

NI Group Limited
W. A. Walls
Second Statement
Exhibit WAW6
19 July 2012

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES AND
ETHICS OF THE PRESS**

EXHIBIT WAW6

This is the exhibit marked "WAW6" referred to in the second witness statement of William Alan Walls dated the 19th day of July 2012.



17 April 2012

Mr Max Mosley
7, Avenue Saint Roman
MC 98000
Monaco

Dear Mr Mosley

It has come to my attention that on 10th March 2011 you wrote to Mr Rupert Murdoch, as Chairman and Chief Executive of News Corporation, about the conduct of Mr Neville Thurlbeck, who at that time remained the chief reporter of *The News of the World*. Your letter concerned Mr Thurlbeck's conduct as described in the judgement which Mr Justice Eady gave in July 2008.

I understand that, when it was received last year, your letter was referred by Mr Murdoch's office to News International for consideration and a reply. I further understand that you did not receive a reply. Please accept my apologies, on behalf of News International, for the failure to respond to you and for the discourtesy involved.

I will write to you shortly with a full response, but you will no doubt be aware that, by the date of your letter, the Metropolitan Police had embarked upon Operation Weeting (acting on information received from News International) and, on 5 April 2011, Mr Thurlbeck was arrested. He was suspended from his duties at the same time and later dismissed from his employment. On the wider front, the *News of the World* newspaper has been closed and the editor, Mr Colin Myler is no longer employed by News Group Newspapers.

I appreciate that these events do not, in themselves, provide a full answer to your letter. I will look into the matter and provide a further response as soon as I am able to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Mockridge
Chief Executive Officer
NI Group Limited

3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
T: 020 7782 6000

Registered Office: NI Group Limited, 3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
Registered Number: 81701 England





30 May 2012

Mr Max Mosley
7, Avenue Saint Roman
MC 98000
Monaco

Dear Mr Mosley

Further to my letter of 17 April 2012, I am now able to give you a further response in respect of your letter to Mr Rupert Murdoch of 10 March 2011.

In your letter you drew attention to the comments which Mr Justice Eady made in his judgment of July 2008 about the conduct of Mr Neville Thurlbeck, who at that time remained the chief reporter of *The News of the World*. You drew particular attention to paragraphs 79 to 87 of Mr Justice Eady's judgment which, as you say, concerned Mr Thurlbeck's attempt to obtain material for a follow-up story from two of the women involved.

Both Mr Rupert Murdoch and I have considered what Mr Justice Eady said in his judgment. As Mr Murdoch explained when he gave evidence to the Leveson Inquiry, journalists routinely negotiate with sources. The classic example is a promise of confidentiality made by the journalist in return for agreement by the source to tell their story. However, in the circumstances set out by Mr Justice Eady, both Mr Murdoch and I understand and accept what the Judge said about Mr Thurlbeck's conduct in that case.

In your letter of 10 March 2011 you asked for instructions to be given for the matter to be investigated without further delay and for appropriate action to be taken. As I mentioned in my previous letter, by March 2011, the Metropolitan Police had embarked upon Operation Weeting and News International was very heavily committed to cooperating with that investigation. Mr Ian Edmondson, who Mr Thurlbeck has accused of dictating his e-mails in your case, had been dismissed in January 2011 and, in April 2011, both Mr Edmondson (who denies dictating the e-mails) and Mr Thurlbeck were arrested. In the circumstances, it would not have been practicable for News International to start an investigation into Mr Thurlbeck's conduct which ran in parallel with the investigations which the Metropolitan Police were already conducting:

3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
T: 020 7782 6000

Registered Office: NI Group Limited, 3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
Registered Number: 81701 England





With regard to the present and the future, you will be aware from the evidence that has been given to the Leveson Inquiry that all three remaining News International titles have been subject to a rigorous review by Linklaters, acting under the auspices of News Corporation's Management Standards Committee, with all material which merits it being handed to the Police for their consideration (subject to appropriate safeguards for sources and confidential information).

At the same time we have introduced fresh compliance systems and compliance personnel and reinvigorated the in-house training received by journalistic and editorial staff. In consequence, I am reassured that conduct such as that described by Mr Justice Eady will not be repeated on News International titles.

It is regrettable that the company did not take into account Mr Justice Eady's comments when they were made in July 2008. However, while I appreciate that reassurance for the future does not erase past misconduct, I hope that you will feel some satisfaction that these steps have now been taken.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Mockridge
Chief Executive Officer
NI Group Limited

3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
T: 020 7782 6000

Registered Office: NI Group Limited, 3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY
Registered Number: 81701 England

