

NI Group Limited
R. Caseby
Fifth Statement
RC11 – RC14
18 July 2012

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

**FIFTH WITNESS STATEMENT
OF
RICHARD CASEBY**

I, Richard Caseby c/o The Sun, News Group Newspapers Limited, of 3 Thomas More Square, London E98 1XY, will say as follows:

1. I am Managing Editor of the Sun and I have held that position since July 2011. Before that, I was Managing Editor of the Sunday Times between 1998 and July 2011 and held various roles with the Sunday Times prior to that. This is my fifth witness statement to the Leveson Inquiry.
2. During the afternoon session of the Inquiry on 3 April 2012, Lord Justice Leveson invited any title that so wished to submit their top five public interests stories from the last few years. This statement responds to that invitation on behalf of the four titles that have been published by NI Group Limited over the past few years – The Sunday Times, The Times, The Sun and the News of the World.

The Sunday Times

3. The Sunday Times' top five public interests stories from the last few years are listed below. In addition, copies of the articles are set out at **Exhibit RC11**.

(i) *"Tory treasurer charges £250,000 to meet PM", Insight, 25 March 2012*

The co-treasurer of the Conservative party, Peter Cruddas, was filmed by Sunday Times' reporters selling secret meetings with the Prime Minister for donations of £250,000. He offered a lobbyist and undercover reporters posing as overseas clients direct access to David Cameron if they joined a "premier league" of party donors. Mr Cruddas resigned within hours of the story being published and Mr Cameron came under intense pressure to disclose the identities of all donors who have been entertained privately at Downing Street.

The articles can be found at pages 1 to 3 of **Exhibit RC11**.

- (ii) *"Vet offers only hope for Syrian wounded" and "We live in fear of a massacre", 19 February 2012*

The last despatch from Marie Colvin, the Sunday Times' renowned war correspondent, revealed the scale and depth of suffering among the 28,000 civilians caught up in the Syrian army's shelling of the Babr Amr district of Homs. Marie was killed by a rocket on 22 February 2012, three days after her story was published, provoking international condemnation of President Assad's regime and adding impetus to the efforts to secure Russian and Chinese backing for political transition in Damascus.

The articles can be found at pages 4 to 10 of **Exhibit RC11**.

- (iii) *"Revealed: the full horror of Misrata", 10 April 2011*

The Sunday Times foreign reporter Hala Jaber boarded a gun runners' trawler to get to the Libyan port of Misrata after it was besieged and bombarded for weeks with no independent access for journalists. She found a city in desperate need of humanitarian and military help. Her front-page report increased international pressure for aid shipments to trapped civilians and NATO airstrikes on Colonel Gaddafi's forces in the area.

The article can be found at pages 11 to 18 of **Exhibit RC11**.

- (iv) *"World Cup votes for sale", Insight, October 2010*

The Sunday Times reporters exposed corruption in the FIFA voting process which decides who will host the football World Cup. During an investigation that lasted three months and involved travel to three continents, the undercover team discovered six senior FIFA officials, past and present, who offered to work as fixers and suggested paying huge bribes to FIFA executive members. One executive member asked for £500,000 for a personal project, another asked for £1.5m for a sports academy. As a result, eight officials were suspended for between one and four years and in future every member country will have a vote on who should host the World Cup rather than a secretive 24-man committee.

The articles can be found at pages 19 to 36 of **Exhibit RC11**.

- (v) *Peers' expenses, May - August 2009*

Following information discovered during an earlier Insight investigation into peers being paid to table amendments, the Sunday Times mounted an inquiry into how peers claimed expenses for their places of residence. The Insight team discovered that Baroness Uddin had claimed £100,000 in expenses on an unfurnished property after claiming it was her main residence. They also found that Lord Taylor of Warwick had claimed £70,000 by falsely claiming his main home was outside London. As a result of the investigation, Lord Paul, Lord Bhatia and Baroness Uddin were all suspended from the Lords. Lord Taylor, a

barrister, was subsequently jailed for 12 months for false accounting and barred for life from the legal profession.

These articles can be found at pages 37 to 59 of **Exhibit RC11**.

The Times

4. The Times' top five public interests stories from the last few years are listed below. In addition, copies of the articles are set out at **Exhibit RC12**.

(i) *The tax avoiders, 19 – 21 June 2012*

An undercover investigation by Times reporters revealed that thousands of wealthy people in Britain pay as little as 1% income tax. The comedian Jimmy Carr and members of the pop group Take That were named among those who used a Jersey-based tax scheme that shelters £168m from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs ("HMRC"). As a result of the Times articles, the Prime Minister condemned Mr Carr's conduct and Mr Carr promised to conduct his financial affairs "much more responsibly". HMRC also vowed to shut down the "K2 scheme" used by Mr Carr and more than 1,000 others.

The articles can be found at pages 1 to 29 of **Exhibit RC12**.

(ii) *"Fox in dock over links with "bogus aide"", 8 – 15 October 2011*

Times reporters revealed that Adam Werrity, a defence consultant and friend of Liam Fox, the Defence Secretary, was accompanying Dr Fox on trips around the world despite having no official role at the Ministry of Defence. The disclosures led directly to the resignation of Dr Fox.

The articles can be found at pages 30 to 85 of **Exhibit RC12**.

(iii) *The Times' Adoption Campaign, April 2011*

This Times investigation exposed why the adoption system has become riddled with delay and inertia, and how that has affected children waiting for permanent new families. As well as stories, interviews, graphics and case studies, The Times commissioned Martin Narey, the former director-general of the prison service, to analyse the system and recommend reforms.

The response was swift. First, in July 2011, the Government appointed Mr Narey as its first ministerial adviser on adoption with a remit to drive up the number of adoptions, especially at the worst performing local authorities. Then, in October 2011, David Cameron intervened to promise radical reform of the system. Finally, in December 2011, the Government announced it would scrap the bureaucratic assessment process for would-be adoptive parents and replace it with a more streamlined system.

The articles can be found at pages 86 to 125 of **Exhibit RC12**.

- (iv) *"Revealed: conspiracy of silence on UK sex gangs", 5 January 2011*

Andrew Norfolk's reporting from northern England blew apart the conspiracy of silence over the gangs of largely Pakistani men who were grooming hundreds of white girls for sexual exploitation in the UK. His investigation revealed a pattern of abuse by pimping gangs who lured vulnerable girls aged between 11 and 16 with drink and cigarettes.

The articles can be found at pages 126 to 137 of **Exhibit RC12**.

- (v) *"Israel rains fire on Gaza with phosphorus shells", 5 January 2009*

The Times revealed that the Israeli Defence Force was using white phosphorus shells during an offensive over one of the most densely populated areas of the world. The shells, which can cause horrific burns, are banned under the Geneva Treaty of 1980 as a weapon of war in civilian areas, but not if they are used as a smokescreen. Human rights groups accused the Israelis of war crimes.

The articles can be found at pages 138 to 148 of **Exhibit RC12**.

The Sun

5. The Sun's top five public interest stories from the last few years are listed below. In addition, copies of the articles are set out at **Exhibit RC13**.

- (i) *"We smash poison doc's prison plot to kill ex and baby", 14 May and 16 June 2012*

The Sun revealed how a doctor, already jailed for six years for drugging his mistress to try and force a miscarriage, was planning a revenge plot to kill her and her baby. In an undercover investigation Sun reporters asked another convict to secretly film the doctor, Edward Erin, explaining his plan. The evidence was handed to the police and as a direct result Erin was jailed for an additional two years.

The article can be found at pages 1 to 3 of **Exhibit RC13**.

- (ii) *"Court in the act - clerk brags of £500 bribes to wipe records of dangerous drivers", 4 August 2011 and 19 November 2011*

After a tip-off that a Magistrates Court clerk was offering to wipe clean convicted drivers' licences, The Sun mounted an undercover operation to test the allegation. The Sun reporter sought and won approval from the Editor and The Sun's legal advisers to offer the clerk £500 and film the transaction - even though this was in contravention of the Bribery Act 2010, which came into force the previous month.

The evidence was handed to police and the clerk, Munir Patel, became the first person to be convicted under the Bribery Act 2010 and was subsequently jailed for six years.

The articles can be found at pages 4 to 9 of **Exhibit RC13**.

(iii) *Sun employment campaign: 2009 - 2012*

In 2009 when the jobless total exceeded 2.5 million, the Sun launched a dedicated weekly section called "Sunemployment" for readers seeking work. In May 2011 the Sunemployment roadshow visited Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Hastings. Thousands of people attended the question and answer sessions with business leaders, recruitment experts and employers in each region. Since the campaign first launched tens of thousands of people have been found work or training through its endeavours and it has received the backing of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The articles can be found at pages 10 to 20 of **Exhibit RC13**.

(iv) *"Maddie fraudster nicked", 25 November 2009*

Kevin Halligen was a private detective employed by Gerald and Kate McCann to help find their missing daughter. He swindled £300,000 from their charitable fund and went on the run after a £2 million fraud for which he was wanted in the US. The Sun tracked him down, he was arrested and he has now lost his appeal against extradition.

The articles can be found at pages 21 to 23 of **Exhibit RC13**.

(v) *"We're in jail, dude", 6 February 2007*

The Sun revealed the secret cockpit tape from a US jet which attacked a British convoy and killed a British soldier, Lance Corporal Matty Hull, in a friendly fire incident during the Iraq war. The Ministry of Defence had failed to produce the video at the inquest into Lance Corporal Hull's death. But as a result of The Sun's investigation the Coroner was able to deliver a verdict of unlawful killing.

The articles can be found at pages 24 to 31 of **Exhibit RC13**.

News of the World

6. The News of the World's top five public interests stories from the last few years are listed below. In addition, copies of the articles are set out at **Exhibit RC14**.

(i) *Justice for the Brave Campaign, April - May 2011*

The News of the World published a series of reports "Justice for the Brave", which campaigned for the Government to legally recognise the Military Covenant, which gives servicemen and their families rights to benefits in health care, housing and schools. David Cameron had made an election pledge to write the Military Covenant on to the statute book but it was not included in the Armed Forces Bill, then passing through Parliament. Within a month of the launch of the campaign, the PM ensured that the Covenant was enshrined in the Armed Forces Bill, which received Royal Assent in November 2011.

The articles can be found at pages 1 to 17 of **Exhibit RC14**.

- (ii) *"Caught! World Exclusive: match-fixer pockets £150k as he rigs the England Test at Lord's", 29 August 2010*

An investigation by News of the World undercover reporters revealed Pakistani cricket team players accepting bribes to fix the fourth test match at Lords in 2010. The International Cricket Council banned three players for between five and 10 years. In addition, the players and a sports agent were jailed for between six to 32 months.

The articles can be found at pages 18 to 38 of **Exhibit RC14**.

- (iii) *"Cash for access desperate Fergie lies to make money out of prince", 23 May 2010*

Undercover News of the World reporters posing as business tycoons revealed Sarah Ferguson brokering a £500,000 deal to sell access to her ex-husband, Prince Andrew, the UK's special representative for International Trade and Investment.

The articles can be found at pages 39 to 53 of **Exhibit RC14**.

- (iv) *"Snooker champ Higgins bribes scandal, 2 May 2010*

An investigation revealed that John Higgins, the world snooker champion, was prepared to accept a £261,000 (€300,000) bribe to fix matches. He accepted the money to lose frames in four matches after being approached by an undercover News of the World team posing as match promoters. As a result, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association fined Higgins £75,000 and banned him from competing for six months.

The articles can be found at pages 54 to 57 of **Exhibit RC14**.

- (v) *"Calzaghe Cocaine Shame - Strictly star admits secret drug sessions", 28 March 2010*

A News of the World investigation discovered that Joe Calzaghe, the world champion boxer and former BBC Sport personality of the Year, was a cocaine user. After his exposure, Calzaghe apologised for his drug habit and promised to seek help.

The articles can be found at pages 58 to 62 of **Exhibit RC14**.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signature

Dated 18/7/12