

- (1) Rohan Silva
- (2) First
- (3) Exhibits RS1-3
- (4) 17 May 2012

**LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICE AND ETHICS OF THE
PRESS**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ROHAN SILVA

I, ROHAN SILVA, of 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA, will say as follows:

1. I have been Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister since the election in May 2010. I work across a number of policy areas, but try to focus on growth, innovation and enterprise. Prior to that I worked as an Economic Adviser to the Shadow Chancellor.
2. I am writing this statement following a letter from the Inquiry to the Prime Minister, in which a request was made for "*all documents (including electronic documents) containing or referring to communications between... any person acting*" on behalf of the Prime Minister "*including special advisers and anyone from or acting on behalf of either News Corporation or News International*".
3. I am also aware of an e-mail dated 2 December 2010 sent by Frederic Michel to James Murdoch and others, which was disclosed as Exhibit KRM 18 with the evidence of Rupert Murdoch to the Leveson Inquiry.
4. In that e-mail Frederic Michel refers to "*David's adviser*". I can confirm that the adviser referred to is me.

5. I met with Frederic Michel on 2 December 2010. This meeting was at Frederic Michel's instigation following an email to Andy Coulson's Assistant on 4 August 2010, in which he was seeking a discussion regarding "*media/creative industry issues and more broadly, ...*" He was put in contact with me, and later confirmed by email on 13 August 2010, that he wished to discuss "*the creative industry agenda and [to] update you on some of our initiative/projects as well*". These emails are exhibited to this statement as **RS1**. It proved difficult to find a time that was convenient to both of us for some months, with the meeting being cancelled, and Frederic Michel sent me another email on 15 November 2010, suggesting again that we meet to discuss "*creative industry/investment; copyright strategy; future of digital media*". This email is exhibited as **RS2**. The meeting eventually took place on 2 December 2010, immediately after a meeting between Frederic Michel and my Liberal Democrat colleague Tim Colbourne.

6. I did not keep a note of this meeting, but I can recall it being a general introduction, which focussed on the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property (a review which I had commissioned and for which I had oversight responsibility). We also discussed the Government's target to reduce emissions by 10% in a year, which was a policy commitment that I had proposed and developed while in Opposition, and which Fred Michel stated BSKyB was keen to assist with, given their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint. At one point in the meeting, Frederic Michel proactively raised the BSKyB takeover bid, and asked me for a No.10 view on it. I informed him of what I understood to be the public line, namely that the Prime Minister was very clear that he wanted to see a plurality of media ownership, and I also emphasised that the bid process was nothing to do with No.10. That was the end of the conversation on the BSKyB takeover, and it is the only discussion I can ever recall having with anyone from News Corporation on this subject.


7. Following this meeting with Frederic Michel, I did not discuss the brief reference to the BSKyB bid to anyone, including the Prime Minister.

8. I had a further meeting with Frederic Michel on 29 June 2011. Fred Michel did not raise the issue of the BSKyB bid, and the matter was not discussed at any point.
9. On 11 July 2011, Frederic Michel e-mailed me a copy of the public statement issued by News Corporation when they withdrew their bid for BSKyB. This e-mail was unsolicited, and I assumed at the time that it had been sent to me for information, along with various other people. I did not discuss this email with him, or with anyone else. I have exhibited this email to my statement for sake of completeness as **RS3**.

Statement of Truth

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

Signed:



(Rohan Silva)

Dated:

17/5/12