the only possible addition here is
- 8 formal reprimand, isn't it?
- 9 A. Yes, but what I'm talking about here is making the whole
- 10 process of this more transparent so that when
- 11 a complaint has to be conciliated through a complaints
- 12 arm, the complainant knows at the start: "These are the
- 13 various ways that your complaint may end up." I don't
- 14 think that is clear at the moment.
- 15 Q. Well, the complainant knows at the moment that his or
- 16 her complaint is not going to end up with a fine under
- 17 any circumstances or compensation.
 - A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. It may end up with an adjudication but it will be
- 20 obvious pretty soon that informal resolution is the
- 21 primary mode of dealing with the complaint. This system
- 22 doesn't differ very much from that, does it?
- 23 A. No, it's a simple codification of it, which I think
- 24 would help with reporting of statistics from the
- 25 regulator in a more transparent fashion than might have

Page 8

18

- 1 been the case previously.
- $2\,$ $\,$ Q. How does this system end up with more adjudications than
- 3 the current system?
- 4 A. That's going to have to be a matter for the complaints
- 5 committee. As I said earlier, I would expect the
- 6 regulator to take a more robust approach to adjudicating
- 7 where there was clearly a public interest or on point in
- 8 doing so.
- 9 Q. But how may that expectation be translated into reality,
- 10 particularly having regard to the fact that under this
- 11 system, 2.25 million is set aside -- minus, of course,
- the enforcement 100,000 pot which we've referred to --
- and under the old system it's 1.95 million? There'll
- still be an impetus, for reasons of financial
- stringency, on mediation, won't there?
- A. I don't think the cost of taking a complaint to a formal
- 17 adjudication would be that much different from the
- 18 actual mediation process of a complaint. I think you
- 19 also need to take into account with some of these things
- 20 the wishes of the complainant. There will be some
- 21 complainants who want a complaint dealt with privately
- by some form of resolution, who would actually object to
- a formal adjudication. I don't think it should be for
- 24 the regulator in those circumstances to ride roughshod
- over the wishes of the complainant but I don't see any
 - Page 9

- Q. I think it could be written in fairly easily. The way
- 2 it sounded coming out of my mouth as I was making it up
- 3 as it went along made it sound a bit cack-handed but it
- 4 could be done wide straightforwardly, I think.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You're agreeable with that principle?
- 7 A. As I say, I would hope it would be a matter of best
- 8 practice, but if there is merit in codifying it, we
- 9 will.

25

- 10~ Q. In relation to group complaints, which has been an issue
- 11 which has been of concern in relation to the PCC, could
- 12 you summarise how this process will differ from the
- PCC's process? You may want to look at paragraph 9 of
- the regulations in this context, Lord Black.
- 15 A. Indeed. I think there are two ways that there is
- a difference. As you rightly say, Mr Jay, regulation 9
- 17 will give the regulator and the complaints committee the
- 18 power to take up a third-party complaint where it
- 19 believes there is a significant public interest in doing
- so. So I think that if a group was able to show that
- 21 there was a very good reason why a complaint should be
- taken up, then it would.
- I also think that there may be a role for the
- 24 standards arm in this as well and if there is a group
 - that feels that it has been particularly badly treated,
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- difference in expense in these two things, certainly
- 2 such that would cause that budget figure to be knocked.
- $3\,$ $\,$ Q. So you're expecting the new regulator to form a judgment
- 4 as to which complaints of their nature are best dealt
- with by mediation -- it may be that the wishes of the complainant will be very important here -- and which
- 6 complainant will be very important here -- and which 7 should move forward for full adjudication; is that --
- 8 A. Yes, indeed, which would be helpful to the regulator in
- possibly bringing forward best practice guidelines in
 a specific area relating to an individual subject which
- would need to be done and hammered out on the back of
- 12 the adjudication.
- 13 Q. Do you think it might be better to have a sort of
- threshold written into the regulations which, if the
- regulator thought that there was prima facie evidence of a serious breach of the code or breach of the code which
- was other than minimum or raised minor questions of
- inaccuracy, then unless the complainant wished
- otherwise, almost as a matter of obligation, the
- 20 regulator should take that forward to an adjudication?
- $21\,$ $\,$ A. I would expect that to be the best practice of the
- 22 regulator. If there's a case for writing that in, if it
- can be codified in a way which can be written into
- regulations, then I wouldn't see a principled objection
- 25 **to that.**

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- 1 perhaps across a section of the press, and this has
- 2 arisen over time, in a -- to use that word -- systemic
- way again, then that may be a case that the standards
- 4 arm of the body could look at to trigger an
- 5 investigation into that area.
- 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Does that mean you visualise the
- 7 possibility that a group can't make a complaint about
- 8 a specific article but could spend a year collecting up
- 9 half a dozen and then complain to standards? That
- doesn't seem to be terribly sensible.
- 11 A. No, regulation 9, sir, would give a group -- on the back
- of one single complaint, it would give the regulator the
- discretion to be able to take that up.
- 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, but with respect there has to be
- a significant breach of the code, not just a breach.
- 16 There has to be a substantial public interest -- not
- merely a public interest -- and even then, that's in the
- 18 discretion of the head of complaints. I'm not sure how
- different that is from the present system, which merely
- says, "We normally accept complaints only from those who
- are directly affected by matters about which they are
- complaining", but which obviously admits of the possibility that you're prepared to go further. And
- possibility that you're prepared to go further. And indeed, it's been said that the PCC is prepared to go
- further. I'm not sure you've changed anything. If

1 anything, you've made it more clear that there has to be 1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It might be said that this 2 significant breach and a substantial public interest. 2 regulation 9 limits that which you say you presently do, 3 3 Is that really what you wanted to do? and therefore if you don't want to limit it, you'd 4 A. I think there is danger, as we saw in the case of the 4 better write it in, and I'm not talking about --5 Press Council many years ago, in a regulator having to 5 I understand the problem about group complaints but you 6 take up unfettered third party complaints. I think that 6 know that I have heard from those with mental illness, 7 7 where it is a third party complaint, except on a matter those with disabilities, those other groups not simply of accuracy, where the regulator, of course, will be 8 8 complaining about taste and decency or necessarily about 9 able to take up a complaint which is from a third party, 9 the ability of a publication to express an opinion, but 10 then we need to build some form of discretion in here. 10 about downright misleading reportage. That's the LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Where does it say that? 11 11 complaint that I've received and you may say it's not 12 12 A. Where does it say what? really valid or you may say anything you like, but if 13 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: A third party can always make you want to deal with it, doesn't it have to be in the 14 a complaint about accuracy? 14 regulations? 15 A. That's always been the case of the Press Complaints 15 A. But those complaints can be dealt with under clause 1 of 16 Commission. On accuracy of a point of fact, if it says 16 the code as it stands. If it's to do with misleading 17 17 something about a group -- if it says a group is X, Y or coverage of a group, then a group could be entirely 18 Z and that is wrong, then that group can take up an 18 entitled -- and you may want to talk to Lord Hunt about 19 accuracy complaint. 19 this later because I'm sure he's been dealing with some. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That doesn't come within paragraph 9, 20 A group may well be able to take a complaint to the PCC 21 21 does it? to say that this report says that whatever -- the 22 A. But that's the existing practice so that would continue 22 traveller community or whatever it might be -- it makes 23 under the code. 23 certain allegations about them and they're wrong. That 24 24 MR JAY: It could be said that this regulation is a greater complaint is already amenable to resolution or 25 force than the code and defines all the circumstances in 25 adjudication under clause 1 of the code. Page 13 Page 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It may be, but it doesn't seem to be 1 which complaints can be brought by what are described as 1 2 2 third-party groups. within rule 9. Anyway. Lord Hunt is nodding away, so 3 3 A. It's taken in conjunction with the code -- I agree with he'll be able to --4 that, Mr Jay -- in order to be able to give the 4 A. Oh good. 5 regulator quite significant powers to the take up group 5 MR JAY: I think Lord Justice Leveson's point is right in 6 complaints where it wishes to do so. 6 perhaps a different way. It is within rule 9 but the 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But you think the words "significant" 7 threshold now is higher, because whereas before you just 8 and "substantial" are essential because otherwise the 8 had to show a breach of article 1 of the code, now you 9 9 head of complaints won't be able to exercise his have to show a significant breach. 10 discretion appropriately? 10 A. I think, Mr Jay -- if you'll forgive me, I think this is 11 A. I think those words are important in there so that the 11 simply just to do with the drafting of the regulation. 12 12 regulator doesn't have to take up every single LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, it may be --13 13 A. But this is not intended to limit the ability of groups third-party complaint that comes to it on a potential 14 14 to complain under clause 1 of the code. matter of discrimination. 15 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sure Lord Hunt will have all the I remember from my own time of the Press Complaints 16 Commission, sir, that we dealt with quite a lot of 16 answers 17 potentially discriminatory issues, certainly regarding 17 A. He usually does, sir. 18 people with mental illness and mental health reporting 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. 19 on the back of good complaints under clause 1 of the 19 A. But just to confirm, this is intended to make it easier 20 20 code dealing with accuracy. So there are ways that for groups to bring discrimination complaints under the 21 21 groups can complain in the existing -- using the discrimination clause of the code. 22 22 existing powers and this is meant to be a further MR JAY: I can see that. If the purpose of rule 9 is to 23 23 assistance to them on top of that. So I think it lock into clause 15 of the existing code, then you would 24 actually strengthens the position for groups rather than 24 be right. 25 25 weakens it. A. Then we need to clarify. Page 14 Page 16

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- Q. The wording is deficient.
- 2 A. I'll take it up with --
- 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I can only say how I read it, that's
- 4 all, and I'm perfectly happy to be told that I am
- 5 reading it wrongly.
- 6 A. You may be reading it correctly, sir, but the intention
- 7 is as I've outlined it.
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand, I understand.
- 9 MR JAY: Can I go back to your ladder of sanctions point,
- 10 Lord Black, paragraph 43 of your statement. 00090. One
- of the points which has been made to this Inquiry
- relates to the publication of critical adjudications and
- apologies. It's under the amended clause of the code.
- 14 It has to be with due prominence, I think, but as agreed
- with the regulator or the PCC. I can't remember the
- exact language but can we understand precisely what's
- intended you under the new system? You say:
- "It would also be for the regulator to look into how
- 19 critical adjudications are presented and branded in the
- relevant publication to make clear that it's been
- 21 criticised and under the code to agree where it should
- 22 be place."
- But the regulator, I think, under the new system,
- will have the right to say, in default of agreement,
- 25 where the adjudication or apology should be placed; is
 - Page 17

- Q. Is this a matter for the Code Committee or the
- 2 regulations?
- 3 A. It will be a matter for both.
- 4 Q. If it's a matter for the regulations, unless we see it
- 5 in the regulations now, any amendment to the regulations
 - will have to be agreed by the industry, wouldn't they?
- 7 A. But if it's in the code, then the code -- because
- 8 compliance with the code is written into the contract,
 - then it will have the force of contractual obligation as
- 10 a result.
- 11 Q. So it would be a case then of the trust board ratifying
 - the recommendation of the Code Committee to amend the
- existing code to include these provisions?
- 14 A. Correct, which is why I put down there it's a matter for
- 15 them to deal with.
- 16 Q. Thank you. I'm looking over the remainder of this
- 17 proposal, just to check whether there are points which
- we haven't covered orally.
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, there are many, but the
 - question is which ones you want to cover.
- 21 MR JAY: Most of them we have covered already but I stand to
- 22 be corrected.
- Yes, the process of appeal. I don't think we've
- 24 covered that very clearly, Lord Black, so can we do that
- now? It may be that if we go back to our schema, which
 - Page 19

- 1 that correct?
- 2 A. The regulator will have to agree with the publication
- 3 where the adjudication will go. So it will give the
- 4 regulator a say over that, yes.
- 5 Q. Sorry, it either has the say over it or it agrees with
- 6 the relevant publication where it will go. They're
- 7 different possibilities. I'm not sure which you're
- 8 saying --
- 9 A. In most cases, I expect it would be a matter of
- agreement. If the regulator disagreed with that, then
- it would be open to the regulator to say: no, no, no, it
- should go in X, Y or Z. But that is going to be
- a matter for the code to be changed.
- 14 Q. It's not clear to me why there should be any
- 15 equivocation over this. A proper regulator should be
- able to say to the publisher: "I don't care what you
- say, this is where it's going to go, end of story." Is
- that going to be the position under this new system or
- 19 not?
- 20 A. I think that's going to be a matter for the regulator to
- 21 have to deal with Code Committee. That's why I tried to
- make clear here it will be a matter for the new
- 23 regulator to set these out. I'm not going to try and
- 24 tie the hands of a new regulatory body before it's
- 25 launched.

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- 1 is appendix 2, we're going to understand how it works.
- 2 Look first of all at the complaints committee and
- 3 its decisions.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Have I correctly understood it that both the complainant
- 6 and the publication can appeal to the independent
- 7 assessor?

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- 8 A. No, it would be my view that this was just for the
 - complainant to be able to appeal the decision.
- 10 Q. Right. So the aggrieved publication would have no right
- 11 to take matters further to the independent assessor or
 - anywhere else; is that correct?
- 13 A. As indeed meets the existing -- the publication has to
- abide by the decision, in this case of the complaints
 - committee.
- 16 Q. If there is an adverse decision of the compliance and
- investigation panel, there, of course, although there
- may be a victim in the background because the failure is
- 19 systemic -- we're looking at a range of victims so it's
- 20 much more diffuse, but they will be out there
- 21 nonetheless -- the aggrieved publication would have the
- right to make representations to the trust board, who
- would then appoint a further compliance and
- investigation panel to review the decision of the first
- panel; is that correct?

1 A. Yes. I don't think the trust board would automatically A. That other body, sir, would have to take into account 2 2 do that. In the first instance, the trust board would whether it was just being used in order to shortcircuit 3 3 look at the nature of the representations that have been the scheme. 4 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But the journalist would say, "But put to it, either -- presumably the process had not been 5 fairly followed. If the trust board believed there to 5 I'm absolutely committed to all the rules of the PCC. 6 be a prima facie case, it would then appoint another 6 I am entirely ethical journalist. Nobody has ever 7 7 questioned my personal integrity in any way. How can panel of three people, obviously not involving the 8 8 you possibly deprive me of a press card which will have panel -- the people on the panel in the first place, who 9 9 would look at the decision afresh. an impact on my right to earn a livelihood?" 10 10 Q. That's the point I would like to take further with A. Those are matters which the press card authority has 11 11 Lord Hunt when he comes to give evidence, but that's how looked at and I think is clear in its own mind that this 12 12 you envisage it working, is it? is not going to be an insuperable problem to the 13 A. Correct. 13 introduction of this scheme. 14 Q. Incentives to join. This is paragraph 65 of the 14 MR JAY: Another possible incentive you say is whether the 15 proposal document, page 00099. 15 Press Association might provide its copy only to 16 A. Bear with me one second. Yes. 16 publications which have signed a contract with the 17 17 Q. You're looking for carrots and sticks here because this regulator. You say: 18 is a voluntary system and your first carrot is the 18 "PA News is currently undertaking a study in what is 19 19 provision of press cards, which you take up at a legal challenging area but one which could provide 20 paragraph 66. You describe it as a proposal currently 20 a key incentive." 21 21 under consideration. There would be 17 gatekeepers who Can you be a bit clearer as to what this study is 22 issue cards to ensure that where a journalist is 22 23 23 employed by a newspaper or magazine, they will be able A. As I understand it, this was a scheme that was generated 24 24 to receive a press card only when their publisher is from within the Press Association by some of its own 25 25 members who want to look at it to see if it could be an signed up to the system of self-regulation. Page 21 Page 23 1 How does this differ from a system of licensing 1 incentive to support this system. At the moment, PA 2 journalists? 2 News will have contracts with a number of people to 3 A. I believe you have a submission from the UK Press Cards 3 provide news and some of those will be over different 4 Authority which deals with this in much more detail. 4 terms. PA News also has certain obligations regarding 5 It's not just where they obviously are a journalist 5 the provision of news, so I think it is going to have to 6 6 signed up to a newspaper, but they could be signed up to look to see whether such a scheme could actually be made 7 a relevant industry body or a trade union or something 7 to work in this area or whether there would be 8 like that, so it is not limiting it simply to people who 8 insuperable legal obligations. That is far from clear 9 work for specific publications. But of course, the 9 at the moment. That's why they are now looking into it, 10 10 provision of a press card is an assistance to I believe with a view to reporting to the PA board 11 11 journalists who are going about their business. It is by September. 12 not a complete bar to them going about their business. 12 Q. But it would obviously depend on PA News if any legal 13 13 obstacles in relation to anti-competition law were There will be all sorts of journalists who never need 14 the provision of a press card. That's why I think there 14 surmounted to agree to participate in this sort of 15 15 is a fundamental between this and any form of licensing. arrangement? 16 Indeed, the various gatekeepers to the scheme I think 16 A. If there were obvious competition law reasons why this 17 would never have any truck with anything that appeared 17 could not proceed, then this scheme would obviously not 18 to be a system of licensing with journalists. So 18 proceed. Indeed, I think it's a point you covered in 19 I believe it's a useful incentive but it's not a bar to 19 one of your questions which -- there is further legal $% \left(-1\right) =-1$ 20 20 trade. opinion which has been tabled for the Inquiry. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't understand how it works, 21 21 Q. Yes. That opinion is on more general aspects. It's not 22 22 because a newspaper could say, "I'm not interested, I'm addressed specifically on these individual contracts 23 23 not going to get involved in this", and encourage all between PA and publications, but we see where we are on 24 its journalists to go through some other body to get its 24 that. They're reporting in September.

press cards.

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A. Yes.

- $1\,$ $\,$ Q. Then there's kite mark or badge. Well, that's
- 2 self-explanatory.
- 3 **A.** Yes.
- 4 Q. And then there's the issue of advertisement, which is
- 5 paragraph 69. There are likely to be the same sort of
- 6 issues there, perhaps even greater ones, than the issues
- 7 you've identified in relation to the Press Association;
- 8 is that correct?
- 9 A. Yes. I would not believe this to be straightforward,
- although having said which, the point I make in the
- 11 final sentence about the role of government in this area
- 12 probably could be a little bit more straightforward.
- 13 But that's a matter that I've not discussed with
- 14 ministers or officials, but should like to.
- 15 Q. Part of the philosophy may be bringing in the PA and the
- 16 Incorporated Society of British Advertisers into the
- 17 regulatory framework, which they may or may not be
- 18 willing to do. Do you agree?
- 19 A. Well, the Press Association is currently signed up to
- the terms of the code of practice, so it is part of the regulatory framework from that point of view.
- regulatory framework from that point of view.
 Advertising, of course, is an entirely separate system
- 23 of regulation and I think that would be a very difficult
- 23 of regulation and 1 think that would be a very difficult
- step. The advertisers that I've spoken to have been very clear with me: "We are enormously grateful to
- very clear with me: "We are enormously grateful to the Page 25
- 1 printed press for the support they give us in making
- 2 advertising self-regulation work. If there's some way
- 3 we can find to help support press self-regulation, then
- 4 we'll do it.''
- 5 Q. I'm going to move forward now to paragraph 83.
- 6 Embedding accountability and transparency in the system.
- 7 You say there:
- 8 "The industry will wish the regulator to be as open
- 9 and transparent as possible. It will be for the trust
- board to establish the precise way it seeks to achieve
- that, including the setting of benchmarkings and
- targets, publication of statistics, et cetera."
- So much will depend on how the regulator wishes to
- 14 comport itself in due course, doesn't it?
- 15 A. Yes. I would see no objection to outlining the areas
- where these sorts of things should be met into the
- 17 regulations. I just think it would be not right for us
- at this stage to set down how that might actually be
- 19 achieved, but I think a general view that the regulator
- should be open and transparent might be something that
- it's very important to codify in the regulations or
- indeed the articles of association, which might be
- 23 a more appropriate place for it to go.
- 24 Q. The articles of association we haven't looked at until
- 25 now. They're under tab 5 of the bundle Lord Justice

- 1 Leveson has. They start at page 00037. I'm just
- 2 interested in the objects of the new company. The
- 3 status of the new company is as a community interest
- 4 company, so it's not a current company limited by
- 5 guarantee but it has certain objectives which work in
- 6 the public interest and therefore has that status,
- 7 hasn't it?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. That's not a problem. The objects themselves:
- "Activities which benefit the community, inparticular to promote and uphold the highest
- 12 professional standards of journalism."
- Then we see various subsidiary objects in relation to the regulatory scheme, the code of practice, ability
- to levy fines, et cetera, and then at the end of clause 5:
- 17 "Having regard at all times to the importance in
- a democratic society of freedom of expression and the public's right to know."
- There's nothing there, Lord Black, about the rights
- 21 of individuals or the importance of the public interest
- 22 in other rights beyond freedom of expression, such as
- 23 individual's rights to privacy. Would you agree with
- 24 that?

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- A. I would hope that that was covered by the phrase "the Page 27
- 1 highest professional standards of journalism" because it
- would seem to me that the highest professional standards
- 3 of journalism encompassed the rights of individuals.
- 4 Q. It might or might not do, but we see full regard here to
- 5 Article 10 rights and no express reference to Article 8
- 6 rights.
- 7 A. I would have no objection to the first sentence of the
- 8 objects being clarified to make clear that Article 8
- 9 rights were of course of equal importance. I think it
- is covered by the phrase "highest professional standards
- of journalism" but if it's not explicit enough then we
- 12 could look at dealing with that point.
- 13 Indeed, as the company responsible for promoting
- compliance with the Editors' Code of Practice, the
- 15 Editors' Code of Practice does, of course, set out
- 16 individual rights on privacy, children, hospital victims
- 17 and so forth.
- 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But then what does the last clause of
- 19 5 add:
- 20 "... having regard at all times to the importance of
- 21 ...(reading to the words)... right to know."
- 22 Because that's also within the Editors' Code of
 - Practice. It's also part of the highest professional
- 24 standards of journalism.
- 25 A. Yes indeed, sir, which is why I say I have no objection

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to the Article 8 rights being set out.

- 2 MR JAY: Some general questions now, Lord Black. Internal
- 3 governance, as your statement itself recognises, has
- 4 been part of the problem in relation to the culture,
- 5 practices and ethics of the press. How will the new
- 6 system, including in particular the annual certification
- 7 process, address that problem?
- 8 A. I think there are two aspects of this. First of all,
- 9 inherent in this system -- and I suspect it is spelled
- 10 out somewhere in the contract or the regulations -- is
- 11 that there should be a named senior individual within 12 each company, each regulated entity, who is responsible
- 13 for the maintenance of standards, compliance with the
 - code of practice and reporting annually to the regulator
- 15 and then dealing with the follow-up from the regulator.
- 16 So for the first time in each company, there will be
- 17 a named senior individual who is going to be responsible
- 18 for this.

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- And I think for publishers there are two real incentives for making that work. First of all, they do
- 20 21 have to go through a process of annual certification,
- 22
- which, as we heard earlier, is going to be a transparent 23 process of certification. So there will be a public
- 24 scrutiny of the like that has not been before, and that
- 25 will be a real incentive to make sure that the annual
 - Page 29
 - certification goes smoothly and that there are no issues
- 2 identified which might trigger an investigation.
- 3 Secondly, there will be an added incentive that if
- 4 there is a standards investigation at some point,
- 5 because of a systemic breakdown or whatever it might be,
- 6 then I think it will be for the regulator to take
- 7 account of the processes that were in place within the
- 8 publisher to have stopped that in the first place.
- 9 So if a publisher who doesn't have those systems in 10 place is found guilty, I would expect that then the
- 11 regulator would take that into account in levying the
- 12 sanction. So there are going to be real incentives to
- 13 the publisher to make sure that the system actually
- 14 works and indeed they will be accountable to the
- 15 regulator for it.
- 16 Q. A former prime minister gave evidence along the lines
- 17 that editors and proprietors should be the responsible
- 18 named individuals. Moreover, if there are serious
- breaches of standards established against their papers, 19
- 20 they should be accountable for those breaches and, if
- 21 necessary, fined. Is that something you would find
- 22 favour with or not?
- 23 A. Well, the editor is always going to be responsible
- 24 contractually to the publisher and the publisher is the
- 25 one who is going to have to sign the contract, and
 - Page 30

- 1 I think that's an important relationship there. The
- 2 difficulty, I think, of making the proprietor the named
 - individual in charge of internal compliance and so forth
- 4 is that in reality, the proprietor is not going to be
- 5 sitting there every day looking at complaints trends and
 - making sure that complaints are handled. They will, of
- 7 course, have overall responsibility for it, but they
- 8 can't be expected to get involved in the detail of it.
- 9 Some newspapers, of course, don't even have
- 10 proprietors, in which circumstances it would fall back 11
- to the chief executive in any case. I think you have to
- 12 respect the nature of the company involved as to whom
- 13 they choose to have as the senior person. I would also
- 14 expect the regulator, if they believed that the person
- 15 who was not nominated was not appropriate and not senior
- 16 enough, to say that.
- 17 Q. Okay. You pointed out earlier -- this is clear from
 - regulation 26 -- that the trust board starts an
- 19 investigation either on its own initiative or following
- 20 a complaint or suggestion by the head of complaints or
- 21 standards. Why is the head of standards not able to set
- 22 up an investigation without going to the trust board?
- 23 A. I think the decision to set up an investigation is
- 24 a very serious one. It could prove very costly -- it
 - will prove very costly to one party or another, and
 - Page 31
- 1 I think there should be checks and balances in that
- 2 system so that an official, quite rightly, should have
- 3 the cover of some form of accountability through the
- 4 trust support. All this regulation is saying is that
- 5 the head of standards believes there to be a case to
- 6 answer. The trust board just needs to look at that on 7
 - paper and say yes.
- 8 Q. If you look at the regulations, the regulated entity has
- 9 numerous opportunities to make representations. Look,
- 10 first of all, at regulation 27, our page 00056. This is
- 11 whether an investigation is going to be set up in the
- 12 first place. A letter has to be written to the
- 13 regulatory entity to that effect and the regulated
- 14 entity shall reply to that notification within 14 days,
- 15 either consenting to the investigation or setting out
- 16 reasons why the investigation should not take place. So
- 17 that's the first opportunity to make representations.
- 18 Then there are further opportunities at
- 19 regulation 36. This is our page 00058. This is an
- 20 invitation to attend for part of the meeting in order to 21
 - answer questions from the investigation panel.
- 22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You have to go through 32 as well,
- 23 don't you? So if there's a dispute between the entity
- 24 under investigation and head of compliance, that's
- 25 referred to the trust board.

- 1 MR JAY: Yes. So any dispute is referred. Then there's
- a further opportunity at 36. At 40, this is the
- 3 investigation panel's preliminary decision. That's sent
- 4 in draft to the regulated entity which then has 14 days
- 5 to comment on the draft. Then regulation 44, that's an
- 6 ability to request a review, which you told us about
- 7 earlier. Then regulation 51, the review panel's
- 8 preliminary draft the decision is sent in draft to the
- 9 regulated entity for comment and it's only the final
- decision of the review panel at regulation 53 which is
- 11 final

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- 12 The basic point is doesn't that give so many
- opportunities to the regulated entity to, as it were,
- put a spanner in the works that it would be surprising
- 15 if any adverse decision were reached following an
- investigation of this sort?
- 17 A. I don't think so. I see nothing abhorrent in giving the
- regulated entity the ability to make representations at certain junctures throughout this. I don't think it can
- certain junctures throughout this. I don't think it can
 be overstated quite how serious an adverse finding from
- the standards and compliance panel of the new regulator
- would be, and therefore I think the regulated entity
- 23 needs to be dealt with fairly and proportionately and
- 24 that means they should have the ability to put their
- 25 case at certain points during this. That would just
 - Page 33
 - seem to me to be natural equity and natural justice.
- 2 Q. Certainly it should have the right to put their case
- 3 once, but they seem to have the right to put their case
- 4 six or seven times. Isn't that creating a degree of
- 5 bureaucracy and such an opportunity to make
- 6 representations that it would either take a very long
- 7 time to reach an adverse decision against a regulated
- 8 entity or it won't happen at all?
- 9 A. I don't think that with some of these, for instance, if
- a dispute arises, that this should necessarily be
- something which delayed the process for an overly long
- 12 time. I certainly think if, at the end of it, there is
- 13 going to be a very serious financial sanction against
- 14 the regulated entity, that it should be have the
- opportunity to put its case to the trust board.
- 16 I think it highly unlikely that during the course of
- an investigation a regulated entity would take every
- single opportunity to try to derail it, but even if it
- 19 did, then the trust board and the investigation and
- 20 compliance panel must plough on and it will get to the
- 21 right place in the end.
- 22 Q. Who is responsible for drafting these regulations?
- 23 A. These have been drafted by PressBoF in association with
- 24 legal advisers, Reynolds Porter Chamberlain working with
- 25 Andrew Green.

Page 34

- 1 Q. So they drafted it then and no doubt have taken into
- 2 account representations made during the three
 - consultation processes of the industry?
- 4 A. There have been a huge number of comments that have
- 5 arisen during the consultation exercises. So this
- 6 document you have here today is very different from the
- 7 original document you started with. It's actually been
- 8 an extremely constructive process but at the end of the
- 9 day this is the industry's document.
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. Which, as I said earlier -- I keep reiterating -- is
- a snapshot of where I believe the consensus currently
- 13 **lies.**

17

- 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is there any prospect in this
- document for the person who has complained about an
- egregious breach of standards to ask for a review of
 - a decision adverse to them but in favour of the entity
- 18 being investigated?
- 19 A. I'm not sure I follow the question, sir.
- 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sorry, I'm sure it's my fault.
- Is there anything in this document which allows the
- 22 complainant -- the person who is complaining about an
- 23 egregious breach of standards and has put the matter
- 24 before the new body to investigate -- to be involved in
- seeking to challenge a decision of the panel that's
 - Page 35
- 1 actually against them and in favour of the newspaper?
- $2\,$ $\,$ A. It would have to take a case for judicial review,
- 3 because it would be at trust board which would be
- 4 triggering the investigation, so you would have to
- 5 review the decision of the trust board.
- 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And, of course, presumably at any one
- 7 of these stages, it would be open to the regulated
- 8 entity to judicially review a decision?
- 9 A. I think in a system where they have submitted -- to go
- 10 back to a point we made earlier, to the terms of the
- contract, that would be an unlikely prospect, but in
- 12 theory, I suppose it is possible.
- 13 MR JAY: Their remedy would be a contractual remedy, the
- 14 argument being it was an implied term of the contract
- between the regulated entity and the regulator that the
- 16 latter act fairly and --
- 17 A. Certainly it would have to go to court for that.
- 18 Q. So it would be very similar to judicial review in terms
- 19 of --
- 20 A. But it would be in the courts. Breach of contract.
- 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
- 22 MR JAY: I've been asked by others to ask two further points
- of you, Lord Black. First of all, I think you've seen
- 24 this -- I handed it to you earlier: the submission
- 25 PressBoF made in 2009 to the DCMS Select Committee on

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- 1 privacy and libel, where PressBoF -- I'm not going to 2 read it all out -- pointed out that the PCC works well, 3 the code of practice has raised standards: 4 "To concentrate on one atypical episode [well, that 5 was phone hacking] which was always inevitably heading 6 in the direction of litigation would be a great 7 mistake." 8 Then you refer in that submission to recommendations 9 on reform of conditional fees and the Human Rights Act 10 to reverse the extremely serious damage they are doing 11 both to freedom of expression and to the long-term 12 commercial future of the press, which is now facing 13 unprecedented challenges.
- 14 Do you stand -- this is the question -- by the 15 assessments that were preferred by you in 2009?
- 16 A. I suspect this was from before I was chairman of 17 PressBoF, but I will take responsibility for it. 18 I would certainly stand by paragraph 38 about the 19
- 20 industry, and indeed, if anything, the
- 21 structural/financial issues which have affected the
- 22 industry have become significantly worse since 2009. So

fundamental legal and commercial issues affecting the

- I have no difficulty standing by that.
- 24 But as far as paragraphs 39 and 40 are concerned, 25 this time last year the world changed within the space Page 37

- 1 the story of MPs' expenses, I think there's no doubt
- 2 about the importance of the story. I'm sure that a lot
- 3 of the journalists who worked on it are probably held in
- 4 low esteem by a number of MPs, so it is, I think,
- 5 probably a relative point. It may have been --
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't think that's a terribly good
- 7 point. I'm sure that those guilty of crime don't think
- 8 very highly of those that expose them.
 - A. That's why I'm just not sure of the context in which
- 10 I made the statement, sir.
- 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right, all right.
- 12 A. Oh good, somebody --
- 13 MR JAY: We do have the context now. I'm very grateful. It
- 14 is in the submission I mentioned. It was your last
- 15 interview before working for the Conservative Party in
- 16 2004. That's what you said as the outgoing director of
 - the PCC. I think you left the PCC in December 2003; is
- 18 that correct?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: How these things come back to haunt
- 21
- 22 MR JAY: Does that ring a bell?
- 23 A. One of the reasons I hardly ever give interviews.
- 24 I think I probably was trying to make the general point
- 25 that journalists ruffle feathers from time to time and Page 39
- 1 of one week, so I think to look at things which were
- 2 written three years ago -- it's almost impossible to do
- 3 so. Of course I don't stand by that particular
- 4 sentence. It is now clear that it wasn't one atypical
- 5 episode in the way that some people thought it was at
- 6 that time, and that is why we've undertaken the very
- 7 arduous process to which Lord Justice Leveson referred
- 8 earlier over the course of the last fine months. We
- 9 wouldn't have done that if we'd stuck by this statement.
- 10 Q. The other point I'm asked to put to you is that you
- 11 said, some time ago now, that "a good journalist should
- 12 rejoice in being held in low esteem by the public"; do
- 13 you stand by that?
- 14 A. Did I say that?
- 15 Q. Yes.

23

- 16 A. Can you just remind me of the circumstances in which
- 17 I might have said it, Mr Jay?
- 18 Q. It's in the MediaWise submission for Module 4 of this
- 19 Inquiry. I could find it for you, but -- I can't give
- 20 you the context but if you don't remember having said
- 21 it, it may be difficult for me to pursue the question.
- 22 It will either ring a bell with you or it won't.
- 23 A. I don't remember having said it, but let me just give
- 24 you sort of one obvious example. The paper which I work
- 25 for, which, as you've heard during this Inquiry, broke Page 38

- 1 that irritates people. A point I stick with.
- 2 Congratulations to MediaWise for finding it.
- 3 Q. There are points of detail, Lord Black, which I could
- 4 pursue further with you, but I was concerned just to
- 5 look at the general picture. We have gone over the time
- 6 which had been notionally allotted to you so that
- 7 concludes all the questions I have.
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much.
- 9 A. Can I say, Mr Jay, I would be very happy if there are
- 10 specific points of detail you want to cover -- I mean,
- 11 to write to us and we can set them out in writing if
- 12 they relate to the detail of the contract.
- 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much indeed.
- 14 MR JAY: The only point I raised expressly with Mr Hunter QC
- 15 was further assistance on the competition law aspects of
- 16 this proposal.
- 17 A. Which we're intending to provide.
- 18 MR JAY: Thank you.
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, Lord Black, a couple of times

advanced, and that, I hope, is what we've done. You've

- 20 you've dangled a carrot in front of me. As I'm sure
- 21 you'll appreciate, the purpose of requesting you to
- 22 return to give evidence was to test the propositions
- 23 with which the Press Standards Board of Finance have
- 25 invited me to encourage you to go further, but I'm
 - Page 40

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

24

1	and the same and the same sint at the same same and	1	
1	equally sure you'll appreciate that I am not prepared	1	create such a new body with a fresh start and it's just
2	now to create an expectation that I will propose or give	2	appropriate, I think, to recognise the distance that the
3	favour to one as opposed to another solution. In other	3	press has come, albeit, of course, faced by unacceptable
4	words, I can do no more than say you'll have to take	4	and disgraceful behaviour by a comparatively small
5	your own view as to what steps you want to take in	5	number of journalists than others.
6	relation to your proposals. I'm sorry I can't go	6	Q. You made the point in those opening remarks and you pick
7	further.	7	up on the same points or one of the points you've
8	A. If I was sitting where you're sitting, sir, that's	8	made in paragraph 8 of your statement and you say there
9	probably the answer I'd have given me.	9	that you don't believe true self-regulation has ever
10	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, good.	10	really been attempted, at least so far as the press is
11	MR JAY: May we move seamlessly onto Lord Hunt before we	11	concerned. Therefore the system which we're looking at
12	take our break?	12	is the first occasion on which regulation has been
13	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Certainly. Thank you.	13	attempted. Would you agree though that over the last 20
14	LORD HUNT OF WIRRELL (recalled)	14	years or so or nearly 20 years the press have been
15	Questions by MR JAY	15	calling the present system a system of regulation?
16	MR JAY: Lord Hunt, you're returning to give evidence so	16	A. That's a matter for others. Certainly I never saw it
17	you're still under the oath you gave I think it was	17	and I think at my last appearance, when you asked me to
18	31 January.	18	give evidence, I did say that I had said at the outset
19	You kindly provided us with a further witness	19	that I did not believe the Press Complaints Commission
20	statement, which runs to best part of 50 pages. You've	20	had any regulatory powers and I was again surprised to
21	signed and dated it. It's dated 8 June. Is this your	21	find that virtually everyone agreed with me, including
22	formal evidence for this module of our Inquiry?	22	those within the PCC. Although they play a key role in
23	A. Yes, it is.	23	dealing with complaints, it was never as part of
24	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Lord Hunt, thank you very much. You	24	a regulatory structure.
25	also, as the previous witness, have obviously done an	25	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: In those circumstances, do you think
	Page 41	_	Page 43
1	enormous amount of work on the proposal that you wish to	1	that anybody who sought to describe the PCC as
2	discuss, and I'm grateful to you.	2	a regulator was simply misleading everybody?
3	A. Thank you.	3	A. I think they I'm speaking as a lawyer with
4	MR JAY: Lord Hunt, can we be clear where we are in terms of	4	a speciality in regulatory matters. I don't see it as
5	the current state of play? In paragraph 2 of your	5	a regulator, but I can understand other people being
6	statement, you refer to a comprehensive process of	_	
7		6	under the expression that it was. I'm not sure we ever
	internal consultation with the staff of the PCC and also	6	under the expression that it was. I'm not sure we ever defined "regulation" with any great skill.
8	internal consultation with the staff of the PCC and also your fellow commissioners. Not everything that follows		_
8 9		7	defined "regulation" with any great skill.
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- 1 steer from the industry or anyone who appointed me on
- 2 how I should proceed. What I tried to be is the
- 3 independent chairman of an independent body with a blank
- 4 piece of paper to work out how I would suggest that an
- 5 appropriate regulatory structures should be fashioned.
- 6 And I hope my ideas have been helpful to this Inquiry,
- 7 but I now very much wait to hear what this Inquiry
- 8 concludes.
- 9 Q. What would you, from your experience to date as an
- 10 independent regulator, want to see changed in the
- 11 proposal to deliver the best quality independent
- 12 regulation?

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- 13 A. Well, that's my 47-page statement. Many attributes, 14 I think, have to be embraced if we really want to pass
- 15 that test of an independent regulatory structure.
- 16 Q. Well, the proposal is what we see in your
- 17 47-page statement. It's whether there are any changes
- you would want to make to that proposal to deliver the 18
- 19 best quality independent regulation from the perspective
 - of a lawyer who has plenty of experience to date as an
- 21 independent regulator. Do you see that?
- 22 A. Yes. First and foremost, I would want to see
- 23 independent people. I find it very difficult to decide
- 24 how to define an independent person, and I've had that
- 25 discussion with many people, but I think I conclude it
 - must be someone of independent mind, who doesn't have

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- 2 history or baggage or conflicts of interest. So it must
- 3 be truly independent, and independent-led.
- 4 But equally to be a self-regulatory structure, it
 - must draw its strength from knowledge and expertise
- 6 within the industry combined with that independent
- 7 element. But equally it must have sanctions, it must
- 8 seek to ensure that its conclusions are adhered to, but
- 9 above all, I think any new structure must change the
- 10 culture -- the culture and ethical standards of the 11 press. I think we have a very good basis in the
- 12 Editors' Code, which starts off with the words -- which
- 13 are part of the code: 14
 - "All members of the press have a duty to maintain the highest professional standards."
- 16 It goes on in the preamble to refer to the most
- 17 ethical standards, and certainly in all the discussions
- 18 I've had with victims, groups and people throughout the
- 19 industry, there is a wish to see the culture and ethical
- 20 standards of the press improved and strengthened.
- 21 Q. Although that code has been in being for over 20 years
- 22 now and has not brought about the cultural changes
- 23 you've referred to, self-evidently, otherwise we
- 24 wouldn't be here. Why do you think that is?
- 25 A. Well, I want to take you through the areas where you

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- 1 think it has not been followed but certainly Article 10,
- 2 clandestine devices and subterfuge -- what I think you
 - may be referring to were in direct breach of clause 10.
- 4 Equally on misleading, which has been another subject,
- 5 again in breach of clause 1. This is not a static
- 6 document, but it's recently been improved, particularly
- 7 by now setting out that where the public interest has
- 8 been discussed and accepted as a reason for breaching
- 9 the code, there must be a trail as to how and with whom
- 10 that was established at the time. That only came in on
- 11 1 January, so I think there has been a wish continually
- 12 to improve the code.
- 13 Q. That wish has existed over the last 20 years, but
- 14 admittedly with perhaps greater appetite in recent times
- 15 than in more ancient times, yet we still have the
- 16 position now where the culture, practices ethics and of
- 17 the press said by some to have been found wanting. The
- 18 question is: how and why is it we find ourselves in that
- 19 position, notwithstanding what you've read out in the
- 20 code?

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- 21 A. Because I think we need a regulator.
- 22 Q. In terms of the mix then between independent people who
 - are outside the press and people within the press who
- 24 will meet the self-regulatory aims of the
- 25 organisation -- because I suppose you say without having

- 1 people from within the press, the organisation, the
- 2 regulator cannot by definition by self-regulatory -- how
- 3 do you see that balance being met in terms of two
- 4 important areas of the new system: first of all, the
- 5 editors committee -- or the Code Committee, pardon me --
- 6 where there are a majority of serving editors still
- 7 under the new system, and the complaints arm, where
- 8 there are a minority of serving editors? How and why is
- 9 that desirable?
- 10 A. Well, the great value of editors is that they are
- 11 dealing with the situation as it is, right at the heart
- 12 of the industry, and they have a valuable input. But
- 13 I concluded that rather than try and bring the Editors'
- 14 Code Committee within the structure of the new
- 15 independent self-regulatory regime, it is better for
- 16 them to continue with their work on the Editors' Code
- 17 Committee, accepting as they now have that there should
- 18 be a lay element. But within the regulatory structure,
- 19 the board which Lord Black has been referring to, the
- 20 trust board, that will not have anything other than
- 21 a majority of independent people on it, and that will be 22 the key decisionmaker in some of the areas that we've
- 23 been talking about.
- 24 Q. The complaints arm will have serving editors, won't it?
- 25 A. Yes, and speaking as the chair of the Press Complaints Page 48

1 1 Commission, we find that everyone -- all 17 of individually complete a form to say that they ..." Now, 2 2 the Commissioners who sit to adjudicate on complaints -that's just 60 editors in one very small part of what 3 3 does put everything at the door before they come in and we're talking about. I don't think the number of 4 4 certainly the editors that I've heard speak are as editors is a key factor. It's the decision-makers that 5 5 critical often of journalists as the independent I've been seeking to see at the publisher level, who 6 members. The discussions do not divide between 6 have a whole range of editors. 7 7 independent members and editorial members. It's Now, of course, the large newspapers do have 8 8 a valuable discussion with no prediction as to where comparatively few, but regional, local newspapers, there 9 people are coming from but a united consensus on where 9 are huge numbers of editors, and I find with the local 10 10 we should be going. and regional newspapers in particular that they do want 11 Q. The issue may be as much one of perception than anything 11 the editors to be involved, because at the end of the 12 12 else, but would you agree that it's important if one day quite often the editor will be one of the few people 13 wants to have a system which is seen to be independent 13 employed in that newspaper or periodical. 14 that one avoids, if at all possible, having editors 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: There's a problem, isn't there, 15 judging in their own cause, because although naturally 15 because whereas you might have no difficulty at all in 16 they recuse themselves from their own cases, as it were, 16 having the editor of the Southampton Echo sitting on 17 17 they're nonetheless adjudicating on a system which a decision involving the Yorkshire Post, if that would 18 concerns them because the decisions may have an impact 18 ever happen -- I immediately make it clear that I'm 19 19 on their own cases in the future. casting no aspersions on the Yorkshire Post -- the 20 A. Yes. It's a perception which has to be met head on. 20 position of the very, very large newspapers is rather 21 21 When I was given the task of working up the right different, and whether it's News International or 22 regulatory structure for solicitors and barristers in 22 Associated Newspapers or Trinity Mirror, enormous 23 the legal services bill -- and indeed by the Law 23 players in the field are quite different from the other 24 24 Society -- there was a view that solicitors and group of editors to whom you've just referred. 25 barristers should not be involved in adjudicating on 25 A. I agree, and with regard to solicitors, there are 80,000 Page 49 Page 51 1 complaints. But actually, I think in the long run 1 of those 118,000 solicitors who are in very small little 2 2 everybody decided there has to be a balance. firms, but if you just take the magic circle of five 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But there's an enormous difference 3 firms, those chief executives have a huge amount of 4 there, isn't there? Because there are 40,000 solicitors 4 influence within the system. So I'm not sure that there 5 and there are, I don't know, several thousand 5 aren't too many lessons to be learnt from comparisons of 6 barristers, I can't remember, 14,000, 15,000 barristers. 6 that nature. What I'm trying to do all the time is to 7 and therefore it's not difficult to find a barrister or 7 reflect a balance between the regional and local 8 a solicitor who's not at all affected by the subject 8 newspapers, between the national newspapers, between 9 matter of a particular concern. You're talking about 9 online and between the magazine and publications 10 30, 40 editors. 10 industry generally. The regulator that's going to 11 If you said to me there ought to be working 11 emerge must reflect all these elements and I think to 12 journalists, those working in the industry, then the 12 exclude or bar editors would be a step backwards. 13 parallel is much, much stronger, but if you say, "No, we 13 MR JAY: In paragraph 9 of your statement, Lord Hunt, you 14 are going to take this comparatively small group of very 14 say -- this is page 00801: 15 powerful people and we're going to then make them 15 "Self-regulation can be effective only in an 16 judges", isn't that different? I mean, I'd be 16 industry that possesses the necessary ethos, structures 17 interested for your help. 17 and systems to ensure that an agreed level of standards 18 A. I think my figures are 118,000 solicitors and 10,000 18 is maintained." 19 barristers, but the point is still as valid. 19 Do we, at the moment, Lord Hunt, have an industry 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh well, whatever. You make it even 20 which, in all its manifestations, possesses that 21 stronger for me then. 21 necessary ethos, structures and systems? Do we 22 22 A. Yes, if I've got it right. currently have such an industry? 23 23 When I went to see the chief executive of IPC A. In the main, yes, but there are parts of the industry 24 Media -- I think I've got the name right -- she said to 24 that have been found wanting. And indeed, the most 25 25 me: "Are you saying that my 60 editors must each critical people I meet are those in the industry, Page 50 Page 52

1 particularly journalists and editors, who really are 1 what extent this Inquiry has heard evidence from media 2 2 rather ashamed of what some parts of their industry have or press historians, but certainly several members of 3 3 done and want to see it put right, which is why the Calcutt committee have told me that they're not 4 4 I believe there is such a consensus now on the need to quite sure why they didn't consider this, because it 5 move forward, subject to what this Inquiry may conclude. 5 does seem to be an option that ought to be on the table 6 Q. Isn't it the premise of paragraph 9 -- to this extent we 6 and that it is now is on the table gives us a real 7 7 can agree with it -- that if we were to have an industry opportunity for the first time to put things right. 8 that did possess the necessary ethos, structures and 8 Q. The earlier commissions and committees you're referring 9 9 systems to ensure that an agreed level of standards was to were all thinking in terms of a regulator which had 10 10 maintained, then self-regulation would be effective, but some form of a statutory underpinning. They didn't 11 11 given that we don't have an industry which currently, in think in terms of express commercial contracts maybe 12 12 all its manifestations, possesses that necessary ethos, because the existing system they were looking at was 13 13 et cetera, self-regulation is unlikely to work? based on implied contracts. 14 14 A. No. I believe that self-regulation can and will work, But why isn't the system of commercial contracts yet 15 provided you have the necessary agreement on the right 15 another variant of the last-chance saloon? Why 16 way forward and provided you have a regulatory structure 16 shouldn't we move straight to a system which has been on 17 17 the table in various forms now for over 60 years, namely which means something. 18 Q. How will the new regulatory structure ensure that the 18 a system which has some form of statutory underpinning? 19 19 right internal checks and balances are in place? A. I do think it's a common misunderstanding about the '62 20 A. This is probably one of the key features, so far as I'm 20 Royal Commission, so I brought with me the extract from 21 21 concerned, that I have found on the part of the command 1811, which is the September '62 Royal 22 publishers a wish and a willingness to sign up to 22 Commission report, where they say in paragraph 325, 23 a system which puts the responsibility for the necessary 23 whilst detailing the recommendations -- they then go on 24 24 ethos, structures and systems fairly and squarely in 25 25 their area of responsibility. And I greatly welcome "We do not think that the absence of an enabling Page 53 Page 55 1 that. I find it interesting to note that perhaps that 1 statute need necessarily be fatal to the activities of 2 2 hadn't always been the case, but when I put it to such a body." 3 3 And continue, I quote: publishers, that they should have an internal system of 4 standards setting, compliance, complaints handling and 4 "Much of its power could rest upon a contractual 5 mediation, they accepted it, but very few had actually 5 basis." 6 6 put it into effect. So the '62 Royal Commission did actually suggest 7 7 Q. Given that Sir David Calcutt's report was, as it were, a contractual basis but no one seems to have picked that 8 8 in the last-chance saloon and reviewing the history 9 since 1947 there have been three, if not four occasions 9 MR JAY: Is that a convenient --10 before Sir David Calcutt where opportunities were 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. We have in fact seen the Royal 11 missed, why should the press, which still exhibits, on 11 Commission. Thank you. 12 12 your account, deficiencies as regards the culture, (3.25 pm)break 13 13 practices and ethics, be given a further last chance? (A short break) 14 14 (3.35 pm)A. I don't think it's ever been given a last chance. I've 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. 15 had the opportunity of meeting and discussing with most 16 MR JAY: I think, Lord Hunt, following on what you said of the members who are still alive of the Calcutt 16 17 committee and asking them about the recommendations of 17 before we broke for our short break, there should really 18 the 1949 Commission and indeed the recommendations of 18 be two saloons. The saloon which has been called 19 the 1962 Commission, and I was surprised to find that 19 "last-chance saloon" should be called "penultimate 20 20 the whole idea of a contractual basis wasn't raised. So chance saloon" and your contracts are last-chance 21 no one thought up what seems to me to be an obvious 2.1 saloon, and if that doesn't work, where are we then? 22 A. I think I made a terrible error last time in referring course of action, that the publishers should contract to 22 23 23 create a proper regulator. to the sword of Damocles. I'd forgotten that Cicero was 24 Now, that is in effect carrying out some of the 24 using that as an example of how there can be no 25 recommendations of the 1949 Commission. I'm not sure to 25 condition of happiness where there is still some fear Page 54 Page 56

hanging above you, and I suppose in a way that's always A. Yes. 2 2 O. "... requiring journalists to behave responsible within going to be there. It's just I don't think anyone has 3 3 really tried an internal regulatory system policed, certain generally observed behavioural norms and 4 4 precepts." monitored and enforced by a professional oversight body. 5 Perhaps this is too legalistic on my part, but I don't 5 So I suppose the issue is: what comes first? If 6 think it's been tried. Now, whether you put that in 6 journalists did adhere to those behavioural norms and 7 7 a saloon or out in the public arena is a matter for your precepts, then it may be more arguable that 8 8 self-regulation is the appropriate regulatory system, judgment, but I think that the key test here is the 9 9 but if journalists are falling too far short of test: will this restore trust and confidence on the part 10 of the public? 10 appropriate behavioural norms and precepts, then it 11 11 Q. You don't think the public would say, "Well, this, in might be said that something stronger is required. 12 12 effect, is a cop-out. We've had similar palliatives Would you agree with that analysis? 13 over the last 60 to 70 years and they've failed. We 13 A. Yes, but at the moment I'm suggesting the "something 14 have reached the end of the road and that means some 14 stronger" is for the first time ever a self-regulatory 15 form of statutory under pinning"? You don't think that 15 structure chair by an independent person with an 16 would be the likely public response to anything less 16 independent majority. I don't think we need 17 17 than that from this Inquiry, wouldn't you say? a cumbersome, slow, expensive press law. We need a sort 18 A. I think there is pride in the British press amongst the 18 of -- as I say, a professional oversight monitoring and 19 19 public, but outrage at the way some parts of the press enforcing the standards that I believe the vast majority 20 have behaved, but I don't think you could summarise the 20 of journalists accept. 21 21 Q. In paragraph 13 of your statement, Lord Hunt, you refer view of the -- I was taken -- if I may, for a moment, 22 just give one example. I was taken a little bit by 22 to the formidable corpus of legal and regulatory 23 surprise -- on 21 June, I had the honour to be 23 structures and strictures. Are you conceding there that 24 24 introduced to Aung San Suu Kyi, who is taking her seat a considerable degree of statutory regulation already 25 25 in the Burmese Parliament at the moment and I was exists? Page 57 Page 59 1 introduced to her as chairman of the press in the United 1 A. Not statutory regulation, but a considerable amount of 2 Kingdom. She looked me straight in the eye and said, 2 caselaw and statute law exists of which journalists have 3 "You must be so proud." 3 to be aware. Last time I did refer to McNae's 4 I suddenly thought: yes, I am very proud. But that 4 "Essential Law for Journalists" and I've seen many 5 5 pride doesn't mean I'm oblivious to the activities of volumes on privacy law, various decisions of various 6 6 a small minority, but I do think there is still that courts which do set out a number of safeguards for the 7 pride. 7 public, of which journalists have to be aware. 8 Q. So you feel that the public would wish to give the press 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Why is it stronger or weaker if it's 9 another chance? Is that it? 9 one way or the other? Isn't it just appropriate that we 10 10 A. Yes, so long as it's a free and responsible press, not have a system of regulation that encourages the good, 11 11 discourages the bad, and venerates the proper expression just a free press but a press that accepts its 12 12 responsibilities, and I've found a willingness -- and of free speech? 13 13 I think Lord Black epitomised that, and I stress again, A. Yes. 14 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Providing we achieve those ends, as I said in my first response: I do believe the press 15 15 whether it's come through a statute or contract or has come a long way under Lord Black's leadership. He's 16 16 because everyone's said, "Truly we will this time", why now putting forward a potential solution, subject very does it matter? 17 17 much to what this Inquiry may decide. 18 Q. The issue of responsibility is one you take up quite 18 A. Oh, I do disagree, sir, if I may. I think as soon as 19 19 clearly in the last sentence of paragraph 9 of your you start to move towards a statutory regulator -- I do 20 20 statement at page 00802: recall, sir, last time you referred me to the 21 "Self-regulation requires the industry to recognise 21 Constitutional Reform Act and in particular clause 3, 22 22 that the still considerable freedoms it enjoys are subsection 6, saying the Lord Chancellor must have 23 23 a privilege, not an unassailable right ..." regard to the need to defend the independence of the

saying there.

So freedom of the press is not absolute, you're

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judiciary. If I recall, sir, you put to me: why can't

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we have a similar provision so far as the independence

1 of the press is concerned? If I may continue, I have 1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, if it means: are you going to 2 spent some time reading back the debates which occurred 2 be able to stop ministers complaining about what's 3 over the independence of the judiciary. And what effect 3 written about them in the press, I think not, in the 4 4 same way that we've been unable, if we've even tried -did it have? Because the very following year, in 2006, 5 the Home Secretary, John Reid, attacked a judge pretty 5 which I doubt -- to stop ministers complaining about 6 severely. Vera Baird, who was a minister in the 6 judicial decisions. We've complained that the context 7 7 Department of Constitutional Affairs, attacked, on many of our decisions is not correctly identified and 8 8 questions, the judge on particular. therefore people get the wrong impression, but free 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't think she was. She might 9 speech is there to correct all that. 10 10 have been Solicitor General. The purpose of the statute is to cope with what 11 11 A. At the time, on 16 June 2006, she was Parliamentary I understood was the concern about creeping legislation. 12 12 Undersecretary of State at the DCA. It was before she Once you've started a bit, then it's easy to do a bit 13 13 was promoted, and she said, "I'm critical of the judge more, and all of a sudden what looks benign, by creeping 14 for three reasons", and she set out her three. Judge 14 legislation, becomes something that's not at all benign. 15 Cutler, Secretary of the Council of HM Circuit Judges, 15 Therefore I'm saying -- or I'm asking; I'm not deciding, 16 said, "Why is no one speaking on behalf of the judges?" 16 as yet -- the equivalent of section 31 of the 17 17 Constitutional Reform Act, and 36 and all the rest of And then if one looks then later on 18 July, the 18 Lord Chief Justice condemned the attacks on judges as 18 them, if applied to the press underlines a Parliamentary 19 intemperate, offensive and unfair. So what effect did 19 commitment to a free press which presently does not 20 that provision have? 20 exist. That's the point. 21 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, I'll tell you the effect it A. Yes, I readily understand, and if one seeks to try and 22 has, that actually what you've just identified is the 22 entrench the independence of the press, one is really 23 23 value of free speech, whatever the judges might think fighting with, I suppose in many ways, amendment 1 to 24 24 about it. But the effect that it did have is that the -- the First Amendment to the American constitution. 25 nobody can say that a statute -- statute -- has cut down 25 If one reads the First Amendment, which is, I suppose, Page 61 Page 63 1 the independence of the judiciary, whatever comment 1 parallel to the sort of statutory underpinning of the 2 2 politicians might make about it. And your concern, as independence of the press, it is -- it goes far further, 3 3 and I just think as soon as you open this arena for I understand it -- and it may be more than 4 4 Parliamentary scrutiny and control through legislation, philosophical -- Lord Black's was very philosophical. 5 But your concern is that a statute, once it's started to 5 primary and secondary, you open up the opportunity, 6 6 even talk about providing a framework within which the really, of confusing a quite simple problem that has 7 7 needed -- like a hole in the head needs statutory press can be regulated, is itself impacting on the 8 8 freedom of the press. That, I understand, is the regulation and does desperately need some form of 9 9 regulation which it's never had. argument. If I've misunderstood t please correct me. 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, I understand article 1 does go 10 A. I think, sir, what I was referring to was: what effect 11 further and raises all sorts of other different issues. 11 did this statute have on, say, the Lord Chancellor? 12 12 Because -- we're just looking at it in this particular MR JAY: On that argument, I think, Lord Hunt, one would 13 13 never have any form of statutory regulation because it context but there are many others I could quote. The 14 14 Lord Chancellor, in giving evidence to the would always be wrong in principle, wouldn't it? 15 15 Constitutional Affairs Committee on 4 July 2006, said A. No, I think the press is -- as we remind ourselves every 16 that this particular case "has had an impact on 16 day, in the UK is pretty unique. I don't think there's 17 17 undermining confidence in the judiciary". a similar press regime anywhere else in the world, which 18 This is the Lord Chancellor. I just feel that when 18 criticises ministers, judges, everyone else, and long 19 19 may that last, but let us have a change in the culture, you move from the independence of the judiciary, which 20 20 a change in the ethics and the standards of the press, I uphold and would fight to the death to uphold, to 21 21 independence of the press, you move into a completely which I think the overwhelming majority of the press 22 22 different structure. If it doesn't work for the want to sign up to. 23 23 judiciary in the way that I would like it to, it's Q. I think you're agreeing with me then that on this line 24 hardly going even to get off the ground in respecting 24 of argument, one would never have a system of statutory 25 25 regulation in whatever form, since it would always be the independence of the press.

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1 inimical to the principles you've just expounded. 1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Could I ask you this question, 2 2 though: have these extended beyond people who've given Wouldn't that be so? 3 3 A. Well, in the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act, evidence to the Inquiry? 4 4 there is reference to a code. It may well be -- and A. Yes, sir, because I have met groups and individuals who 5 I introduced it last time and you'll be hearing from 5 have not given evidence to the Inquiry. But I did make 6 Professor John Horgan a little later that week -- it may 6 it my business to meet as many as I possibly could of 7 7 well be that the defamation bill could have the victims who have given evidence. 8 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But you make a very important point. a recognition of a code, or indeed, as in the European 9 9 It would be quite wrong for anybody to think that the Court's judgment in the Mosley case, specific reference 10 10 people who have given evidence to the Inquiry are the to the Editors' Code. 11 11 only ones who have complaints against the press. There That, to my mind, is not a statutory regulatory 12 12 are out there a large number of other people with system, which, in the case of the press, I wouldn't 13 similar complaints, which we could have -- they might 13 advocate but I await the decision of this Inquiry. 14 14 Q. Can I ask you, please, about paragraph 20 of your tell different stories, so we could have filled this 15 statement now. I haven't asked you about bills before 15 Inquiry with days and days more. Do I correctly 16 Parliament mutating and ending up having damaging 16 understand what you're saying? 17 17 consequences. You told us a bit about that on the last A. Yes, sir. In fact, since I gave evidence to this 18 occasion, but out of fairness to you, is there anything 18 Inquiry, I think we have dealt with an enormous number 19 19 of complaints within the Press Complaints Commission and you wish to add to that point? 20 A. Except just to point out that secondary legislation does 20 I've also met groups who have given what they believe to 21 21 be evidence to show that there are groups in society and require primary legislation. It is now accepted that 22 Parliament should not give the executive unfettered 22 groups generally who are not treated properly by the 23 23 power to introduce secondary legislation, so every press. I found discussions with, say, the Samaritans to 24 24 be enormously helpful in understanding the importance of regulation or every element of secondary legislation has 25 25 to have a derivation and an authority in an Act of listening to groups like the Samaritans, particularly Page 65 Page 67 1 Parliament, and I thought that perhaps those who 1 when we look at the Internet and what is appearing on 2 2 advocate "Well, it can all be dealt with by secondary the Internet at the present time and we have to work out 3 legislation" do not sometimes understand that the 3 ways to overcome the dangers that they highlight. 4 Henry VIII principle of allowing the executive to do 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That might also mean not merely 5 whatever it likes is inappropriate and would not be 5 looking at what's happening on the Internet but looking 6 6 accepted. at what groups have to say about the way they are 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Of course one couldn't, and the great 7 portrayed in the press. 8 value of primary legislation is that it can define 8 A. Yes. 9 exactly what is permitted or not permitted in secondary 9 MR JAY: You tell us that the victims you've spoken to by 10 legislation. 10 and large have not lost faith in the press. Have they 11 A. Yes. Yes. 11 lost faith in the PCC as currently constituted? 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand that. 12 A. Yes, they've told me that. Although the 260 complaints 13 MR JAY: Paragraph 20, where you refer to your time having 13 we've dealt with since January -- I've looked at the 14 been spent meeting victims who've suffered at the hands 14 returns, because we ask everyone to say what they felt, 15 15 of the press. You say you've been saddened and and over 80 per cent of those who have had their 16 sometimes appalled by some of the stories you've heard 16 complaints dealt with have expressed satisfaction with 17 17 and then you say: the way in which their complaint has been dealt with. 18 "I'm sorry to say in some of the most high-profile 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Could you explain to me by what you 19 cases, the treatment they received from the PCC also 19 mean by "dealt with"? Does that include those who have 20 20 complained and you've directed them back to the fell short of what a genuine regulator could, should and 21 21 newspaper and then mediated something, or is it only would have done in a similar situation." 22 I'm not going to give examples. Some of your 22 those who actually get through to the stage of 23 23 conversations may have been confidential but I think we adjudication? 24 can imagine the sort of individuals you spoke to who 24 A. No, I'm talking about all complaints, and generally 25 gave you those views. 25 speaking, the majority of complaints are resolved Page 66 Page 68

 $1 \hspace{1.5cm} \textbf{through mediation, and quite often the complainant will} \\$

- $2 \qquad \text{ be satisfied that their complaint has been dealt with} \\$
- 3 properly without the need to press for adjudication.
- 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: What proportion of those people who
- 5 actually complained were rejected as not falling within
- 6 the grounds of the code? Well, how many more people
- 7 were there, because they're obviously not included in
- 8 your number.
- 9 A. I would want to ask, but as I understand it, a very small number would be turned away, because at the
- 11 moment, without this new regulatory system and without
- 12 being satisfied, as the new regulator would have to
- 13 satisfy themselves, that there are properly internal
- 14 procedures for dealing with complaints, we do not brush
- 15 aside complaints and direct them towards the editor
- without taking them up in the first place. That is
- 17 something which I think would be new and would be
- welcome, and indeed the publishers have said that they
- would want to make sure that there was a proper system
- 20 of dealing with complaints within each of their titles. 21 As I understand it -- just take one section -- there
- As I understand it -- just take one section -- there are 15,000 editors of regional and local newspapers and
- 23 magazines, so we are dealing with a huge number of
- publications. Generally speaking, I'm sure that most of
- 25 them would prefer to deal with the complaints directly
- 1 themselves without first having to be made aware by the

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- 2 PCC that a complaint has been lodged.
- 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: 15,000 editors?
- 4 A. I asked before, that whereas the small number that was
- 5 earlier quoted may be the number of editors in major
- 6 newspapers, there are, as I demonstrated through
- 7 IPC Media, 60 editors there. There are hundreds and
- 8 thousands of editors of smaller publications, at
- 9 local/regional papers and magazines.
- 10 MR JAY: You travelled to Ireland in early May of this year.
- 11 You say you learnt some valuable lessons there. Could
- 12 you summarise, please, Lord Hunt, the lessons that you
- did learn from that visit?
- 14 A. Well, you're quite right. I found it fascinating and
- 15 I have established a very good working relationship with
- 16 Professor John Horgan, who was present at each of my
- 17 meetings there, and I found that there are some lessons
- 18 to be learned from the Irish system, but there are some
- 19 considerable differences which exist, and I have sought
- 20 to set those out in my statement.
- 21 Q. In your own words, could you summarise for us the
- lessons you learnt and then the differences?
- 23 A. Well, so far as the Irish system is concerned, the Act
- itself does lay down certain specifics about the Irish
- Press Council which I'm not sure would be translated Page 70

1 into our defamation bill. It does achieve universal

- $2 \qquad \hbox{coverage. The self-regulation itself, they believe, is} \\$
 - a sufficient incentive and I see potential benefits in
- 4 having similar legislation here linking a Reynolds-style
- 5 defence to membership of a recognised regulatory
- 6 structure but I wouldn't advocate a perfect replication
- 7 here of the Irish Press Council or the Defamation Act
- 8 **2009.**
- 9 Q. We'll look at the detail of that as we go through your
- 10 evidence, Lord Hunt. Can I ask you, please, about
- paragraph 26 of your statement where you start to give
- 12 a brief overview of your recommendations. You point out
- the current system is non-contractual or rather operates
- on the basis of implicit contracts -- that analysis is
- off the basis of implicit contracts -- that analysis is
- 15 no doubt correct -- save for an informal system that's
- 16 endured surprisingly well. I put this to you: if the
- suggestion is the publishers would be willing to sign
- a contract and be compelled into doing things that they
- 19 would not otherwise agree to, why would they do that?
- 20 A. There is a willingness to set up, for the first time,
- 21 a proper regulatory structure. I can't really speak as
- 22 to whether that willingness was there before, had the
- 23 notion been put forward, but certainly in the past, even
- 24 though there may or may not have been an implied
- 25 contract -- I personally don't think there was -- there

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- 1 had been occasions on which several publications have --
- 2 in particular at the time of the Calcutt committee's
- 3 report on privacy, one major newspaper threatened to
- 4 withdraw from the Press Complaints Commission and were
- 5 eventually persuaded not to do so, so it's never really
 - been put to the test.
- 7 So I don't think it's a case of just looking at one
- 8 large newspaper publishing house; I think one has to
 - look over the whole scene and set up a system where it
 - would not just not be possible for anyone unilaterally
- 11 to withdraw.

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- 12 Q. Under the new system, enforcement is via court action if
- 13 necessary. How likely is it that the regulator would be
- willing to take court action to enforce a contract in
- this way, and what would the implications be for
- relations between the regulator and the publishers if
- 17 such a step had to be taken?
- 18 A. Well, I -- I -- I have reserved my position on the
- 19 drafts which have been put forward. I haven't reached
- 20 any conclusion on the draft contract, the draft
- 21 regulations, the draft articles, nor have I been asked
- 22 to do so. I await the view of this Inquiry.
- One can only speculate as to what the relationship would be in the circumstances you describe. I started
 - off, perhaps too idealistically, in hoping that we might

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1 have a short, simple, easy-to-understand contract. A. Well, there's no point if there's disagreement. We have 2 2 That's still, I think, my position. I don't see the to see agreement across the industry. But I would far 3 3 need for great, huge, extensive provisions. I want to prefer it to be on the simple objective of creating, for 4 4 the first time ever, a self-regulatory structure, shared set up an independent self-regulatory structure which 5 can then work out with the industry the best way 5 by an independent trust board, but I recognise that this 6 forward, rather than being too inhibited by detailed 6 is the first time we've ever attempted this, and 7 7 provisions, but I'll very open to any suggestions that I suppose we'll never know unless we give it a go. 8 8 Q. That may be right, Lord Hunt, but I think my question may be made on that subject. 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So you've not commented upon the was more that for whatever reason -- and frankly, I can 9 10 precise details that Lord Black's enunciated to us. 10 see for good reason -- we've reached the position now of 11 11 a quite detailed set of proposals in terms of the You've deliberately not seen that as your role and 12 12 contract, the regulations and the articles of you've not discussed them with, for example, any of the 13 13 people that you've been consulting with? association. Having reached that position, is your fear 14 14 A. Well, there have been a number of drafts. I saw some that it's in fact less rather than more likely that 15 early drafts when I again reiterated my wish for 15 everybody will sign up to these proposals because of the 16 a short, sharp, simple, easy-to-understand contract. 16 level of detail we see in them? 17 17 A. Well, in the last few weeks I've seen virtually all the I haven't given any view on the latest drafts, nor have 18 I seen all of them. I felt it was -- I was hoping that 18 publishers and they have all expressed a willingness to 19 19 you, sir, would give a view on the right way forward. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh, in due course I certainly shall. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's the publishers. You don't see 21 21 MR JAY: Can I understand, though, what your preference editors? 22 would have been? You've obviously been able to have 22 A. I see their -- I have concentrated in particular in 23 23 a look at the latest iterations of Lord Black's model in talking to the publishers. I did, of course, discuss 24 terms of the contractual structure, the regulations and 24 and I still discuss with key editors who take a lead in 25 25 the articles of association. Is it your position, putting forward views, and the editor of the Independent Page 73 Page 75 1 Lord Hunt, that a shorter, simpler model would have been 1 on Saturday asked the public to express their views in 2 preferable, therefore giving the regulator and the 2 his editorial on Saturday. So one must conditionally 3 3 regulated entities greater leeway subsequently to decide have discussions, but I was particular concentrated --4 4 if we are to have an internal standards setting and what to do? 5 A. Mm, yes, but it is for the industry to come forward with 5 complaints-handling mechanism within every publisher, it 6 their proposals. I suppose in many ways I set out an 6 must be the publisher who is willing to set that up. It 7 7 is then for the publisher to decide how the internal agenda in that two-page document. I set out in simple 8 terms the powers that the new independent 8 structure should work with his or her editors. 9 9 MR JAY: Are you personally satisfied that the detailed self-regulatory structure should have. I think it's 10 proposals which we've seen and scrutinised deliver the 10 remarkable that Lord Black has been able to get 11 11 best quality independent regulation system? agreement across the industry, because I am aware that 12 there are differing views in all parts of this great 12 A. Yes, because I am advised that it fulfils the objectives 13 13 newspaper and magazine industry but I haven't reached which I set out on 15 December. The key area, though --14 14 a conclusion because I was hoping to receive some and I think that is where many people will be looking to 15 15 guidance, because we are dealing with a completely new this Inquiry for guidance -- is on this third arm, the 16 16 area. This is going to be the first time ever arbitral arm. Everyone wants to see a quick and easy 17 17 a contract-based -- as recommended by Shawcross -way of resolving disputes without overoccupying the time 18 a contract-based regulatory structure is going to be set 18 of lawyers and courts, but I don't think yet anyone has 19 19 come forward with the solution. I think people are 20 20 Q. Is your fear, though, that if the contractual looking to this Inquiry to give guidance. I think it's 21 stipulations and associated regulatory stipulations are 21 much easier to determine standards and compliance and 22 22 very detailed -- as indeed it's fair to say they are in handling complaints, and as you know, I don't think 23 23 the proposals we've been examining this morning -- it adding compensation to the list of powers of the 24 may be less likely that every single entity within the 24 complaints-handling body would be a good idea because 25 25 I want to see complaints continue to be mediated. press as a whole will sign up to them?

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- 1 Q. The issue in relation to the arbitral arm, as you well
- 2 know, is it requires some form of statutory
- 3 underpinning, that commercial contracts by themselves
- 4 are insufficient. You appreciate that?
- 5 A. Yes, and Lord Lester's bill originally did set out a way
- 6 in which that could be done. The government have not
- yet incorporated the wording that Lord Lester of Hearne
- 8 Hill suggested but it may have the opportunity of
- 9 reconsidering that, particularly when the bill comes
- 10 before the House of Lords later this year.
- 11 Q. Paragraph 27 of your statement. You refer in the second
- bullet point to funding. Can I ask you please about the
- relationship between the industry funding body and the
- trust board of the regulator. Do you feel that that
- provides sufficient autonomy for the trust to do its job
- 16 properly?
- 17 A. I don't really want the regulator to be involved in the
- detail of how the funding is allocated between
- 19 individual publishers, individual newspapers and
- 20 magazines and online. I think for the regulator to have
- 21 cognisance of that would lead to different pressures
- being put on the regulator. I would far prefer the
- 23 independent self-regulatory mechanism to be funded but
- 24 not to go into detail about how that funding should be
- 25 arrived at. That will be a matter for the industry.
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- Q. That goes back to an earlier point. It assumes that
- there's already a culture change within all the relevant
- 3 press organisations to ensure that both internal
- 4 governance is improved but that there are fewer breaches
- 5 of standards to enable internal systems to deal with
- 6 them. Wouldn't you agree with that?
- 7 A. Yes. Certainly I've not come across anyone who has told
- 8 me that it's impossible or too difficult to organise the
- 9 necessary internal standards compliance and
- 10 complaints-handling. There are differing views as to
- 11 how independent the complaints-handling would be, but
- certainly I've found, especially in the local and
- 13 regional press, that they would far prefer that
- 14 complaints are dealt with direct with the complainant
- 15 and resolved quickly.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you, please, about paragraph 28 of your
- statement, where you say in relation to the board of the
- 18 new regulator that you would like to see one or two
- industry representatives on it but there should be an
- 20 independent chairman and an independent majority.
- 21 Lord Black's model has three press representatives on it
- who are not serving editors. Do you feel that's too
- 23 many?
- 24 A. Well, there are some differences between Lord Black's
- 25 proposals and my suggestions. I stand by my

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- 1 Q. So the industry then will have control over the total
- amount of the pot, would it, Lord Hunt?
- $3\,$ $\,$ A. No, because, as you know, I have set out in my statement
- 4 what I think will be the cost of the new structure, and
- 5 as I understand it, the industry feels able, provided it
- 6 gets general acceptance, to supply sufficient funds to
- 7 meet that budget.

9

- 8 Q. I put the point to Lord Black and I put it to you as
 - well: we know how much the PCC costs at the moment.
- 10 It's just short of 2 million. The new body will cost
- 11 2.25 million a year, plus the enforcement pot, which
- will start at 100,000. Is that really sufficient, given
- all the extra work which the new regulator is being
- 14 asked to undertake?
- 15 A. Yes, because I anticipate that the emphasis on internal
- $16 \qquad \text{standard-setting and complaints-handling will result in} \\$
- a more oversight body than presently is constituted.
- 18 Therefore, you're quite right; there are additional
- 19 responsibilities in the standards arm, in particular if
- 20 there is a serious or systemic breach, but the onus of
- complaints-handling should be much more the
- 22 responsibility of individual newspapers and magazines
- 23 than it is at the present time, and I've found there's
- a general acceptance by the industry that that should be
- 25 the case.

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- 1 suggestions, but I do believe the outline that
- 2 Lord Black has put forward is an extremely good starting
- 3 point, although I've always said that the contract
- 4 should be as sort and as simple as possible, so that the
- 5 regulator then has sufficient flexibility to adapt to
- 6 challenges presented by what is a dynamic and fluid
- 7 industry. But I certainly don't believe any final
- 8 contract should be signed until it has been forensically
 - examined by you, sir, and by your team, and I would also
- 10 like to study it myself to assess its fitness for
- 11 purpose.

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- 12 Q. It's right that there are some differences between what
- 13 you're proposing and what Lord Black, with the
- acquiescence or otherwise of the industry, has proposed.
- 15 I'm just seek to identify the key differences. One
- difference relates to the number of industry
- 17 representatives on the trust board. You favour, in
- principle, a fewer number, don't you?
- 19 A. Yes, and there are a number of other differences. For
- 20 instance, I think it's vitally important that there
- should be a whistle-blowing hotline into the new
- 22 regulatory structure, in particular for someone employed
- 23 who feels they're being asked to do things which are
- 24 contrary to the Editors' Code. There should also be an
 - ability within the new structure to discuss points of

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1	culture and ethical standards with any part of the	1	MR JAY: Okay. Before we look at other areas of difference
2	industry who wishes to seek advice. I would want to the	2	between your proposal and Lord Black's proposal, there's
3	see, certainly in the early days, as flexible	3	one area of similarity. This relates to the appointment
4	a structure as possible.	4	of the chair of the trust board. It's toward the end of
5	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: One of the concerns about which	5	paragraph 28 of your statement, and you pick it up again
6	I don't think my memory is letting me down relates to	6	in paragraph 71. Your proposal is the same as
7	a complaint by some journalists about being asked to	7	Lord Black's, although you refer specifically to
8	proceed in a way which they felt was unethical and being	8	a shortlist which would be produced independently by
9	told by the PCC that they had no right to complain.	9	headhunters. A panel of four should make the final
10	A. Yes.	10	decision, there would be two independent members and two
11	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And I suppose that is what you're	11	industry members of that panel, but there should be
12	talking about by the whistle-blowers?	12	unanimous decisions.
13	A. Yes.	13	I don't think Lord Black referred to headhunters,
14	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But do you have a comment then on the	14	but in all other respects your proposal is the same as
15	whole question of third-party complaints and the need	15	Lord Black's. I must ask you this, Lord Hunt: you say
16	for significant breaches of the code or substantial	16	that this should be a thorough-going process modelled
17	public interest? Or do you think that puts it too high,	17	upon best practice, but is it best practice to have this
18	before a third party can complain or a group can	18	sort of appointments system? Why not have an
19	complain?	19	appointments system: why not have an appointments system which is independent of the industry
20	A. I'm assured by my colleagues in the PCC that they do	20	altogether?
21	listen attentively to any third party who wishes to	21	A. Well, I certainly believe independent policing of
22	bring forward a complaint at the present time, but often	22	standards is in the public interest, and the new body
23	the complainant may not wish to make a complaint but	23	has to be clearly and demonstrably independent of the
24	there is a group or a third party wishing to complain on	24	industry it regulates and also of the apparatus of the
25	their behalf. I think that will be a matter which	25	state, and I would hope that certainly the conclusion
	Page 81		Page 83
	1 1150 01	\vdash	1 450 00
1	should and must occupy the new self-regulatory structure	1	will be to recommend an appointments system which will
2	as being right at the heart of what it needs to	2	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly.
2 3	as being right at the heart of what it needs to establish if we are to see a change in culture and	2 3	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly. Otherwise the public will not have trust and confidence
2 3 4	as being right at the heart of what it needs to establish if we are to see a change in culture and ethics across the whole industry. There shouldn't be	2 3 4	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly. Otherwise the public will not have trust and confidence in the new body.
2 3 4 5	as being right at the heart of what it needs to establish if we are to see a change in culture and ethics across the whole industry. There shouldn't be artificial barriers to people who feel they have	2 3 4 5	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly. Otherwise the public will not have trust and confidence in the new body. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But do you think the public is likely
2 3 4 5 6	as being right at the heart of what it needs to establish if we are to see a change in culture and ethics across the whole industry. There shouldn't be artificial barriers to people who feel they have a genuine grievance.	2 3 4 5 6	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly. Otherwise the public will not have trust and confidence in the new body. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But do you think the public is likely to have trust and confidence in a body which gives to
2 3 4 5 6 7	as being right at the heart of what it needs to establish if we are to see a change in culture and ethics across the whole industry. There shouldn't be artificial barriers to people who feel they have a genuine grievance. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The people who have given evidence to	2 3 4 5 6 7	entrench that independence. I feel that very strongly. Otherwise the public will not have trust and confidence in the new body. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But do you think the public is likely to have trust and confidence in a body which gives to the industry nominees a veto on the appointment of the
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- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh, have you?
- 2 A. I believe that there are independent people who don't
- 3 necessarily want independent people, and there are
- 4 equally press people who don't necessarily want press
- 5 people. I just want there to be unanimity on the right
- 6 way forward, but I will be guided by you, sir.
- 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, I'm prepared to accept that
- 8 people may consider me cynical as well. I just want to
- 9 be realistic and ensure that there is a system which
- 10 attracts public confidence.
- 11 A. Yes, yes.
- 12 MR JAY: The other point of departure between your proposal
- 13 and Lord Black's proposal, assuming I've correctly
- 14 understood Lord Black's proposal, which I believe
- 15 I have, is that you put forward the idea that the
- 16 independent chairman should be the chief ombudsman on
- 17 complaints and the principal arbiter of standards. So
- 18 are you saying, Lord Hunt, that the ombudsman in effect
- 19 is the first tier of the complaints committee, or is he
- 20 or she the appeal body? How is this working in
- 21 contradistinction to Lord Black's proposal?
- 22 A. Well, I reached this conclusion after my visit to Dublin
- 23 and also considering a number of other systems and
- 24 a number of other ombudsman, and I think the key to this
- 25 system working well will lie in the character and
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- 1 proposal, but it may be that your proposal is better.
- 2 In order to test whether it is, can we just see what
- 3 this ombudsman is doing? Is he or she the first level
- 4 of the complaints system, as it were? I mean,
- 5 obviously --
- 6 A. No, the first level must be the internal newspaper and
- 7 magazine.
- 8 Q. Yes. Putting that aside --
- 9 A. If that can't resolve, then it moves into what I have
- 10 sought to describe as the complaints arm with its panel
- 11 of adjudicators: 13, eight independent, five from the
- 12 industry.
- 13 Q. Mm-hm.
- 14 A. And obviously that complaints arm would operate
- 15 alongside the standards arm, which would also have
- 16 a panel of experts, and if necessary, an investigation
- 17 by a panel of three --
- 18 Q. We understand that.
- 19 A. So that is the structure.
- 20 Q. So where's the ombudsman fitting in in this structure?
- 21 A. Well, I see the ombudsman as being the independent
- 22 chairman of the whole structure. That is one solution.
- 23 That's one way forward. There are many others, but
- 24 that's the one that I thought would attract the maximum
- 25 support.

- 1 personality of the person who is going to occupy this
- 2 key role, and I would therefore want them to have that
- 3 power and that influence.
- 4 Q. Is this person an ombudsman properly so called, or is it
- 5 someone who is just going to be regarded as very
- 6 important and key to the whole system?
- 7 A. Oh no, no, it's got to be someone who is seen by the
- 8 public as someone in whom they can have trust and
- 9 confidence to make the right decision.
- 10 Q. But an ombudsman properly so called? Because an
- 11 ombudsman, on the evidence the Inquiry we've received,
- 12 is usually independent of the body it's regulating, and
- 13 this ombudsman is not part of the system. Ombudsmen
- 14 also usually have power to award compensation. So it's 15
- not, on our understanding, an ombudsman at all. I just
- 16 want to understand what your terminology amounts to, if
- 17 I may.
- 18 A. Well, during the course of that first independent
- 19 inquiry into the financial services ombudsman that
- 20 I did, I was introduced to the Society of Ombudsmen, and
- 21 I have to tell you they are so different depending on
- 22 which country they're in, which jurisdiction. I don't
- 23 think I can generalise, except to put forward my view of
- 24 what this ombudsman would be.
- 25 Q. Okay. Well, we don't see it mirrored in Lord Black's

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- Q. Well, we may be playing with words, but the distinction 1
- 2 may be important. That, on our understanding of the
- 3 term, is not an ombudsman properly so-called, but
- 4 nonetheless the chair of the trust is occupying a very
- 5 important position in the whole structure.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 O. We can see it on Lord Black's charts.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. We may dispense with the label, but we understand the
- 10 importance of the role that person occupies. Can we at
- least agree with that? 11
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. You also suggest -- it's not explicit in Lord Black's
- 14 model, but it may be implicit -- that the new regulator
- 15 should require a communications function. This is
- 16 paragraph 36 your statement. What precisely do you have
- 17 in mind there?
- 18 A. In what respect?
- 19 Q. How is this communications function going to be
 - discharged and what is the need for it?
- 21 A. In relation to the ombudsman?
- 22 Q. No, in relation to the system as a whole.
- 23 A. Well, I see the ombudsman as certainly not being
- 24 a champion of the free press but believing in a free and
- 25 responsible press, and the job of the ombudsman is to

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1 ensure that the responsibility element of the equation A. Yes. 2 2 is just as important as the freedom element, and the LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Choose a time, Mr Jay. 3 system should operate on the basis that a free press is 3 MR JAY: I want to sort of leave -- I think we can break 4 4 now. I wanted to ration myself to an hour and a half in the public interests as long as it operates within 5 5 the code, and that's the way I look at the use of the tomorrow morning with Lord Hunt, otherwise we're going 6 word "ombudsman" and indeed the purpose of the whole 6 to be in danger of not completing the business of the 7 7 day, but I think I will be successful. structure. 8 Q. The next section of your evidence is effectiveness, 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: If you want to --9 paragraph 35. You identify five principles -- these are 9 MR JAY: No, I'm not that concerned now. 10 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right. the Hampton principles -- and you add a sixth principle, 11 namely independence. We understand that. In agreement 11 MR JAY: But I am asked to say that we're reading in 12 with the public interest -- that's paragraph 37. We 12 a number of statements today. 13 understand that. 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right, let's do that. 14 14 May I ask you, please, about the amendment of the MR JAY: The list will be put on the website immediately. 15 code which you refer to in paragraph 37, which I think 15 I'm not going to read out the whole list now. There's 16 is fairly recent, if my recollection is right, 16 quite a lot of them. 17 17 Lord Hunt. It requires editors to demonstrate the LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Could I just see the 18 public interest has been served and the amendment is, 18 list? 19 and how and with whom that was established at the time. 19 MR JAY: Certainly. (Handed) 20 How has this amendment been used or tested at all 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I hope it's not inconvenient for you 21 21 since this introduction and what difference, if any, is tomorrow morning. 22 it making? Can you assist us with that? 22 A. No, no, not at all, sir. 23 A. I'm told it has made a considerable difference, in that 23 MR JAY: These have all been circulated to the CPs. Any 24 24 now, whenever public interest -- and it will be about which there is some concern or dispute are not on comparatively rare that public interest is discussed in 25 25 the list and will be taken up subsequently. Page 89 Page 91 1 1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I've seen this list. Yes, I agree. this way -- I am told now that there is every effort 2 made to record exactly what is said and done at that 2 Thank you very much. All the statements identified in 3 3 this document, the deadline for objections having been time. 4 4 4 pm on Monday, 2 July, will be deemed read into the I don't think it was an easy amendment for the press 5 to accept. There was considerable discussion about it, 5 record of the Inquiry. Thank you very much. Tomorrow 6 but I think it's a reflection of the way standards have 6 morning at 10 o'clock. 7 7 improved and culture has improved that everyone felt (4.36 pm)8 that this was a necessary amendment and it came in on 8 (The hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock the following day) 9 9 1 January this year. It's a little early still to 10 10 adjudicate on how effective it's been, but I think it's 11 a move -- certainly a move in the right direction. 11 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, one hopes it's never 12 13 13 challenged, because everybody does it properly. 14 14 15 MR JAY: The next theme you take up -- this is paragraphs 39 15 16 to 41 -- is that of flexibility. 16 17 A. Yes. 17 18 Q. The need to ensure that there isn't, as you say, the 18 19 19 time bomb of obsolescence built into the system. Are 20 you contemplating here simply this: that the system is 20 21 flexible enough to enable new entities to be 21 22 incorporated within it, either in terms of the criteria 22 23 for entry or the ability of those currently within the 23 24 system to amend its terms? Is that basically the issue 24 25 25 here? Page 90 Page 92

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