

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

Witness: H Mills
Supplemental Statement of
Witness
Exhibits: 3. 69 pages + 1 DVD
Dated: 6th February 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL WITNESS STATEMENT OF HEATHER
ANNE MILLS

I, Heather Anne Mills, of [redacted] will
say as follows in addition to my first statement dated 20th January 2012:

1. I was born on [redacted] and I am 44 years old. I have a brother, Shane, and a sister Fiona. I also have a younger half sister Claire, and of course my daughter Beatrice who is 8 years old. Our lives have all been damaged by media intrusion.
2. This is the background to my life, which I feel is important to detail, as the tabloid media have, over the years since I met my ex-husband Paul McCartney, taken the facts of my life and replaced them with lies which they print as 'fact'. There is now a completely different picture of my life available in print and on the internet, which has ruined my reputation, caused distress to my family, destroyed my charity work, ruined my career and most importantly took two years of freedom and privacy away from me and my daughter Beatrice.
3. When I was a small child in the 1970's living in Alwick, my parents were in a car accident and my Mother suffered extensive injuries. One of her legs was almost severed in the accident, and was reattached by a metal plate. She was told by the doctors that she may never walk again, except on crutches. Ultimately, she was able to recover the use of her leg, and to walk without crutches, but it took years before she was able to do so. She died in February 1989 due to complications with her leg.
4. To have witnessed my Mother go through this when I was a child, and then to lose her when I was a young woman was hard enough, but for the press to print that I made it up was deeply painful for me and for the rest of my family.

5. My Father was a very angry, abusive, bad tempered man. He was violent towards each of us, but especially my mother. When I was nine years old my mother left us to fend for ourselves at the hands of our Father.

6. Our Mother left us for a man named Charles Stapley. When my Father went to prison, my sister and I were relocated to London to live with our Mother and Charles. He did not welcome the sudden arrival of her children. (My brother went to live with our Grandmother in Brighton). Eventually I had to leave my Mother's home, as Charles did not want me there. In 2002 the Mail On Sunday paid Charles Stapley for an interview in which he said I had lied about my troubled upbringing. This again was very hurtful and untrue, but printed as fact. He has since apologised and said he regretted the article but this and all other misinformation about me is still published as fact on the internet. The newspaper involved has shown no interest in correcting their inaccurate information.

7. For my brother, sister and I to have gone through so much abuse was unbearable. To then, as adults, have to read the press articles between 2006-7 where my Father paints a picture of a perfectly happy childhood was very distressing. None of us were contacted by the newspapers regarding his story. My Father, who had served time in prison for fraud, was paid for the articles. In 1995, the Sun newspaper had serialised my autobiography 'Out on a Limb' so they knew the facts of my childhood. To now publish that I was a liar was soul destroying both for me, and my family who had suffered with me.

8. In 1989, (when I was 17) I started modelling for a small family run business called Roadshow Fashions, who manufactured clothes in India and sold them to British Home Stores. I had tried to get into serious modelling with no initial success so I tried some glamour modelling. In the 1980's it was a prestigious career to be a 'page three girl' like Samantha Fox, Marie Whittaker and Linda Lusardi (who are still successful to this day). Many teenage girls aspired to become a page three girl. I did a small number of shoots, one of which resulted in me being on page three of the Sun and in swimwear in the Daily Mirror. I used the knowledge I gained to open my own Model Agency.

9. In November 1990 I visited Slovenia with my first husband's ex-wife and children. I had suffered ectopic pregnancies and fallen out with my then husband. I left him and my life behind and went to live in Slovenia where I learnt to ski. I also carried on modeling, doing television commercials as well as poster work. Whilst I was living there, Slovenia became independent from the other Balkan states, but the invasion in June 1991 by Serbia forced me to evacuate through Austria and back to England. I stayed in England for a while, and set up a Crisis Centre, where relatives could enquire about their families back home and refugees could come and get advice about jobs. Many slept on the floor of my flat. Slovenia and Serbia were at war for only ten days before Serbian forces moved in to Croatia, where I followed and worked in and out of for years.

10. During this time I made a number of close friends in Croatia and Slovenia, and as a result I became more and more involved in the crises there. I joined a convoy of trucks taking food and clothing through Slovenia to Croatia, on behalf of a number of British charities. I made the journey as many times as I could, travelling either in my own car or by truck.

11. As a result of these trips, I became very conscious of the risks posed by landmines and the injuries and damage they can wreak. The NGO's would scan for landmines and place red sticks in the road when they found one that had not been detonated. In nearly every town we drove through we saw amputees who were victims of these mines. We often deposited medical equipment in Croatian hospitals where I would see victims of landmines, mortar shells and grenades.

12. On 8 August 1993, whilst in London, I was hit by a police motorcycle on a zebra crossing in Kensington. My left foot was severed, above the ankle. I also suffered head injuries, crushed ribs, a punctured lung and multiple fractures of the pelvis. The doctors soon realised that my leg could not be reattached. After a five hour operation I was left with six inches of leg below my left knee. I was unconscious for three days. During this time, my sister Fiona was told on

four separate occasions that it was unlikely that I would live. I was in hospital for a month during which time I had further operations on my pelvis and skin grafts on my leg. After I was discharged I continued to attend an outpatient clinic daily for many weeks to have dressings changed and to drain constant infections. To minimise my infection to my own bacteria I learned to drain and sew the wounds myself. Soon after, I was laid up again for many months due to my pelvic injuries which were actually much more painful than my damaged leg. A chiropractor named Michael Durtnall treated me for many months and witnessed the agony I experienced on a regular basis. He is still my chiropractor and is witness to the ongoing problems I now have and will suffer from for the rest of my life. I, like other amputees, have days when I can be very active. Other days I am unable to walk without considerable pain. During this time, with my additional injuries (broken pelvic plate) I had many, many days were I was completely incapacitated.

13. The newspapers picked up the story of my accident very quickly. The accident was reported in several national papers. I received many calls from reporters asking for interviews, and eventually I agreed to do a short one for GMTV. The following day photographs and quotes from the interview appeared in many newspapers. This was the beginning of a very positive seven years of fruitful press helping numerous charities I was involved with.

14. Throughout this period I had not yet been fitted with an artificial limb, as my leg had not yet healed well. I developed an infection in the bone, and I had to have a second amputation that resulted in the loss of another couple of inches of my leg. The infection returned however, and in November I travelled to Florida to the Hippocrates Institute to try holistic treatments and follow a strict raw food diet. I was joined there, by a journalist named Ruki Sayed, who worked for The People newspaper. Ruki wrote a positive piece about my vegan food diet and the rapid recovery of my infected leg.

15. I bought my first artificial leg whilst in Florida, and after a few months I was swimming and playing tennis. It was an inflexible leg however, and on my return to the UK, whilst I was presenting a TV piece on artificial limbs, I met Bob Watts ("Bob"), a specialist in Dorset, who had developed different kinds of legs.

Each leg was suitable for a different purpose, as one leg alone cannot replicate the complicated movements of a human leg, ankle and foot. The first leg Bob fitted me with was a basic NHS leg. Within a matter of weeks the socket was too big. I discovered on one trip that there were hundreds of disused limbs sitting in warehouses across the UK. So I started a limb collection and arranged for inmates at Brixton prison to dismantle them and put them into boxes so that we could take them to Croatia on one of our convoys. I organised a number of additional convoys to Croatia, transporting approximately 27,000 limbs in all. In order to continue funding these trips I began to take on public speaking jobs, which I supplemented with an increasing number of radio and television jobs. During these years, (1993-94) my work was covered favourably in the press, including the BBC.

16. As a result of the publicity I received, I became involved in fundraising for a number of charities. The work I did brought publicity and I gradually became more well known. Increasingly, I was asked to visit other amputees in hospital, which I did as often as I could. In 1994 I took part in the British Telecom Swimathon for charity with Olympic gold medalist Duncan Goodhew in which we raised around £2m. As a result of this I was asked to appear on the BBC programme 'How Do They Do That?' I was awarded a Gold Star Award by the Daily Star and invited to Downing Street to meet John Major. Later that year the Times newspaper presented me with their Human Achievement Award, and the British Chamber of Commerce voted me their Outstanding Young Person of the Year. They also named a new award in my honour – the Heather Millis Award – to be presented 'in perpetuity' to a young person who had overcome some hardship or disability.

17. During this time, I raised money in aid of charities through public speaking and became a popular female speaker in Europe. In order to support myself and to help with my charity work, I did a lot of television presenting, for example, Good Morning with Anne & Nick, Keanu Reeves interview; BBC TVAM; Chill Out With Heather series (where I interviewed a number of well known people); The Holiday program; Wish You Were Here; Travelogue; The General hospital; Richard and Judy; First Say (after Panorama show) making programs concerning issues such as Clinton's impeachment, the European working time

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directive and Prince Charles 50th birthday; This was the flagship's commission for the digital channel 'Choice' on the BBC. My role involved producing, researching, scripting, directing and presenting. I worked as a co-presenter, making and presenting reports on the 'That's Esther Show' with Esther Rantzen. I made programs focusing on the struggles of amputees, and the quality of services available to them, as well as other issues such as chip pan fires, police sirens, male nannies, safe children's playgrounds and many other public interest stories. I was speaking all over Europe and would speak on the same bill with eminent individuals such as Mark McCormack, Neil Armstrong and others. I commanded a fee ranging from £10,000 to £25,000 for a one hour speech. I was wealthy and financially independent in my own right and owned properties and other assets. I would - and still do - contribute money to charity.

18. From 1993 the press did not write one negative comment about my disability, on the contrary they put me on a pedestal and put more responsibility on my shoulders as an example for the disabled, which I embraced and worked hard at. I also provided counselling and tried to help others around the world who had also suffered the fate of becoming an amputee. So you can imagine my distress when tabloid journalists started cruelly joking about my disability once I met Paul McCartney, and turning nearly a decade of charitable work into a joke.
19. Tabloid journalists have written many insulting things about my disability. They have accused me of 'posing in wheelchairs' to get sympathy (when I was in pain) and said I have lied about my disability and made jokes about it. I am not precious about my disability but I do take great offence at being referred to as a 'one legged bitch'. Since when has it been acceptable to publicly insult a disabled person?
20. Prior to 1999 (when I met Paul McCartney) the tabloid papers never once criticised my very brief glamour modelling background. My autobiography was serialised. I was described as the 'model of overcoming adversity' and the proceeds of my book funded convoys of disused artificial limbs to the then war-torn Croatia.

21. It was only when I would not give them the 'Paul and I story' that they turned on me in 1999. I remember getting a call from Max Clifford (who I had never heard of at the time) saying words to the effect of 'if you do not let me represent you as Paul's new girlfriend I am going to destroy you'. At the time I dismissed it not knowing he would go on to arrange for various people to sell lies about me for money.
22. Piers Morgan stated when he interviewed me for his debut TV programme "Tabloid Tales" in 2003, *"The wedding of Paul McCartney to Heather Mills in June 2002 marked the final instalment to nearly 3 years of intense press coverage of their celebrity relationship. It was one of the most unexpected & written about romances to ever come under press scrutiny. In my 10 years of editing tabloid newspapers, I've seen just about every kind of celebrity relationship, the engagements, the weddings, the affairs and the divorces, but I've rarely seen such a scathing press attack as that launched on the woman who dared to fall in love with a British national institution; a Beatle.... The tabloids of course delight in condemning or praising at will. Beatle Paul McCartney had 40 years of adoring headlines, but the Beatle women weren't so lucky..... By the end of the 90s Heather's 7 years of good press was about to come to a dramatic end. In May 1999 she was asked to present a bravery award at the Daily Mirror's Pride of Britain ceremony. She was unaware her life was about to change forever..... The press were sharpening their pencils. Had Heather committed the ultimate taboo & bagged a Beatle?"*
23. After I met Paul McCartney, all of my work and achievements were devalued, questioned or ignored by the press. This has continued for over a decade by an abusive, unregulated tabloid media who care nothing of the negative effect their behaviour has had on the lives of those who looked for support from charities such as Adopt a Minefield.
24. One example of this behaviour involved the Sunday Mirror. They had inaccurately reported that I was being investigated by the Charities Commission and questioned the money raised for the Lions Club charity. After the Indian earthquake in Gujarat, I had decided to visit the devastated area and help some

of the 8000 newly injured amputees. My trip was documented by Hello! Magazine, who had agreed to donate a large sum directly to the Lions club.

25. The Sunday Mirror Editor, Tina Weaver, called Phil Hall (then Editor of Hello! Magazine) to ask if the money really went to the Lions club. He confirmed it went directly there and warned them not to print lies. This truthful information was ignored because it got in the way of 'a good story'. I sued and won damages, but it was stressful, expensive and time consuming. Although I was exonerated, the damage was already done.

26. By the time I met Paul McCartney, I was doing a great deal of counselling work. I was constantly getting requests from amputees to talk to them and requests from hospitals both via my website and through personal meetings. I was also being asked to speak to patient's relatives who were finding it hard to come to terms with the trauma their relative had suffered. I counselled many privately after the 7/7 London bombings, the New York ferry disaster and so on, but this work soon started to dry up after I met Paul because the press were continuously harassing me. The reason work began to dry up was because our relationship overshadowed everything. The press were simply more interested in the progress of our relationship than in the charities that I had supported for so long.

27. Paul saw me for the first time on 20 May 1998. I was giving a speech at the Daily Mirror Pride of Britain Awards and presenting an award to a young lady named Helen Smith. I had been counselling Helen who had lost both her arms and legs to meningitis. Paul was in the audience. Piers Morgan claims he introduced us, which is a lie as I never spoke to, or met Paul at the event. This was because I had to rush off the following day on a trip to Cambodia with the Duchess of Kent and an ITV team. (We were there to make a programme on behalf of the charity Voluntary Service Overseas for 'That's Esther', a television program by Esther Rantzen that I co-hosted).

28. Upon my return from Cambodia I found a message on my answerphone from Paul. I initially thought it was one of my friends making a joke. When Paul and I eventually spoke, he told me that he had seen me at the awards ceremony. He wanted to talk to me about 'bionic' limbs that he had seen on the TV show

Tomorrow's World and wanted to help fund a project for landmine survivors. We met and discussed the project. I told him about victims of landmines and a project that I was working on in Sierra Leone. We met several times after that first meeting and discussed the project that eventually began to take shape to fit upper limbs to young children in Sierra Leone who had had them severed by rebels.

29. Our relationship began to change from a business to a personal one. He asked me out to dinner and we started dating. Gradually over the next few months we saw more and more of each other, making every effort to keep our relationship a secret. We would meet at various hotels in London, checking in separately. Our relationship blossomed. Paul very much enjoyed his privacy and I respected that by keeping our relationship secret for the first six months but I learned recently that Paul had called the then editor of the News of the World, Phil Hall, to tell him we were in a park, in order that he could control the breaking of the news of our relationship. Paul never told me this. He only ever told me to say no comment to my detriment in the long term.

30. After losing my leg in 1993 I was horrified to receive a legal letter from the policeman who caused the accident severing my leg and causing numerous other injuries. I had not issued legal proceedings because I felt sorry for the policeman. The letter stated that he was going to sue me for stress, anxiety and loss of overtime. Of course I had to counter sue and did so. I was encouraged by my sister Fiona's then boss, (Costis Peraticos, the owner of a Greek shipyard) who offered me the support of his law firm, Stephenson Harwood. I was advised that I could expect to receive millions due to my loss of earnings, plus the cost of limbs in the future, as well as other medical costs. Apparently I might have achieved more had I sat in my wheelchair and become depressed. I had not done so, opting to overcome my adversity and forge ahead with my career and my life.

31. In 1999 I received their first offer of £200,000. Paul told me to accept it. As he put it, to pursue the case further would attract press attention that he wanted to avoid. He told me that I did not need to hold out for a larger settlement and promised that he would 'always look after me' and so I accepted the

offer. Whilst I continued my charitable pursuits my career as a public speaker diminished. This was because every time I tried to make a speech the press Q&A's were focused on my relationship with Paul. Since we kept this generally private I was unable to answer them. The only reason that I updated my autobiography "Out on a Limb" to the newly named "A Single Step" was because the press was then writing many lies that were seriously harming my charity work. Paul agreed that it was best to set the record straight in a book. I decided not to allow the press to continue their lies and harm my charity work and decided again to donate all the proceeds of the book to the charity. Adopt a Minefield was the chosen charity for that book. Yet all this was forgotten when the press decided to destroy me. They would constantly write that I was a gold digger.

32. In New York, in the year 2000, I met William Luers, a former US Ambassador who was president and chairman of the United Nations Associations of the USA. Mr Luers introduced me to an idea called Adopt-A-Minefield ('AAM') with the aim of raising enough funds to identify and clear minefields in conflict zones around the world. He asked me to assist them and advise due to my history working in minefield clearance and organising prosthetics fittings. I persuaded Paul to become a goodwill ambassador with me and then persuaded AAM to donate a portion of their funds to assist survivors of minefields not just to clear them.
33. In 2001 I set up the AAM charity in the UK, which became known as "No More Landmines." The launch was due on the 4 June at BAFTA, and in preparation for it I went to Croatia in April to make a documentary illustrating the effects of minefields. It was following this that William Luers arranged for Paul and me to meet Colin Powell, whilst we were in the US. Mr. Powell made a large donation to AAM on behalf of the US State Department after our meeting.
34. My charity work continued up until 2006 when the press completely destroyed my reputation and the landmine charity Adopt A Minefield. I had become very much involved in animal rights but the charity 'People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' said they could no longer work with me - much to their regret - through fear of the vicious press about me harming their charity. I had

successfully campaigned for better treatment of animals, including securing a European ban on the import, export, sale and production of cat & dog fur. All my work in the charity field was dismissed whenever I was written about in the press. Sadly, without my support, Adopt A Minefield closed down. A charity that we had taken from nothing to become the biggest landmine clearing and prosthetic assistance charity in the world, helping 400,000 amputees and clearing 21 million sq metres of mine filled land, became nothing, potentially harming thousands of lives in the future from uncleared minefields.

35. Having had my reputation ruined by the British tabloids I looked to the USA for work as Paul and I were spending numerous months in NY and LA. I had been a guest on the Larry King Live show numerous times and Larry asked if I would host his show to which I was delighted. After I interviewed Paul Newman on Larry King Live on 17th April 2005, I had a very positive public response in the US. The UK media tried to trash my presentation on the show, but the following quotes represent the real story:

"Heather was a smart, charming and gracious guest host. She was very well prepared. I had no doubt! I would love for her to be my resident host " - Larry King - CNN's "Larry King Live"

"Heather did a splendid job and Paul Newman had a great time. She was meticulous in her research for her interview. She was totally prepared and she was thorough in her presentation" - Wendy Walker, Executive Vice President of CNN & Senior Executive Producer of Larry King Live

"Wonderful Job! I cannot tell you how many people have raved to me about your interview with Paul (Newman). He was delighted with it. So was I. The fact that the hour flew by so quickly is a testament to your interviewing skills. Take a bow. Heather, A Deep One".... - Warren Cowan - Publicist to Paul Newman

36. Larry King told me he wanted me to work on further shows so I hosted coverage of the wedding of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall. Had I been able to move at that time to the USA, I may have managed to build a career. I had completed a successful public speaking tour of the US; was Macy's 'model of inspiration' (featured on billboards across New York and LA)

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and was represented by IMG and William Morris agencies. Sadly I am forced to remain based in the UK where my career is in total ruins due to the onslaught of negative publicity I have received since my marriage broke down.

37. I am unable to find work in the UK other than reality TV shows of which I have no wish to appear on. Whenever I have appeared publicly to help charity the tabloid media have turned my appearance into a joke and ridiculed me.

39. I have tried to resurrect my public speaking to no avail, as all the clients believe the onslaught of lies over the last twelve years.

39. The private family divorce proceedings that I was assured would remain private if I were to attend court became public.

40. Details of a private family hearing were leaked to the press. Inaccurate reports were written claiming I had lost my temper in court everything was derogatory about me. Conveniently for the press, the transcripts were sealed down and not made public. If they were available they would show Judge Bennett praising me for the courtesy I had shown to the court. Despite the fact that I received an apology from the Sunday Mirror in April 2007 (they had inaccurately reported that the Judge had thrown out my claims, portrayed me as a liar and I had erupted with rage), the subsequent reporting of my divorce proceedings have been the final nail in the coffin for me. The damage to my reputation in the UK has spread to the US.

41. In 2007, I participated in 'Dancing with the Stars' in LA (the US equivalent of 'Strictly Come Dancing'). I did well in the show and donated my fee to the charity VIVA! I received a lot of support and praise for the inspiration my appearance had on the disabled community. UK tabloid newspapers reported inaccurately that I had not donated my fee to charity, despite full confirmation in

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writing from both the charity and my accountant that I had. These articles went on to damage me immensely. Despite being aware of this fact the News of the World went on to publish the same information in September 2008 (over a two week double spread) along with much other false information supplied by a woman (who was paid by them) with whom I am currently in legal proceedings in the US. These stories have spread worldwide and the good reputation I had built in the US has been ruined. James Desborough was the journalist behind the story and I have seen emails from him (which have been disclosed to me in legal correspondence) where he is outlining what he needs in order to write the damaging, untrue article about me. He never contacted me before going to press nor bothered to find out or 'take care' as to whether the content of the article was true; a clear breach of the Editor's Code. The story spread worldwide and the good reputation I had built in the US has also been ruined.

42. Another example of how my career in the US has been effectively finished by press misinformation is the Oprah Winfrey show. In the year I met Paul, but before our relationship went public, I had been the subject of a tribute program on the Oprah Winfrey show, which focused on my counselling of the victims of the Omagh bombings. The show had been planned for some time, and focused on my work and involvement with charities. Years later I could never appear to promote the charities as now the USA had picked up the negative stories, my career has been ruined there also.

43. Due to the abuse, lies and harassment I have received at the hands of the UK tabloid media, I do not believe I will be able to revive my career at any time in the foreseeable future.

44. When not looking after my daughter, I now spend my time away from the UK trying to rebuild my life as a possible Para-Olympian skiing athlete. I own a vegan food factory and restaurant that allow me to continue my work defending animal rights and promoting a healthy, ecologically viable diet. Aside from the occasional interview I have given to help the British Disabled Ski Team, I keep a very low profile.

45. It is very difficult to put into words just how damaging, intrusive and hurtful the

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UK tabloid press can be. They are rich organisations with a powerful voice and should be held accountable for their actions as other powerful organisations are such as the Police, government and the Church.

46. It is simply not acceptable that they are able to print inaccurate information as fact and the only recourse is via expensive libel actions or the PCC. Why should anyone have to go through the lengthy, expensive and stressful experience of a libel case when the onus of proof should be on the journalist?
47. Aside from what I have already stated with regards to the PCC in my first statement, they only really come into play once the damaging article has been published, and more often than not, fail to address the complaints properly. There should be a strong set of enforceable rules that stop inaccurate stories being published in the first place.
48. In 2005 I added a 'Facts & Fiction' section to my website to address inaccurate reporting about me as it was impossible to address every inaccuracy separately. It was mainly ignored by the press.
49. In 2007 I started a campaign called YouCare.com, designed to highlight and improve the declining standards of newspaper journalism in the UK. It made me more unpopular to the UK tabloid press but I strongly believe that the public should have a proper right to reply; the size of an apology should be of the same size and prominence as the original misleading article. Ideally, there should be no need to assert a right to reply as regulations should be enforced that ensure inaccurate articles are not published in the first place.
50. I also feel that something has to be done about the paparazzi. Why is it acceptable that strange men can chase you and your daughter in cars and not be arrested for harassment? As Sienna Miller rightly pointed out to the Inquiry *"I would often find myself – I was 21 – at midnight running down a dark street on my own with ten big men chasing me and the fact that they had cameras in their hands meant that that was legal, but if you take away the cameras, what have you got? You've got a pack of men chasing a woman and obviously that's*

a very intimidating situation to be in".

51. I have been the subject of many car chases and stalkings by the paparazzi. My daughter now becomes frightened every time she sees a man with a camera and this is absolutely unacceptable. The Police advised me to keep a video diary of paparazzi intrusion, which I did and presented to them, but they said they were unable to do anything about it. I would like to submit this footage to the Inquiry.
52. In December 2006, I was visited by D.I. Steve Paice and DCI Glen Jones of Brighton Police to inform me of 'a serious threat to my life'. I was given a serial number to quote if I had to make an emergency call. This was a very distressing time for my family and I. It is very difficult to put into words what life was like at the time, but the fact is that these threats were a direct result of the lies that were printed about me in the press.
53. The media must no longer be able to hide behind 'confidential sources' and 'public interest'. Many of the 'sources' do not exist and are simply the journalist creating their own 'source', with the knowledge they will never have to reveal it.
54. What the public are interested in should not automatically be considered 'public interest'. Newspapers should concentrate on informing the public of important national and international matters that concern them, not filling their pages with salacious gossip that does not benefit the public but does harm the individual.
55. Publications should be held to account for what they publish, with penalties attached for inaccurate reporting. They are currently not concerned about recourse for their actions. They are not afraid of nor respect the PCC or the Editor's Code.
56. In 2010 I was shown evidence by Officers of Operation Weeting that proves the private voicemail messages of myself, and my sister Fiona, were hacked by Although it was no surprise to us it was still very disturbing to finally have proof.

57. From 2006 to 2008 we had witnessed journalists sitting outside our homes with scanning equipment; paparazzi hiding and jumping out on us at any time of day, chasing us in cars and scaring my young daughter. We were constantly falsely accused of leaking stories to the media and called 'paranoid' when we insisted that our phones were being listened to. The treatment we received at the hands of the press was intrusive and abusive and I welcome anything that will bring about a change in behaviour and standards.

58. I appreciate what a huge job the Inquiry has. It is no easy job. But it is an important subject in which everyone should have an interest.

59. Every individual is entitled to privacy. A free press should be a fair and accurate one.

I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

HEATHER MILLS

6th February 2012