

JJD Twomey
February 2012
2nd

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOHN JOSEPH DONALD TWOMEY

I, **JOHN JOSEPH DONALD TWOMEY**, Crime Reporter of the Daily Express, of The Northern and Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN, **WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:**

- A. I am the Crime Reporter of The Daily Express. I am also the Chairman of the Crime Reporters Association ["CRA"]. I make this statement in my capacity as Chairman of the CRA and in response to a request of the Leveson Inquiry (the "Inquiry") pursuant to a letter dated 2 February 2012.
- B. I confirm that all matters in this statement are true and, unless I specify to the contrary, are based upon my own knowledge and a review of the relevant documents. Where matters are not within my own knowledge, I state the source and believe the same to be true.
- C. For convenience, I have reproduced as subheadings the questions asked of me in the 2 February letter. Where there is overlap between the questions asked of me in the 2 February letter and the answers given in my first witness statement, I refer to my first witness statement.

Question 1: *Who you are and a brief summary of your career history in the media.*

1116527v1

MOD200007115

1. I refer to paragraphs 1 and 2 of my first witness statement.

Question 2: What is the CRA and what is its purpose/what are its functions?

2. The CRA is a confederation of journalists whose main work is reporting on police and crime matters. It was founded shortly after the end of the Second World War to foster and maintain good relations between crime reporters of national newspapers and the Metropolitan Police. That remains the central aim although we do endeavour to nurture good relations with forces outside the MPS.
3. As so much crime happens in the capital, crime reporters mostly work on Metropolitan Police-related stories. But we do have meetings with other forces including Surrey, City of London, Thames Valley and Kent. We also have regular meetings with the Association of Chief Police Officers.
4. In practice, the CRA has briefings from police officers about investigations into specific crimes – for instance murders, terrorist attacks, serial sex offenders. Less often, we have briefings on more general topics like cyber crime.
5. All CRA briefings are organised through press officers. The CRA provides a convenient contact point for senior officers when they wish brief reporters who already have a good grounding in the way the police operate and are trusted not to publish or broadcast material which is released on a non-reportable or non-attributable basis. We also seek to have regular meetings with senior officers and press officers so trust can be built up.
6. In our experience, police press officers tend to devote too much time to “fire-watching” – looking out for potential sources of bad or problematic publicity in the future. By meeting and talking over a range of issues and story ideas, press officers and senior officers can get an idea of how they can secure good publicity for their forces through different media outlets.

7. By maintaining good relations with the police, CRA members hope to gain better access to officers and obtain the information which forces are reluctant to release unless they know they can trust the journalists involved. CRA members undertake not to publish or broadcast information which is disclosed on a non-reportable basis. They also agree not to identify sources of information which is released on a non-attributable basis or breach any embargos.

Question 3: Approximately how many members does the CRA have? Who can become a member of the CRA? What are the criteria for membership of the CRA?

8. The CRA currently has 47 members. At JJDT1 is a current membership list which is circulated to police forces around the country. Each daily national newspaper is represented by at least one member. Most Sunday newspapers also have a CRA representative. The CRA rules call for applicants for membership to be sponsored by two existing members. In practice, any reporter who is appointed by their national newspaper or broadcaster to regularly report on crime and police matters is automatically elected. This is roughly comparable to the lobby correspondents system in Parliament. The CRA also has a number of freelance reporters with backgrounds in either in national newspapers or broadcasting.

Question 4: What are the benefits of membership of the CRA? Does it provide additional or better access to the MPS? How important is membership of the CRA to a crime reporter's ability to perform his or her role effectively?

9. Reporters work independently and have their own sources. If they solely relied on the access which may be provided by CRA membership, they would not get very far. It should be noted that CRA briefings are always attended by the Press Association which means information provided at briefings is available to all newsdesks.
10. The benefits of membership are being invited to briefings where information can be obtained which would not normally be provided. This information may

be disclosed on an on-the-record, non-attributable or non-reportable basis.
The other benefit is meeting senior officers and press officers face to face.

Question 5: *What is the geographical/police area reach of the Association? Insofar as its reach is limited, do you consider that it would be beneficial for there to be a similar organisation with a more national approach?*

11. The reach of the CRA is mostly limited to London and the Metropolitan Police. A national organisation would clearly have benefits but it would possibly need at least one full-time officer to make it work effectively. There are 44 police forces in England and Wales including the British Transport Police (BTP). Senior officers and press officers change on a regular basis so getting round each force and to meet important contacts would be a full time job.

Question 6: *Please give full details of the relations and the nature and level of contact between the Association and the MPS as an organisation?*

12. Up until 2012, the CRA had a monthly briefing with the MPS Commissioner. This will now be held once every two months with the Commissioner alternating with a senior colleague.
13. These meetings almost invariably start with opening remarks by the Commissioner, questions arising and then more general questions. These meetings take place at New Scotland Yard ["NSY"] and are arranged by the press office. They are always on-the-record, last about an hour and press officers are always present. Commissioners are briefed beforehand and avoid saying anything which may appear controversial.
14. CRA members attend various briefings at NSY, witness appeals after major crimes, pre-trial and pre-verdict briefings or press conferences after high profile operations. Very often, these briefings are not restricted to CRA members although they may be referred to as CRA briefings by the press office.

Question 7: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what the Association seeks to gain from this contact/these relations?

15. There is no substitute for face-to-face meetings. In relaxed, informal surroundings reporters and senior officers and police staff can get to know each other and the trust which is essential to a proper working relationship can be built up. Illustrative examples are difficult to come by. These are get-to-know you meetings. But the main aim from the reporter's point-of-view is to increase the flow of information from the police in future.

Question 8: What do you believe the MPS as an organisation seeks to gain from this contact/these relations?

16. By briefing reporters they know and trust and who already have a general knowledge of the way police operate, the MPS is seeking to secure informed and largely sympathetic coverage.

Question 9: What is your impression of the culture of relations between the Association and the MPS? Do you consider the relationship between the Association and the MPS to be successful on the whole? What changes would you like to make to the relationship (if any?) and why?

17. The relationship between the CRA and the MPS is broadly successful although members complain that the MPS is not as open as it can and should be. Lack of openness is the one thing CRA members identify most frequently as an underlying, long-standing problem with the MPS and police forces generally.

Question 10: Please describe the type of contact that the Association has, if any, with individual police officers and/or police staff. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of the contact with individual police officers and/or police staff.

18. Unless I have misunderstood the meaning of this question, the CRA as a body does not have contact with individual police officers or staff. Briefings with officers are arranged formally through press offices.

Question 11: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what the Association is seeking to gain from this contact with individual police officers and/or police staff.

19. The CRA has organisation to organisation contacts with police forces. Members have their own contacts but the CRA as a body has no jurisdiction over these relationships.

Question 12: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the individual police officers and/or police staff have been seeking from the Association in their personal dealings with them.

20. As stated above, the CRA has organisation to organisation contacts with police forces. Members have their own contacts but the CRA as a body has no jurisdiction over these relationships.

Questions 13 and 14: To what extent does the Association accept, or has accepted, hospitality from the MPS? Insofar as the Association accepts, or has accepted, hospitality from the MPS, what is or has been the nature of the hospitality accepted?

21 For convenience, I answer these two questions together. In recent years, the Commissioner has hosted a summer media drinks party attended by CRA members at the Empress State police building in Earl's Court. There are been occasional receptions at NSY no more than one a year. The last one was a few years ago when CRA members were invited to meet various officials and staff involved in planning the police operation for the 2012 Olympics. There have been occasional social gatherings, organised by the press office, where the CRA member have met specialist squads, such as the Flying Squad or Murder Squads. These were held at pubs or wine bars in the vicinity of NSY. As far as I

can recall, the cost was often split between the CRA and the MPS. The last time such an event was held was two or three years ago, when an Assistant Commissioner hosted a drinks party in a pub in Victoria and paid for the event himself.

Questions 15 and 16: *To what extent does the Association, or has the Association, provided hospitality to the MPS? Insofar as the Association provides, or has provided hospitality to the MPS, what is, or was, the nature of the hospitality that it provides, or has provided?*

22 I will answer the questions above together. In the past, senior officers have been guests at CRA lunches organised through the press office. Press officers always attended. The talk at these lunches was non-reportable and was always very general. Two, three or perhaps four different CRA members were present each time. The press office believed it would be beneficial to both sides for the officers to meet as many CRA members as possible. CRA members split the cost of each lunch between them. Since the resignations of last summer, CRA lunches with senior officers have ceased.

23 There have also been regular monthly meetings with a senior officer over coffee at NSY with two different CRA members each time to discuss general crime and policing matters. These meetings have also now ceased.

24 The CRA hosts a drinks party in London once a year and usually around Christmas. Senior officers and staff of the MPS and senior officers and staff of several other forces are invited.

25 In June, 2005, the CRA marked its 60th anniversary with a reception at the House of Lords hosted by Lord MacKenzie of Framwellgate. The then Commissioner Lord Blair attended briefly. There were many senior MPS officers present and senior officers from other forces as well as other special guests including Lord Macdonald, QC, who was then Director of Public Prosecutions.

Question 17: *Does the Association give gifts to police officers or police staff? If so, please give full details, including identifying the types of gift and the reasons for giving the gifts.*

26 I can only recall three gifts being given to senior officers by the CRA. Lord Condon was given a book on his retirement as MPS Commissioner in 2000. His successor Lord Stevens was given an old-style police truncheon with an inscribed brass plaque when he left the MPS in 2005. Former Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke was presented with an inscribed silver wine coaster when he retired from the force in 2008. Each gift was paid for by the members. As far as I can recall, the first two cost less than £100 and Mr Clarke's present cost around £250 and was in recognition of his outstanding leadership and devotion to public service during the terrorist emergencies of the last decade.

Question 18: *Does the Association have off-the-record conversations with police officers or police staff? Please give full details.*

27 Off-the-record can mean two things – non-reportable or non-attributable. CRA members do attend briefings which are both non-reportable or non-attributable. I expand on this further in the answer to question 44 which deals with CRA members and off-the-record conversations with police officers and staff.

Question 19 and 20: *What contact/relations, if any, does the Association have with police forces other than the MPS? Please give full details of the relations and the nature and level of contact between the Association and police forces other than the MPS. What is your impression of the culture of the relations between the Association and police forces other than the MPS? Do you consider the relationships to be successful on the whole? What changes would you like to make to the relationships (if any?) and why?*

28 I will answer the questions above together. As stated above, the CRA is very London-focused and our contact with forces outside the MPS is limited. We have had meetings and briefings with outside forces which have gone some

way to foster good relations. The main change CRA members would call for is more openness from the police and more meetings/briefings/social events so CRA members can meet senior officers and staff from forces other than the MPS. But we acknowledge such meetings can take a long time to arrange.

Questions 21 and 22: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what the Association seeks to gain from this contact/these relations? What do you believe these other police forces seek to gain from this contact/these relations?

29 I will answer the above questions together. There is always one aim; to improve the flow of information from the police. The only way this can happen is to meet and build up the trust which is vital to any professional relationship. One recent example involves a Home Counties police force where relations between the police and the CRA had virtually broken down. An informal meeting with CRA members and senior officers and staff of the force concerned improved matters immeasurably. However, this meeting took more than 18 months to arrange. Usually, police forces seek to get informed and favourable coverage from briefing reporters they know and trust.

Question 23: Please describe the type of contact that the Association has, if any, with individual police officers and/or police staff from these other police forces. The inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of the contact with individual police officers and/or police staff.

30 The CRA as a body does not have contact with individual police officers or staff from outside London police forces.

Questions 24 and 25: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what the Association is seeking to gain from this contact with individual police officers and/or police staff. Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the individual police officers and/or police staff have been seeking from the Association in their personal dealings with them.

31 These questions are not applicable.

Questions 26, 27, 28, 29: *To what extent does the Association accept, or has accepted, hospitality from police forces other than the MPS? Insofar as the Association accepts, or has accepted, hospitality from police forces other than the MPS, what is or has been the nature of the hospitality accepted? To what extent does the Association, or has the Association, provided hospitality to police forces other than the MPS? Insofar as the Association provides, or has provided hospitality to police forces other than the MPS, what is, or has been, the nature of the hospitality that it provides, or has provided?*

32 As our contact is limited hospitality, given or provided, has been very limited. Until recently, the City of London Police hosted a media drinks party every spring to which CRA members were invited.

Question 30: *Does the Association give gifts to police officers or police staff (from police forces other than the MPS)? If so, please give full details, including identifying the types of gift and the reasons for giving the gifts.*

33 I cannot recall the CRA giving any gifts to officers or staff from forces outside London.

Question 31: *Does the Association have off-the-record conversations with police officers or police staff from these other forces? Please give full details.*

34 As I explain in my answer to question 44 below, the majority of conversations between CRA members and police officers and staff, whether MPS or outside London, fall into the category of off-the-record.

Questions 32 and 33: *What is your impression of the culture of relations between your members and the Metropolitan Police Service? Do you consider the relationships between your members and the Metropolitan Police Service to be successful on the whole? What changes would you like to make to the relationships (if any?) and why? What is your impression of the culture of*

relations between your members and police forces other than the MPS? Do you consider the relationships between your members and the other police forces to be successful on the whole? What changes would you like to make to the relationships (if any?) and why?

35 I answer these two questions together. As stated above, the relationship is broadly successful although the main complaint from members is that the MPS is not as open as it should be. The same applies with forces other than the MPS.

Question 34: Insofar as you are aware, do your members have the personal mobile telephone number or home telephone number of any of the following people:

- a. The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis*
- b. The Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis*
- c. Assistant Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis*
- d. Deputy Assistant Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis*
- e. Head of Public Affairs*

36 I refer to paragraph 24 of my first witness statement.

Question 35: Insofar as you are aware, do your members have the personal mobile telephone number or home telephone number of police officers holding the ranks of Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constable?

37 In relation to (a), I am certain some members have had the mobile or home numbers of Commissioners over the years but only a very few. The same applies to (b). In relations to (c) and (d) more members would have the mobile numbers of Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Assistant Commissioners but this would still have been a relatively small number – perhaps a dozen or less. In relation to (e), I would expect most CRA members would have the mobile number of the current head of public affairs. In a few cases, CRA members will have got mobile numbers from their colleagues rather than the officers.

Question 36: *Insofar as you are able to do so, please describe the type of personal contact that your members tend to have with police officers and/or police staff. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of their contact with police officers and/or police staff.*

38 In relation to the MPS, CRA members will have regular social meetings with police officers and police staff. They would not be doing their jobs if this was not the case. The same applies to forces outside London. It is difficult for me to be specific unless I was present. I deal with my own experience in answer to another question.

Questions 37 and 38: *Describe what you believe they are seeking to gain from this personal contact. Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the police officers and/or police staff have been seeking from your members in their personal dealings with them.*

39 All journalists need contacts and crime reporters are no different. What we are seeking is information which is not readily available elsewhere. As stated above, the police seek to gain more informed and favourable coverage.

Question 39, 40, 41, & 42: *To what extent do your members accept, or have accepted, hospitality from the Police Service? Insofar as they accept, or have accepted hospitality from the Police Service, what is or has been the nature of the hospitality accepted? To what extent do your members, or have your members, provided hospitality to the Police Service? Insofar as they provide, or have provided hospitality to the Police Service, what is, or was, the nature of the hospitality that you provide, or have provided?*

40 I believe that I have addressed the questions elsewhere in this statement.

Question 43: *To your knowledge, do your members give gifts to police officers or police staff? If so, please give full details, including identifying the types of gift and the reasons for giving the gifts.*

- 41 To my knowledge, CRA members do not give gifts to police officers or staff other than making contributions for the three gifts mentioned in my answer to question 17.

Question 44: Do your members have off-the-record conversations with police officers or police staff? Please give full details.

- 42 I am certain CRA members have off the record conversations with police officers and staff. I would not know any details unless I was present. As mentioned above, I organised CRA lunches for senior officers and meetings with a senior officer at NSY.
- 43 CRA members have off-the-record conversations with police officers and staff on a regular basis. As far as we are concerned, off-the-record has two meanings – non-reportable and non-attributable. Non-reportable information will not be published or broadcast unless or until the officer gives the green light. It is disclosed on the basis of trust between the officer and reporter. Non-attributable means the information can be published or broadcast as long as the officer is not identified by name.
- 44 The vast majority of telephone and face-to-face conversations between CRA members and police officers and staff are either non-reportable or non-attributable. New media guidelines are currently being drawn up but if police officers are required in future to record all contact with journalists, they are unlikely to continue to meet or speak with reporters on anything like the current scale. The result will be a dramatic reduction in the flow of information to the public and the police will seem less open or accountable.
- 45 Officers speak more freely if they know they are not going to be named. "Off-the-record" or non-attributable briefings can greatly assist the police in dispelling false rumours that might increase the danger of public disorder or have a lasting impact on police/community relations if they are left uncorrected. Senior officers have a range of factors in mind when deciding if a briefing should be off-the-record, wholly or in part - community/political sensitivities, the impact on victims and their families etc. In many

circumstances, the decision has to be made quickly and an "off-the-record" briefing is often seen as the only way forward.

46 A particularly brutal double murder in London in recent years illustrates the value of non-attributable CRA briefings. The victims were French nationals and they had been tortured to reveal their cash card PIN numbers. One victim in particular had been subjected to an extraordinary level of violence and the bodies of both had been set alight after they were dead.

47 The senior investigating officer (SIO) decided a media appeal had to be made as quickly as possible but felt he was not able to disclose details of the post mortem examinations if this had to be done on-the-record.

48 The information was disclosed by a senior press officer on a non-attributable basis and resulted in massive publicity in all media. It had the desired effect and one of the suspects surrendered to police a few days later. He and his accomplice were later convicted of the two murders.

49 With hindsight, the SIO probably could have given the information on-the-record. But there would have been a delay of many hours while senior officers, the French Embassy, Foreign Office officials and possibly others were consulted. Delay could have been fatal to the impact of the appeal.

Relations between the Media and the MPS

50 I have previously answered questions 45 – 65 at paragraphs 3 – 42 of my first statement.

Question 66: In your experience, what proportion of crime articles/news items use information believed to have been obtained through unauthorised disclosures by police personnel? What proportion of crime articles/news items depend materially on such information?

51 This is very difficult to quantify and it depends what is meant by unauthorised. Before the resignations of last summer, officers, especially senior ranks,

would have wide-ranging discussions with reporters. In the current climate, a lot of what they said may now be considered unauthorised. The question is really about openness. If transparency means recording every contact with the media, it is very likely there will be less contact. Less contact is likely to result in the MPS and other forces being less open.

Question 67: *What do you consider to be the motivation for police officers and/or police staff to leak information to the media? In other words, what do you consider to be the root cause of such leaks?*

52 There could be a range of factors for leaks. A feeling that the public is being misled by official statements from senior officers; anger at certain decisions, for instance to close down inquiries or redeploy staff. The Filkin Report cites an example of the former police officer who leaked confidential material to the media while he was employed as a civilian member of staff. He apparently did this in protest at the decision to merge the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Branch.

Question 68: *Have the police either formally or informally ever given you prior notification about proposed arrests, raids or other action? If so, please elaborate. Why do you believe they did so?*

53 I have been informed of proposed raids and arrest operations several times by the Metropolitan Police over the years. This was done formally through the press office and was followed by a media briefing along the lines of those described above. As far as I can recall, I have never been informally advised about arrests or raids before they have taken place.

54 Generally speaking, coverage from raids produces positive publicity for the police. Pictures of officers smashing down the doors and taking away suspected criminals in handcuffs makes the police look tough and decisive and assures the public they are doing something to prevent major crime rather than simply investigating after it happens.

Question 69: *Have you ever attended, or arranged media attendance, at arrests, raids or other police actions as a result of having been given such prior notification? If so, please give full details, including details of any media coverage that resulted from such attendance.*

55 I can only recall being on one raid following an official invitation. It was during the 1980s while I was working at the South London Press and I cannot recall the coverage which flowed from it.

Question 70: *What is your view of the practice of police officers and police staff having "off-the-record" conversations with the media?*

56 Off the record conversations are a vital part of the way the media gets information. A good deal of what is disclosed during non-attributable briefings could and, perhaps, should be given on-the-record. But there are often compelling reasons why briefings are given off-the-record.

Question 71: *Have you ever been offered "off the record" briefings by the police? If so, please elaborate.*

57 I refer to paragraphs 44- 46 of my first statement.

Questions 72-86: *What mechanisms, if any, are in place in your workplace to monitor and record hospitality as between the police on the one hand and you, or your fellow journalists on the other? What training, guidance, policies and/or practices are in place in your workplace governing contact between you and your fellow journalists on the one hand, the police on the other? What editorial or management oversight, or control, if any, is there over communications between journalists and police at your media outlet? What ethical issues do you consider arise, or need to be held in mind, by a journalist communicating in the course of his or her employment with the police, or anyone serving with, or employed by, a police force? What payments (if any) are considered to be legitimate financial transactions between persons serving with or employed by a police force and journalists at your media outlet? Please explain. What role do you consider that the MPS' Directorate of Public Affairs (especially its Press Bureau) and corresponding parts of other police forces fulfill? What, in*

practice, do they do? How, in practice, do you get access to the police? Does the Director of Public Affairs at the MPS and/or corresponding persons in other police forces act, or seek to act as gatekeepers controlling access by the media to other police personnel? If so, what is your attitude to this state of affairs? To what extent, in your opinion, does the MPS' Press Bureau, and corresponding parts of other police forces, exist to manage the relevant police force's corporate image in the media? Is it necessary for police forces to have a press office, and what is your view as to the utility and role of police press offices? Is it common for persons working for police press offices to have a background in the media? What proportion of personnel working in police press offices do you estimate have a media background? Is any particular form of media background predominantly found amongst police press officers (eg, tabloid, broadsheet, television, radio)? To the best of your knowledge are there any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into police press offices and vice versa?

58 I refer to paragraphs 47 – 63 of my first statement.

About HMIC

Question 87: What is your view of the recommendations contained in the HMIC's recent report "Without Fear or Favour" insofar as they concern relations between the media and the police? (If you have not seen it, the report is available online).

59 I refer to paragraphs 64 – 68 of my first statement.

Question 88: Do you consider that there are further or different steps which could and/or should be taken to ensure that relationships between the police and the media are and remain appropriate? Please explain when answering this question what you consider to be appropriate contact between the police and journalists in a democratic society.

60 I refer to paragraphs 69 – 73 of my first statement.

The Elizabeth Filkin Report

Question 89: *What is your view of the recommendations contained in Elizabeth Filkin's report "The Ethical Issues Arising from the Relationship Between Police and Media?"*

61 Parts of Mrs Filkin's report are quite condescending and, once again, suggest chief officers cannot trust their officers, or whatever rank or experience, in their dealings with the media. Her main recommendation is that the contact between officers and media should be recorded. Officers who have previously dealt with the press on a non-reportable or non-attributable basis are likely to cease to have any contact if it means that contact is looked upon as inappropriate or suspicious.

Question 90: *What is your view of the new Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis' stance on the recommendations and on the future of relations and communications between the MPS and the media?*

62 Some public statements by the Commissioner suggest he is already embraced the recommendations of the Filkin Report although has asked the Deputy Commissioner to draw up new guidelines which may suggest there is room for some flexibility. It appears nothing is fully decided at present.

Questions 91, 92 & 93: *Are you of the view that the MPS as a whole does not give equal and impartial access to information to all individuals and sections of the media (but that certain relationships have developed selectively)? Please give illustrative examples if you are able. Are you of the view that the MPS' Directorate of Public Affairs in particular does not give equal and impartial access to information to all individuals and sections of the media (but that certain relationships have developed selectively)? Please give illustrative examples if you are able. Are you of the view that police forces other than the MPS do not give equal and impartial access to information to all individuals and sections of the media?*

63 I will answer these questions together. Crime reporters have spent their careers building up contacts within the MPS and other forces so that they can get access to information that is not readily available. The reason the CRA exists is to maintain the good relations that makes this possible. As stated above, police officers and staff will only disclose certain types of information to reporters they already know and trust.

Question 94: Do you agree with the view of the anonymous journalist (p18 of the report) that closed communications with the police are counter-productive to the aim of holding public institutions to account because they create a reluctance to write pieces critical of the police? Please give reasons for your view.

64 This may have been the case in the past, as I have mentioned above. But crime reporters are now far more likely to write critical stories about the police than they were in previous decades. Personal contact with police officers is essential; building up trust is essential. If a journalist is to hold police forces to account, he or she has got to know what they are doing, to get information about what they are doing and how they operate.

Question 95: Do you agree that unrecorded contact between police and the media can leave police officers and staff vulnerable to corruption or undue influence? Please give reasons for your view.

65 The possibility exists. Making police officers record every contact with the media would not rule it out.

Question 96: Do you share the fear, set out on p43 of the report "that requiring a greater degree of transparency in media contact may stifle investigative journalism in the public interest and force reporters to contact unofficial police sources to get hard information"? Please give reasons for your view. Do you agree that if police personnel have wide-ranging permission to provide information, this will mitigate the concerns?

66 Making police officers record all contact with reporters will mean there will be less contact, therefore less information. In those circumstances, investigative journalists will simply have to go to unofficial sources. Giving police personnel wide-ranging permission to provide information may go some way to mitigate the impact of this. But in an era where police forces, such as the MPS, wish to control the media, this does not appear likely.

Question 97: In what circumstances do you consider contact with the media which is not open and transparent to be legitimate and in the public interest? What limits, if any, do you consider there should be on unauthorised contact between the police and the media?

67 As stated above, the recording of contact between officer and reporter will drastically reduce the flow of information. Less access to police officers, less information, more hostility and suspicion between media and police; this cannot be good for society. Police officers of inspector and above should be allowed to talk freely to journalists. Good sense and good judgment based on experience should be the guide to how that relationship works.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

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

[Redacted Signature]

John Joseph Donald Twomey
Dated 28 February 2012

IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF
JOHN JOSEPH DONALD TWOMEY

rosenblattsolicitors

9-13 St Andrew Street

London EC4A 3AF

DX: LDE 493

Tel: (020) 7955 0880

Fax: (020) 7955 0888

Ref: AF/EXP9-95