

List of answers for Leveson Inquiry.

Q1) My name is Jeff Edwards. I retired from journalism in 2008 after a career spanning more than 40 years in local, regional and national newspapers and TV.

For much of my career I was a 'crime and law enforcement' specialist and did much work under the heading 'investigative journalism'. For about 15 years (1993-2009) I was Chairman of the Crime Reporters' Association and I remain as President.

Since 1999 I have been retained as an 'associate lecturer' at the Police National Leadership Academy at Bramshill where I have taken part as an advisor and 'diamond syndicate' panel member in over 100 'Critical Incident' 'Strategic Command' 'Media Awareness' 'International Police' training courses.

In 2009, under this auspice, I was commissioned by the National Police Improvement Agency to carry out a review of all media training programmes at the college.

Q2) The Crime Reporters' Association is a long established forum for national newspaper and broadcast journalists working in the specialised field of crime and law enforcement and Home Affairs.

The 'raison d'être' is to promote better understanding, co-operation and good working practice between those journalists and the police and other branches of law enforcement.

Q3) The CRA has about 40 full time members and a number of retired members.

The criteria for inclusion is that members must be employed by a news organisation that operates nationally or is staffed to 'national news organisation standards'.

e.g. The London Evening Standard crime correspondents are CRA members because, although the ES only circulates in London and the Home Counties, it is staffed at the same level as a national paper.

The CRA has members from the main broadcast media (BBC, ITN, Sky) and has now accepted 'on line' correspondents from major outlets.

All national newspaper titles, daily and Sunday, are represented, as is the Press Association.

Q4) The CRA operates in a similar way to the 'Lobby Correspondents' system among parliamentary correspondents.

Membership of the CRA does provide some additional access to some police forces (not just the Metropolitan), especially at times of crisis or major events.

Q5) Theoretically, the CRA covers all UK police territory.

Because the crime reporters themselves are all based in London practical issues affected by time and geography mean that it is hard for the system to operate effectively at all times beyond the capital and the south east.

Having said this, during the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland the CRA was a regular guest of the RUC, as was, and maintains good relations with Thames Valley, Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Essex police and other forces with HQs in London including the City of London Police, British Transport Police, SDCA, CEOPC, and HMRC.

Q6) Many CRA members have daily dealings on an individual basis with the MPS and at times when important policing events are in train, this often extends to group meetings.

There is nominally a monthly briefing by the Commissioner of the MPS for the CRA, but in practice this is often struck from the diary (because he is too busy) or carried out by the Deputy Commissioner or DACs.

Q7) The nature of police matters is often complex. The CRA by meeting with the police seeks usually to gain a better understanding of events, and the police response to them.

This does not only cover events, but is often useful to understand policy (e.g. firearms training and deployment), staffing issues (e.g. the drive for more non white recruits), police planning for events (e.g. the Olympics), and so on.

Q8) The MPS has long recognised the need to engage with journalists to better explain complicated issues to avoid misunderstanding, inaccurate reporting and to make sure the public are accurately informed.

Q9) I believe the relationship has, in the main, been successful and beneficial to all parties.

Like all complex interfaces, it requires constant maintenance and adjustment.

Q10) CRA members engage with the police at all levels; corporately, in groups and sometimes on an individual basis.

There are formal briefings for groups, and there are formal briefings for individuals who have a particular interest in a certain area of police work and ask to know more.

We meet at ACPO and Superintendents Association conferences, at Police Federation and Black Police Association conferences.

The range of ways the two professions meet are almost infinite. There are often instances where journalists have important information that as citizens we have an obligation to pass on.

I recently had a lengthy meeting with senior police officers, unchaperoned by press officers, because I was a victim of crime. The officers knew I was a journalist and knew it was a matter that I could have written about and had published had I chosen to.

In the event I did not. However, if I should be asked to write about this type of crime in the future I am now much better informed about police methodology in this field, and the problems they encounter.

Journalists meet police officers in a huge range of ways.

Under our professional exteriors all of us are ordinary people with everyday interests and lives. I have met and had conversations with police officers while commuting to work, on holiday, and outside the school gates where both our children attend. Some of us live next door to police officers.

Some of these associations can turn into friendships. In recent years CRA members have married serving police officers and police press officers and several police officers have married press officers.

Some CRA members have been the children of police officers and some have been the parents' of children who went on to become police officers.

I would state without hesitation that some of the closest friendships I have ever made have been with police officers that have endured for thirty years or more.

Q11) I believe the better I understand any topic, the better equipped I am to perform my job well. I believe most CRA members would say the same.

Q12) The media is often misunderstood by the police and vice versa. I believe the CRA provides a 'talking shop', a forum in which difficult issues from both sides can be debated and explained and issues resolved.

Q13) Hospitality between the CRA and the police is very limited. Membership of the CRA is a nominal £30 a year, so we have little budget.

We do hold an annual Christmas party, which is attended not only by Met. staff but by police officers and press representatives from other forces. To finance this we usually ask CRA members to pay a small levy. Last year (2011) it was £40.

Q14) Similarly the Public Affairs department of the MPS sometimes hold an annual party for us, usually around Christmas, but also similarly it is usually held in a rented bar or restaurant and could not, under any circumstances, be called 'lavish'.

Some Commissioners have held a once yearly cocktail party, usually in the Scotland Yard cafeteria. Again it amounts to no more than one or two drinks per head and 'cocktail snacks' and never runs for more than three hours.

I would estimate that the budget per guest would amount to no more than £12 or £15.

In recent years Surrey, Thames Valley, Kent, Hampshire, Sussex, the City of London and one or two other forces have held modest 'get to know you' social evenings for CRA members, either at force HQ or a hired venue.

Again, the budget per guest would be small, no more than £12-£15 pounds per head.

Q15) I refer you to question 13

Q16) I refer you to question 13

Q17) The CRA has never given gifts to police officers or police staff.

Q18) The CRA does have occasional 'off the record' briefings with police officers. These are usually come under the 'non reportable' category, i.e. concerning a terrorist incident or a particularly difficult major crime inquiry where accidental reporting might seriously damage a criminal investigation.

Q19) The CRA does have contact with other forces (please see question 14)

Q20) I think the interaction between the CRA and other forces outside of London is generally successful and satisfactory.

It must be borne in mind that many of the police forces outside London are only a fraction of the size of the Met and only deal with a comparatively small number of incidents that attract national news coverage.

Q21) The objectives are identical to our dealings with all other police forces. It is about promoting understanding and promoting a more open and confidence building relationship.

Q22) Their objectives are identical to those of the Met. Police.

Q23) As an entity the CRA usually meets police officers singly or in small groups, usually at briefings or press conferences. These meetings rarely exceed about 40 minutes.

The number of officers and the amount of time spent often depends on the nature of what is being discussed. A typical example where several officers might be present could, for instance be where a computer crime or 'e-fraud' issue is under discussion.

The officer in charge of the unit may take the lead in the conference, but in order to talk in more detail about certain matters he may introduce someone with more expertise in a specialised area "I'd like to introduce Detective Inspector Brown, who specialises in the investigation of this particular type of offence"

Q24) To increase understanding of complex issues, to improve information flow to ensure a high standard of reporting. This in turn should lead to a better public understanding of policies and events.

Q25) As Question 24

Q26) Only on a small scale, usually a once a year event. Please see question 14.

Q27) Please see question 14

Q28) Please see question 14

Q29) Please see question 14

Q30) The CRA does not give any gifts to any police officers or any employees in any force.

Q31) They are less common than in London, but there have been instances where smaller forces have given off the record briefings to journalists.

One that springs to mind was the West Midlands police when they were investigating the abduction and ransom of a young woman estate agent and linked 'product contamination' and extortion threat offences suspected to be by the same criminal.

Another was the case of a serial rapist who attacked in several parts of the country and where Surrey, Kent and Hertfordshire police combined to call a joint briefing for the CRA.

Q32) The membership of the CRA is made up from many different character types, as are the officers and staff of the MPS. I know of many on both sides who are engaging and outgoing, have a desire to be 'open' if possible, and enjoy the 'cut and thrust' of debate around policing issues and the media.

By the same token I have encountered people in both camps who are naturally more reticent and circumspect.

In the round, I think the relationship is largely successful and would be hard to significantly improve given the necessary constraints on the police.

Q34) Some CRA members will have some of these officers' private numbers, some of the time.

That is to say, one senior officer may be prepared to give his number to a journalist he or she has know well over a long period, but on retirement, their successor may not.

Some CRA members would have an 'out of hours' number for the Director of Public Affairs.

Q35) Yes.

Q36) In my case I have spent a career associating with police at all levels. This would range from the very formal, to the very informal. As I have stated earlier I have made many close friends in police circles over many years and at all ranks.

I know many of my CRA colleagues have also made close friends among police officers and civilian staff.

Q37) I have no experience of anyone wanting anything other than an understanding professional relationship, that often becomes genuine friendship.

Police officers and crime journalists inhabit unusual worlds that have some elements in common and often coincide. We both possess inquiring minds.

Q38) Many police officers from regional forces have told me they do not understand the media, or say 'Why has the local paper in the town where I serve got it in for us'.

My response is usually 'try to engage with them more instead of less'.

I find there is a genuine curiosity about the media among police officers. Much of what they have sought from me (and other members of the CRA I am sure) is a genuine feeling of hurt about the media and a real desire to find a better way to communicate.

Q39) I refer you to question 14.

Q40) I refer you to question 14

Q41) I refer you to question 13

Q42) I refer you to question 13

Q43) I have no knowledge and do not believe any CRA members give gifts or 'rewards' to police officers. Any member found to have done so would be expelled from the CRA.

Q44) Yes, I am sure CRA members frequently have off the record conversations with police.

There could be many circumstances where this might happen. In my own case, on at least twenty occasions in my career I have come into possession of information or evidence of a serious crime that has been committed or being planned.

I have had to approach police officers, some of whom I already knew, in order to tell them what had discovered. Elements of these situations often needed to be 'off the record' from the police point of view.

Q45) I think the culture of the relationship between the MPS and the media has been highly correct and ethical. I would struggle to think of any incident where that was not the case.

Q46) I have had an enormous amount of contact over a 40 year with the MPS as a corporation and with literally hundreds of people employed within it.

This would range from discussions about the most critical events to helping support charity appeals with publicity.

Q47) Over the last 30 years the answer in each category would be 'hundreds of encounters'. This would include meetings at both their request and at mine, both as an individual and as an officer of the CRA.

The range of reasons would cover every news making police issue – : annual crime figures, terrorism, Stephen Lawrence, homicide, the investigation of rape and sex crimes, hate crimes, fraud, narcotics, ASBO's, pepper gas, tasers, police guns, illegal guns , people trafficking, dangerous dogs, car crime, burglary, race relations, recruitment, armed robbery, police corruption, contract killers, health and safety, fatal accidents, PCSOs, 'suicide by cop', fatal traffic accidents involving the police, gang culture, speed cameras.... the list goes on.

At some time or other I have asked for meetings with senior officers concerned with these matters or they would have sought meetings with us.

Q48) I have at various times had the personal telephone numbers of some of the people listed above.

Q49) I have always thought it important to have an open dialogue with senior staff in the police. Policing issues are wide ranging and frequently complex. As journalists we have a responsibility to report those matters as accurately as possible.

If I can speak to knowledgeable people who are prepared to explain complicated matters to me it enables me to do more professionally.

Q50) I refer you to my answers to questions 37 and 38

Q51) I refer you to my answers to question 14

Q52) I refer you to my answer to question 14

Q53) I have occasionally entertained senior officers to lunch or an evening meal either on a 'one to one' basis or with CRA colleagues. This would occur no more than two or three times a year.

Usually the bill was split. If was not then it was always on a 'reciprocal' basis, i.e. an invitation would probably follow, sometimes months later, where the officer would pay for me.

Q54) I refer you to question 53

Q55) During my career I would estimate that I have attended between 1500 and 2000 press conferences held by the MPS. The purpose of these press conferences was to discuss any one of the vast number of police issues that occur.

Depending on the issue (a terrorist incident for instance), the person chairing a press conference could be the Commissioner, or it could be a Detective Inspector from the Arts and Antiques Unit seeking information about the theft of a valuable painting.

Q56) I can't speak for all forces and all media in all areas. My own view is that the way each force deals with media often reflects the views of its Chief Constable.

Some are pro and some are anti.

Likewise some journalists have an anti police bias, some are pro, and some are neutral.

Q57) I have had many dealings with forces outside of London in most areas of policing. Many of these have been first class.

I can think of three episodes in three geographically different police areas where I had information about serious criminal matters and in every case I found the police to be willing to engage, friendly and helpful.

By the same token I have had encounters where the police have been less helpful. As I have said earlier, a lot of the time it comes down to the individuals you are dealing with at the time.

Q58) I have had many meetings with Chief Constables and their deputies and their assistants. The instances are far too numerous to list here. Again the reasons for those encounters would cover the full spectrum of policing.

Q59) Yes

Q60) As I have said earlier in this questionnaire, I believe in having open dialogue with the police when important events occur.

Q61) In the main they would simply be recognising the need to furnish the media with a flow of information regarding important policing events.

On rare occasions there have been incidents where a forward thinking police chief has wanted to engage to influence the outcome of a potentially dangerous situation.

One that immediately springs to mind happened in November 2004. A man on remand in jail in Manchester charged with gun offences was accidentally released by the authorities who confused him with another prisoner.

Mike Todd, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester police rang me directly on my private mobile phone.

He explained that the released prisoner was a notorious criminal and known gunman.

His force had intelligence that said the man believed he had been released deliberately "so that the police or his enemies could kill him."

Mr. Todd explained that he feared the fugitive would quickly obtain more guns via his criminal contacts and combined with his state of mind, this could easily lead to a tragic incident where innocent members of the public, or one of his own officers, might get shot.

Mr. Todd explained the GMP knew the fugitive read the Daily Mirror and asked me if we could carry a story with a personal message for the fugitive explaining he had not been released in order for him to be killed and appealing to him to surrender himself.

The story of the mix up at the prison and the subsequent concern about the fugitive was a legitimate story. There was also a serious public safety issue.

I wrote the story which the Daily Mirror published. Two days later the fugitive, who had read the story, walked into a police station and gave himself up without bloodshed.

Q62) As I have stated earlier, some provincial forces have occasionally invited CRA members (and other local journalists) to social gatherings.

Q63) The hospitality has always been modest. No more than a glass of wine and buffet snacks with a maximum value per head of about £12 to £15, probably much less.

Q64) There are a few instances where I would have met representatives from the constabularies for lunch or dinner.

Q65) These were usually in a pizza restaurant, Indian restaurant, pub or similar venue. My recall is that the bill was usually split.

Q66) This is can only be a rough estimate. I would think less than two per cent of crime articles come under this heading.

Q67) I think there is a wide range of reasons behind such actions. Those reasons might include, anger about something they consider unjust, contradictory, or hypocritical.

Some like to draw attention to what they consider a scandal or injustice. Quite often in this category the information comes in the form of an anonymous tip off that needs to be checked out through official sources.

As an example; The chief constable of provincial force scrapped his traffic division putting all the officers on other duties.

A couple of weeks later he was on his way home in his own vehicle and he was caught exceeding the speed limit in a radar trap operated by his own officers.

I found out via an anonymous tip. I made a formal inquiry through the force press office. The story was true and we reported it.

Q68) Yes. The media are often formally invited to be present when the police carry out raids on suspects.

I think they do this because it is a demonstration to a wide audience that they are doing their job, and also their actions and intentions are correct and transparent.

I have sometimes shown interest in the work of a particular police unit and, under controlled conditions, been able to watch them at work which includes accompanying them sometimes when they raid homes and make arrests.

Every week on national TV there are documentary series - "Traffic Cops" and "Coppers" are good recent examples, where TV crews are allowed to be present when the police investigate crimes and make arrests in various circumstances.

Q69) On one notable occasion in May 2004 I was present when officers ambushed a gang of robbers attempting to steal a large consignment of gold bullion near Heathrow airport.

This matter had actually started many months before after a chance remark by an officer concerning another operation.

Later I approached the hierarchy at Scotland Yard and asked if I could have formal access to the operation as long as strict guide lines were adhered to.

After protracted dialogue authority was granted from high level.

I spent several months with a large team of officers investigating this proposed crime, the details of which (the participants, the target, the exact location etc) were not disclosed to me.

In fact, I had insisted they were not disclosed to me, so that if there was any security breach the finger of suspicion would not point towards me.

In the event the crime first mentioned did not occur and the police operation was cancelled.

However, the police said that as I had 'played by the rules' I would be given access to the next suitable big operation.

This did not occur for about another six or seven months. In the end, at very short notice, I was invited to meet officers early in the morning and I was driven by them in the direction of Heathrow.

I was told only that a 'major job' was in the offing, but none of the details.

In the event the robbers did attack the warehouse and were ambushed and arrested. I was not present at the exact moment the police moved in (for safety reasons), but was driven to the site within a few minutes while the police were still 'mopping up'.

The story got extensive (front page) coverage in the Daily Mirror and in all the other papers and on TV.

The police were very pleased about the outcome because it showed they were being effective against organised crime and particularly against teams of robbers who in the previous several years had carried out a large number of robberies of valuable cargos at Heathrow.

70 & 71.) Briefings should always be on the record unless there is an important reason why it should be otherwise.

One area where I have attended 'off the record' briefings has been in the arena of kidnap, extortion by product contamination or similar matters where lives may be at risk.

This is, for instance, where the kidnapers have instructed a victim's family 'no police involvement'. So as to avoid any catastrophic leak or accidental disclosure, CRA members (and sometimes editors) have been called in by the Met (and other forces) to be briefed under what is called a 'news blackout' system whereby the media undertake not to publish until the kidnap victim is recovered alive, or the threat to the public or an organisation has been neutralised.

72.) I submitted monthly expense claims which covered some of my spending on hospitality.

73.) I have been retired for three years so my information is not current. Throughout my career I received no guidance about relationships with the police or anyone else. We were expected to use common sense and act lawfully.

74.) I was never given any guidance about how to interact with the police. At the Mirror I was frequently called on by colleagues, up to and including editors, to give them advice in this field.

75.) I am struggling to think of any incident in my dealings with the police in modern times where ethics on either side were in danger of being compromised.

I never asked police officers in any way to disclose things they were not allowed to do or tried to push them to give me information they were uncomfortable disclosing.

76.) None whatsoever.

77.) The DPA and Press Bureau and the press offices of regional forces perform a host of functions, too many to list in full.

Their core business is to provide a daily flow of news about current events and incidents.

They are also there to field questions and provide answers to a huge range of media questions about events and police matters.

They also issue information about police initiatives, arrange facilities for journalists who want to interview particular officers and generally act as a liaison between the police and the media.

78) Most access for journalists would be via a press office.

Editors and some senior journalists (especially crime correspondents) would often have direct access to some police officers, particularly those in the command or supervising ranks.

79) This is sometimes the case. If I were seeking a formal interview with the Commissioner of the Met. or a Chief Constable, this is the route I would usually expect to take.

80) I think it is realistic. Chief officers have very busy diaries a variety of 'gate keepers' -- staff officers, secretaries, personal assistants. It is hard to contact them directly.

81) I have seen many evolutionary changes in the police business during a long career. One of them would be the growing politicisation of everything undertaken by the police and an increasing emphasis on PR and reputation matters.

It is only in recent years that I have heard Chief Officers talk in terms of "**** shire's brand of policing "

I think this is absurd. The citizens of a force area are not able to choose of which brand of police service is there to serve them.

I suspect this is a by product of the sort of emphasis placed on "spin" during the Tony Blair years at number 10 which quickly percolated through the home office and into policing .

82) There has been a huge proliferation of media in the last 20 years, particularly broadcast and now on line. The volume of media calls even the smallest forces receive on a daily basis means that they have to have a team of media professionals on staff to deal with it.

83) It is quite common to find police press officers who have a media background, but usually it was at the beginning of their careers.

84) I think about 50 per cent.

85) I think most of those with a media background began their careers on local newspapers.

86) The only pattern is that it tends to be a one way street. I can only think of one instance where a police press officer moved to become a successful journalist.

87) I was interested and pleased to note the HMIC research into how the police and media interact revealed that in the main officers display a "consistently strong 'moral compass' ".

88) I am a firm believer that if police officers show maturity, responsibility and proportionality in their dealings with the media, and the media representatives display similar traits, there is little wrong with the overall picture. It's a matter of good judgement.

In a free and democratic society you can't build a wall between the police and the media. I have a police officer in my own extended family and have another who is a neighbour with whom I am very friendly.

My children went to school with the children of police officers, some of whom have been to my house for social events with my family. Should they feel obliged to report that contact to their superiors?

This has to be a matter of context, and what is reasonable.

89) Although I would like to debate some of the fine detail of her report with Dame Elizabeth I take no issue with any of the key points she makes and actually feel quite encouraged by it.

I was interested in her comment that police contact with the media was "*permissible but not unconditional*" it was always thus. The police have often reviewed their policies for dealing with the media and there has never been a time when it was not subject to limits and rules.

90) I have not met Mr.Hogan-Hough and do not know what he has said about this.

91) I believe that a tendency developed in the MPS to give priority to some news organisations it believed to be more important or influential than others.

Working for the Daily Mirror, whose circulation, and thus its power and influence, have diminished over recent years, I felt it was harder for me to get access on a one to one basis with senior MPS staff than for some other journalists.

I also thought it interesting that the MPS senior staff would sometimes have meetings over dinner with Editors and Deputy Editors of the Daily Mirror to which I was not invited and often not told about.

I thought this was strange, because my knowledge of policing matters was certainly far greater than those of the Editor, and in some cases I think my knowledge of the news business was also.

I think it is likely that many of my crime correspondent colleagues on other papers (and TV and radio) could tell similar stories.

92) I think it is likely that senior staff at the Met, including the Director of Public Affairs, probably did place too much emphasis on courting certain news outlets ahead of others but this was merely a reflection on the increasing use of PR spin (see my response to question 81)

93) I don't know for certain, but I think the MPS, sitting so close to the seat of government and the greatest concentration of national media in the UK, may have been unique in this respect.

94) I can only give my own view. Throughout my career I have many times pointed out to police at all levels that although I am generally 'police friendly' i.e. I have never started with an anti police agenda, but neither am I a 'tame poodle' who meekly accepts the official line if I think it should be challenged.

To paraphrase: I have always said to police at all levels that I would be objective and would always try to present both sides of a situation, but if serious failings caused by corruption or incompetence or bad practice etc. came to light, I would be duty bound to write about those things critically.

I think this was always accepted.

By no means do I think that all closed contact with the police is illicit or likely to compromise good journalism.

Dame Elizabeth herself says that there are times when confidential matters may need to be discussed between officers and media people for a variety of reasons.

95) I don't think you can ever 'sanitise' the police to the extent where on rare occasions corruption or unethical behaviour will not surface. Those who are determined will always find ways to circumnavigate any regulation.

I fear requiring all officers to report contact with the media *in all circumstances* is unworkable and may result in reluctance by many officers to engage with the media at all.

The police should treat experience staff as mature adults and expect them to act accordingly. As I have said before, my view these are matters of good judgement and integrity.

Good advice and guide lines are one thing. But I think trying to enforce a code of conduct in this area will be unworkable and could cause resentment and be counter productive.

96) I do not share that fear. The relationship between the police and the media has never been one of complete transparency and the problems under the microscope now are by no means new.

The relationship between 'the police' and 'the media' has frequently been under scrutiny and review and has never been static or allowed to stagnate.

The way the news is reported provokes strong views and emotional responses in many people and the police are no exception. Throughout my career I have always found there were police, of all ranks, happy to engage, and others who refused to do so under any circumstances.

In short, some liked journalists and their work and thought it was generally a force for good, others took a completely opposing point of view.

Over regulation will give the 'non engagers' an excuse to shun all contact, while I can foresee that many of those who see the positives in media engagement will seek to 'push the performance envelope' .

As I have stated higher in this questionnaire, it is often down to personality and character traits. From the police point of view there obviously needs to be a gentle 'hand on the tiller' and policy guide lines on the subject, but it should not be draconian or rigid.

I would draw your attention to what Sir Robert Mark did when he became Commissioner of the Met in 1972. Mark was worried that the echelons of upper ranks had developed into too many 'fiefdoms' – and that extended to ways in which his supervising ranks dealt with the media.

Mark, who was one of the first chief officers to recognise and acknowledge that police corruption was wide spread in several forms, decided to drive down on it relentlessly.

He had a novel approach to 'neutralising' some of what he thought were unhealthy relationships between senior staff and some reporters.

Instead of restricting the amount of contact between his officers and journalists he encouraged and allowed more of it.

He issued a new edict allowing all officers of the rank of inspector and above to talk to media contacts, where before only the echelons of the superintending ranks had been allowed.

Mark's guidelines were simple: 1) You can talk about your own work, but not about the work of others. 2) You are mature and responsible adults; Use common sense in what you disclose.

Senior police should also keep another thought in mind. The British press has consistently produced great examples of superb investigative journalism.

Many journalists are excellent investigators, tenacious and driven, but usually highly ethical.

A stone wall approach by any organisation will usually only provoke them to work more diligently and more subtly to find a way to reach the story.

97) It's impossible to qualify this, except to say that if the problem is serious enough, then it might be justified.

To illustrate I would use the 'Watergate' example.

Thirty one years after the events which deposed President Richard Nixon, and only after his death, were the Washington Post prepared to reveal their secret source, the 'Deep Throat' whose information enabled them to expose a government scandal reaching right to the top.

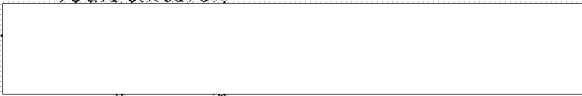
The informant was an Associate Director of the FBI.



STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I confirm the contents of the statement I have provided to the Leveson Inquiry is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Yours sincerely



Jeffrey A. Edwards

21/2/2012