

CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED

Witness name: Ian MacGregor
Dated: 6 July 2012
Filed in response to a notice dated 28 June 2012

The Leveson Inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press

WITNESS STATEMENT OF IAN MACGREGOR
EDITOR, THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
6 July 2012

I, Ian MacGregor, of 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London W51W 0DT will say as follows:

1. I make this witness statement in response to the Leveson Inquiry's notice dated 28 June 2012. I made an earlier statement on 14 October 2011.

(1) Who you are and your current job title.

2. I am the editor of the *Sunday Telegraph* and have been since September 2007. I have been a journalist for over 25 years. A brief summary of my career is at paragraphs 2 to 8 of my first witness statement.

(2) To what extent were you personally involved in drawing up this proposal for a new system of self-regulation based on contractual obligations, as now set out by Lord Black?

3. Murdoch MacLennan, the Chief Executive of the Telegraph Media Group ('TMG') has taken the lead on this issue for the company.

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4. As editor, I would not expect to be involved in the actual drawing up of any proposal. That is a matter for our CEO and Board in consultation with the NPA and legal department.

(3) How far would you personally, in your capacity as editor, expect to be involved in the final decision as to whether your publication signed up to the contractual obligations envisaged by this system? Please explain in full how that decision would be taken.

5. As editor of the Sunday title, I would expect to be consulted prior to any decision to join the new regulator but the final decision would be for TMG through its Board.

(4) In so far as you are able to do so, please indicate whether your publication is at present fully ready and committed to enter into these contractual obligations. If it is not at present fully ready and committed, please explain why, and detail any changes that would need to be made to the proposal, any further development to proposal required, or any preparatory steps that would need to be taken at your publication, in order to put it in the position of being fully ready and committed to enter into these obligations. If there are no circumstances in which it would be prepared to enter into obligations of this nature, please explain why not.

6. As I have explained above, it would be a matter for the Board to approve but I understand that TMG is prepared to sign up to the scheme.

(5) What specific differences would membership of a system of the kind set out by Lord Black, underpinned by contractual obligations, make to the culture, practices and ethics of your publication?

7. I do not believe there would be many differences to the work practices of being a member of the new regulator for the *Sunday Telegraph*. I pride myself as being the editor of a newspaper that is run and staffed with

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those of the highest ethics and practices. I believe that evidence put forward by TMG to this Inquiry shows as much.

(6) Is there any other comment you wish to make on the proposal put forward by Lord Black, or on the proposals put forward by others, that are now published on the Inquiry website.

8. As a firm believer in the principle of a free press and true self-regulation, I am concerned about any new regulatory model but feel that entering into a contract-based scheme is the only sensible way forward.

9. From a practical point of view, any system must be free, fair and quick, any involvement of the state would hinder this. I believe that proposals put forward by Lord Black will create a free, fair, quick but also a tough system that will restore the public and industry's confidence in the press.

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

Ian MacGregor

6 July 2012