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Additional Statement to the Leveson Inquiry – David Palmer FIPI F.Inst.L.Ex

With reference to the Inquiry's request that I enquire into the membership of David Webb in the Institute of Professional Investigators, I attach the application paperwork available to me. The Inquiry should be aware that after initial admission, little if any further paperwork is kept unless the participant obtains Fellowship.

The inquiry will see that he applied to join the Institute in an application dated 1st November 2004, and following our application process was awarded membership in 2005. His references were provided by retired senior police officers, and the comments they made clearly speak for themselves.

The CCJ checks, etc. would have been undertaken by [redacted] who himself was a respected investigator and former employee with [redacted]. His signature is lacking because these papers were kept by [redacted] of our Admissions Committee after his own assessment. Our own papers appear to have been destroyed in erroneous compliance with the Data Protection Act, and we have since revised our procedures to retain material until a member leaves the Institute.)

Having read Mr Webb's own testimony, it is my understanding that he elected not to renew his membership following his arrest in 2007 and in compliance with the News of the World's requirement he relinquished his 'licence'. Certainly, his name does not appear in IPI member lists after 2007 and in the absence of any other information this suggests he merely failed to renew his subscription. There are no complaints in his respect, to my knowledge.

I do not know why Mr Webb referred to his membership certificate as a licence – it has never been suggested that a certificate is anything other than a certificate of participation, and it should be the case that a certificate should be returned on resignation from the Institute. Furthermore, given the nature of the reported consultations on licensing, how he could come to that assumption is unclear.

I make this further statement in the belief that its contents are true.

[Redacted signature box]

David Palmer FIPI F.Inst.L.Ex

Principal, The Institute of Professional Investigators