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By email: Solicitors.Team@levesoninquiry.gsi.gov.uk
Confirmation by post

22 February 2012

Dear Ms Hiles,

I write further to my oral evidence to the Inquiry, in order to give more detail on the manner in which the Blogger service is operated by Google Inc.

I would point out that, although Blogger is operated by Google Inc., those who post blogs on the platform are responsible for its content. We have a user policy on what we consider to be appropriate content - such as hate speech, for example - but generally speaking, we see it as a platform to encourage free speech and self expression. To that end, users are able to post to Blogger using a pseudonym.

Mr Barr asked a specific question about how, for example, we might handle a complaint in respect of a French post saying something defamatory about an English person. Our answer would be the same as for any other UK-based defamation complaint in respect of Blogger - if we receive a valid notice such as a UK court order mandating that specific content be removed from Blogger on the basis that it is defamatory under UK law then we will remove that content accordingly.

Any such order must also be specific on the content that needs to come down - it would need to either identify the content by URL (blog or post), or identify the specific content, with the complainant providing the URLs that they believe specifically infringing.

As I told the Inquiry in my oral evidence, there is presently no UK-specific Blogger service, and accordingly any content removal pursuant to a UK court order would operate on a global basis. However, we recently launched local versions of the Blogger service on country-specific domains for a few regions and plan to add Blogger.co.uk in the coming months. Once we do so, Blogger.co.uk would as a matter of policy be operated consistently with UK law (as is google.co.uk).

I trust that this answers any outstanding questions which the Inquiry may have.

Yours sincerely,

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Daphne Keller

Legal Director and Associate General Counsel, Google Inc.