



**HM Revenue
& Customs**

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Date

4th November 2011

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS TO THE
LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, ETHICS AND PRACTICES OF THE
PRESS**

PURSUANT TO A REQUEST DATED 27TH SEPTEMBER 2011

ANNEX D

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

**THE MATERIAL CONTAINED
HEREIN IS NOT TO BE FURTHER
DISCLOSED WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF HM REVENUE AND
CUSTOMS**

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Disclosure cases involving the media

Tab reference	Case reference	Respondent's Name	Outcome
M1	CAN 173/02	Not ascertained	Leak of information to the press. Disclosure of official information. No Further Action (NFA). No further details available
M2	CAN 864/ []	[]	<p>On 30th October [] the HMRC Press Officer for Scotland was contacted by telephone by a man who gave his name as 'Nick' from the [] and asked if an officer of HMRC, [] was currently under investigation. Nick advised that he had been tipped off by an un-named colleague and that the investigation related to the timescales of 9 cases [] had been involved with. On 6th November [] was at home when a man came to the back door of his home and introduced himself as Nick [] from [] he provided [] with a business card. He asked if [] was being investigated for a failure to submit prosecution reports to the procurator fiscal and for misuse of a pool car. [] declined to offer any comment.</p> <p>Full checks on HMRC's [] in respect of [] and former and current members of his team were carried out including [] No evidence of any contact with [] was obtained. HMRC issued an email to all members of [] team inviting individuals to report, in confidence, any information about an alleged leak to [] No information was provided and the case was closed.</p>
M3	CAN 236/ []	Not ascertained	Unauthorised disclosure of operational information (leak to the press). Case opened 14/02/07 and closed 04/10/07. NFA.
M4	R&D [] 54 (see also IG Civil cases CAN 208/ [] and 210/ [] CAN 327/ []	Not ascertained	<p>In March [] Detection Belfast reported to Internal Governance (IG) a potential leak of information concerning two linked HMRC internal disciplinary cases in relation to a []</p> <p>A local manager stated that reporters from [] have been in contact with our press office for comment on the cases. The reporters appear to know a great deal of detailed information about the cases and a leak from within the local office is suspected.</p> <p>Further information received from [] alleges that suspected 'leak' may have originated from a 'peeler' (Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Officer?). However, both HMRC officers being investigated by IG are described as 'close' to this [] Despite extensive enquiries by IG and PSNI unable to identify possible source of alleged 'leak' and decision made to close case in Jan []</p>

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M5	CAN 603/	Not ascertained	<p>On 18 August [redacted] published an article about [redacted] including quotes from an HMRC internal document. The document had not been protectively marked but circulation had initially been limited to senior managers and national trade union representatives at a meeting on 12 April [redacted]. However, it was established that the document had then been circulated more widely, including to Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union representatives.</p> <p>Checks on HMRC [redacted] between the date of the meeting and the publication of the [redacted] article. These included [redacted]. [redacted] it was not possible to identify who made the calls. Examination of [redacted] [redacted] produced no evidence linking anyone to [redacted]. The case was closed [redacted].</p>
M6	R&D 11/29	Not ascertained	<p>(18/01/11) Board level concerns re, suspected potential leak to media [redacted] in relation to [redacted] initial enquiries undertaken by Security and Business Continuity (S&BC) supported by 'fact finding' undertaken by IG. No named individual or specific business areas suspected as being responsible for suspected leak.</p> <p>In depth 'fact finding' conducted by IG Intelligence – no significant or conclusive outcome. Internal report submitted to Head of Internal Governance Intelligence Teams 21/02/11 - NFA</p>
M7	R&D [redacted] 383	Not ascertained	<p>October [redacted] complaint from taxpayer concerning historic suspected 'leak' to the local press possibly in July [redacted] in relation to an HMRC investigation into her [redacted] affairs (for [redacted] years [redacted]).</p> <p>[redacted] Three individual HMRC employees were named successively as being the suspected source of alleged 'leak' – investigation has confirmed that <u>none</u> have accessed the subject's tax records. The IG investigation appears to have been discontinued in November 2007.</p>
M8		Not ascertained	<p>Leak of information to the press concerning [redacted] tax affairs. Current on-going case</p>
M9	INT 408	Not ascertained	<p>Enquiries made between December 02 and March 03. Sensitive commercial info leaked to press. No inside source located. [Memory suggests this relates to press & [redacted] articles about the sale of the Inland Revenue estate to a group subsequently identified as registered offshore for tax purposes which created a lot of media attention. As recorded on the register no source was located]</p>

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M10	CAN 1513/ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
M11	<input type="checkbox"/>	t	<p><input type="checkbox"/> An ongoing 'fact finding' investigation is being undertaken by IG in support of Director Security & Information Directorate who has responsibility for this issue.</p>
M12	RD	Not ascertained	<p>(09/08/10) Board level concerns re; suspected potential leak to media <input type="checkbox"/> and press articles. 'Fact finding' enquiries undertaken by IG with specific emphasis on particular individuals and specific business areas responsible for management of negotiations and for specific related strategy and policy issues.</p> <p>'Fact finding enquiries' conducted by IG Intelligence – unable to establish exact 'circle of knowledge' in relation to material allegedly leaked to media and no conclusive outcome. Internal report submitted to Head of Internal Governance Intelligence Teams 12/08/10 – NFA.</p>

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M13	RD/10/473	Not ascertained	(20/12/10) Board level concerns re; suspected potential leak to media [redacted] and quoting settlement figure allegedly only known to restricted individuals within HMRC. Also, suspected link of alleged leak to recent social event held by relevant business area and attended by ex-HMRC employee now [redacted]. Fact finding' enquiries undertaken by IG with specific emphasis on particular individuals and specific business areas responsible for management of negotiations and related strategy and policy issues. These 'fact finding enquiries' have identified that the 'circle of knowledge' was far wider than originally believed by senior management. Also, there is no evidence that the alleged leaking of material to the media [redacted] is necessarily related to ongoing social interaction between HMRC staff and an ex-employee now working for [redacted]. Internal report submitted to Head of Internal Governance Intelligence Teams 25/01/11 – NFA.
M14	CAN 314/02	[redacted]	In [redacted] a Customs & Excise Officer received a two year formal written warning for giving unauthorised interviews to the press regarding the [redacted]. The unauthorised contacts took place over 3 days from 28 th to 30 th August [redacted]. There was no evidence of any inappropriate activity by the press.
M15	CAN 1213/07	Not ascertained	On 3 September 2007 several newspapers published articles claiming that an HMRC 'whistleblower' had provided information to unnamed Conservative party members about the scale of tax credit overpayments. Similar material was also posted on the 'Disgruntled Lemmings' website and in an article on the 'Tax Credit Casualties' website. The latter article also claimed that information had been provided by an HMRC insider. On 5 September HMRC received written questions about the overpayments from David Gauke MP and later from George Osborne MP. Checks were carried out on [redacted] to try to identify staff who had contacted [redacted] in the relevant period. These were inconclusive. [redacted]
M16	CAN 570/ [redacted]	[redacted]	In April [redacted] [redacted] Following this presentation he started emailing various people including ministers, national newspapers and work colleagues. His emails contained links to his speech. Some of his emails could be deemed to be critical of government policy and of ministers, including Gordon Brown. Officer given a 1 year written warning and a requirement that he seeks specific permission to deal with the media.

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<p>M17</p>	<p>RD [] 285</p>	<p>Not ascertained</p>	<p>In May 2008 articles were published in [] which disclosed the names of Corporations involved in the programme. This was a clear breach of tax information and an offence under Section 19. CRCA 2005. Enquiries highlighted the large numbers of individuals that had access to the material that may have been leaked.</p> <p>Fact finding identified that there had also been a number of articles in [] A senior executive of that company stated that the detailed sum mentioned in [] could only have come from HMRC. There were also articles in [] with whom HMRC has an agreed contract, which may also have come from within HMRC.</p> <p>Extensive enquiries revealed no direct link to a sole individual within HMRC that had been responsible for the suspected unauthorised disclosure to the media on any of the examples detailed. Whilst analysis of the information gleaned during the fact finding indicated that a specific section of the department could have been the source of the information, it was and remains insufficient for any further action to be taken.</p> <p>Details of the enquiries undertaken throughout this fact</p>
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M18 Ref No 8448/ Under investigation

Suspected leak on [] regarding VAT affairs of []