

The Leveson Inquiry

Witness Statement for Part 1, Module 1

Witness statement of HJK

I, HJK c/o Collyer Bristow LLP, 4 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4DF will say as follows:

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1. I make this statement in connection with my role as a Core Participant in the Leveson Inquiry.
2. I am a victim of phone-hacking by the press although I am not well known and I have not been targeted for who I am. I have begun a civil action in the High Court and am an applicant in the Judicial Review of the Metropolitan Police Service. Both actions are protected by anonymity orders. Much of my statement is extremely sensitive and private to me and for this reason I have prepared a confidential Annex to this statement which I wish to be disclosed only to Lord Justice Leveson and the barrister who will be questioning me on behalf of the Inquiry (although nothing in the Annex should be used for questioning me in open Court). Although I wish to help the Inquiry by explaining my experience I do not want to compromise my anonymity either by my name or identity being disclosed or by others being able to determine my identity by putting together a collection of pieces of information. I remain very shaken by the events I describe in the statement so much so that when I went through the account with my lawyers in the Inquiry for the purpose of creating this statement, I was emotionally drained and it took me a while to recover.
3. In 2006 I met a well-known individual through voluntary work I was doing at the time. I will refer to this individual as X. X and I got on very well and we began dating in February/March. Whilst our relationship was developing, I would not describe us as ever being "in a relationship" with each other although perhaps it may have become a relationship had it been able to develop naturally and without the fear of press scrutiny.

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4. In April of that year I received a telephone call on my mobile phone from someone stating that they were from the Royal Mail. The caller explained that he wished to deliver a package where the label had ripped off leaving no address and that all that was left on the package was my mobile number. Although it subsequently occurred to me as being very strange that a package would have a mobile telephone number on it, I had no reason to be suspicious of anyone at that time and I gave out my address.
5. On a Saturday in late April 2006, my doorbell rang at about 9.00 a.m. in the morning. I answered the door and was confronted by a man who introduced himself and said that he was a journalist from [REDACTED]. He asked me straight out "are you in a relationship with X"? I was fairly stunned by this but I managed to reply "I don't know who you are talking about". He said that he had learnt that X lived at my flat (X did not). I continued to deny any relationship with X although I was forced to concede that I knew who X was. The journalist said that he had information from his sources that X and I were in a relationship and that X lived with me at this flat. Faced with my denials the journalist gave me his business card (which was a [REDACTED] business card) and left.
6. I was completely shocked at having been questioned by a journalist on the steps of my flat, particularly in relation to a private matter. I telephoned a close friend of mine for advice and resolved to call and warn X that journalists were questioning me about our relationship.
7. I called X. I told X that we had a problem and explained the questions the journalist had asked me. X was clearly alarmed at what I was saying and despite my assurances I could tell that X was questioning whether or not I could be trusted and whether it was actually me who had approached the journalist. This must be a constant fear of someone who is in the public eye. I tried to keep calm and keep X calm and explained that I had denied everything to the journalist. We also resolved that day that we should no longer see each other which was upsetting enough in itself.
8. I was due to undertake some voluntary work that day. Reluctantly, I phoned in sick, letting down the people I was working with.

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10. Later that day I was called on my mobile telephone by the journalist who had doorstepped me. I had not given him my mobile number. He said that he had spoken to X and X had confirmed that X knew me. The journalist said that he and I could come to an "arrangement". I understood immediately that he meant that I could be paid for disclosing information. I informed him that I was not interested.
11. I tried to call X several times. I left messages asking X to call me back. At about 7.30 in the evening X called me. X had received information that [REDACTED] were going to publish a story the following morning about our relationship. X was trying to find out more information and agreed to be in contact again later when more was known.
12. I was extremely worried about what was happening. I was particularly concerned about my work and 2 hours later, having not heard from X with further information, I made a decision to call my boss who was based overseas. I did not want him to learn of the story from the newspapers and thought it appropriate to warn him in advance. It was a very uncomfortable call to have to make and my boss was not particularly sympathetic.
13. Ultimately, the story was never published. In the end, the story that dominated all the newspapers that Sunday concerned [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This, coupled with my non-collaboration with the press, had apparently knocked the story about my relationship with X off the news.
14. I was extremely relieved that the story was not published but was obviously concerned that something would be published in the future. I did however suffer serious repercussions at work for having informed my boss about my personal situation. I was bullied and singled-out for criticism to such an extent that on advice from ACAS I kept a diary of it, which I later confronted him with. My position was becoming untenable. I also recall that I had difficulty with a client who I had chased for an update. The client said he had left me a voice message however I told him I had not received any message from him and we had an awkward

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exchange in which I was effectively challenging the client's account. After the call I went to check my messages and found that I had an old message from the client that I had not listened to. Someone had obviously listened to it before I did, although I did not understand the significance of it at the time.

15. That summer, I took some time off to arrange for the sale of a house I owned overseas. Whilst I was away I was contacted by my mobile telephone provider who explained to me that my account security had been compromised and that I was on a list of individuals who they had been told to contact. During the conversation it dawned on me that the information the journalist who doorstepped me in April must have been linked to the interception of my voicemail. Suddenly I felt I could explain so much that had been unexplained over the previous months. I questioned the woman from my mobile phone provider about this list of individuals (she said that she was very busy contacting all those on the list) and it was clear that most of those she was contacting were well known as she said she had wondered who I was given that I appeared on this list. I asked what had been done about the breach of security and she told me that two members of her staff were being questioned about it at Paddington Green Police Station. She asked me whether I wanted my details to be passed on to the police. I said I did. I told her that I had been doorstepped by the press recently and that I had evidence I would like to share with them. In answer to my question about how the breach of security had occurred she gave the curious explanation of "social engineering" – I took this to mean that some members of staff had been paid to provide information. It was also explained to me that increased security protection would apply to my account (which proved to be very problematic, particularly when I moved house) and that my passwords would be changed. Following my return from abroad I chased my mobile phone provider to check whether the message had been passed on to the police and I was told that the Police would most certainly contact me back very shortly.
16. In the period after this call I spoke to my mobile phone provider a number of times in the absence of any contact from the police. I

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was very anxious to speak to the police about what had happened to me and to help with their investigation. I felt that I had information that could be very useful to them. On every occasion my mobile phone provider confirmed it had contacted the police again and the police had said they would call me back. The messages I left for the police were not returned. I became extremely frustrated and, as a last resort, said to my mobile phone provider that I would contact Channel 4 News if I was not called back in relation to this matter. This provoked a reaction and I was told that the police were due to make arrests which could be compromised any publicity. As I did not want to compromise any investigation – I agreed not speak to Channel 4. Again, on this last occasion I was told that the police were very busy but that they would be in touch shortly.

17. Two weeks after these calls, Glenn Mulcaire and Clive Goodman were arrested.
18. Although no story was ever published concerning my relationship with X there were a number of further occasions that year during which I was photographed by what appeared to be press photographers. On one occasion I was photographed shortly after having been diagnosed with a serious illness. It was a terrible time for me anyway and it was made even more distressing by these intrusive events and I remain suspicious that my medical records had been accessed by journalists.
19. I have never been approached by the police in relation to these events, despite X being told during an interview with the police in 2006 that they knew of my name and that they would most certainly contact me shortly. In 2010, after reading about Mr Mulcaire selecting a literary agent and about the Judicial Review that John Prescott and others were bringing I decided to approach the lawyer dealing with that case and explain my situation. My lawyer then corresponded with the police on my behalf. We met with officers from Operation Weeting and were shown documents that they had obtained during their original 2006 investigation into Goodman and Mulcaire. The documents revealed transcripts of messages between me and X, call records from Mulcaire's number to mine and notes from Mulcaire's notebook with my details

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including address, telephone numbers (work, mobile and private number), passwords and information about me and X. It also contained a note of the amount of text and call traffic between me and X. There were also a number of transcripts of messages that X left on my voicemail. This information plainly reveals evidence that my voicemails were hacked and that my personal communications were being closely monitored. News Group Newspapers Ltd, the publishers of the News of the World have now admitted in the course of my claim that Mulcaire obtained my numbers and accessed my voicemail and that they are vicariously liable (although it was a journalist from [REDACTED] who had doorstepped me). The information held by the police reveals a disgusting and unjustified intrusion into my personal life. I am horrified at both the media intrusion and the fact that the police did not contact me. They had this detailed information but did nothing.

20. Every time the phone hacking story was reported in the press I expected for the police to contact me but they did not. This led me to lose faith in living in the UK and for a while I moved abroad, having resigned my job. When I heard John Yates' comments after the Guardian revelations in July 2009, I was so disgusted and disillusioned that I tore up and threw out the business card of [REDACTED] journalist that I had held onto for so long. It is obviously frustrating that because of this act that I now do not know the name of the journalist although [REDACTED] could find out from their own records. It is extraordinary to me that only now, after five years, is anything really being done about this scandal and I am very anxious to know the full truth and finally get some justice and some form of closure for what happened.

Statement of Truth

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

DATED the day of November 2011

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