

News Corporation

K.R. Murdoch

First Statement

"KRM5"

12 April 2012

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

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**EXHIBIT "KRM5"**

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This is the exhibit marked "KRM5" referred to in the witness statement of Keith Rupert Murdoch dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2012.

# TIMES NEWSPAPERS HOLDINGS LIMITED

Registered office: P.O. Box no. 7, New Printing House Square,  
Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ  
Telephone 01-837 1234, Registered no. 206377 England

To: The Directors,  
Thomson British Holdings

I have had nearly three hours of talks with Mr. Rees-Mogg and Mr. Evans today. It emerges that the three of us are quite unanimous in favour of Rupert Murdoch as the most suitable future proprietor of this company, based on the information you have given me about the bidders. The reasons can be summarised as follows:-

1. He is a highly effective manager. He, therefore, has the best chance of success on his proven track record. He has built up a big business entirely on his own. The company is in a tough spot. It needs a tough operator to survive.
2. He is comparatively young (49).
3. He has, on the whole, a pleasing character and has luck on his side.
4. He has had British University education (Oxford) and fully understands the British way of life and political system.
5. He is neither greatly to the Left or greatly to the Right in politics.
6. He has started a quality newspaper (The Australian).
7. He is, on the face of it, totally sincere in discussions so far about the independence of editors and the preservation of quality. He has thought deeply about the mechanism of the national director concept, which he wishes to continue in principle.

/contd.

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8. All in all, he can be described as a thorough newspaper professional. He is not interested in possessing property, or other diversions. He will probably sell his shares in his airline in order to concentrate on television and publishing. He is dynamic, full of ideas, a ruthless operator with a personality which probably could relate to The Times. He would give maximum time to this company's progress and would regard it as the challenge of his life to make it succeed.

In a strange way he is very much like Roy.

(signed) Denis Hamilton

January 16 1981

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To The Directors  
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