

Statement to be read outside Court

- Today MGN Limited, part of the Trinity Mirror Group, has settled my case by apologising for hacking my phone and is paying me a sum in damages which they have insisted I keep confidential, most of which will be distributed to good causes.
- As a part of the agreed statement made in Court this morning, the Mirror have accepted and apologised for the concealment of these illegal activities and have said that the victims should not have been denied the truth for so long. Were it not for the Mirror's threat to seek their costs if I continued with my case, I would have sought to scrutinise these activities further and get to the bottom of the extensive cover-up which I believe took place. Whilst I was able to pursue this case to this point despite these risks, I fear that many other victims of press misconduct are too afraid to fight for their rights because of aggressive newspaper legal teams and our expensive legal system.
- It is my belief that Hacking at the Mirror's papers took place for up to 15 years. Journalists at all three papers – The Daily Mirror, the Sunday Mirror and the People – under successive editors hacked the phones of thousands of people – not just celebrities and public figures but their families and people who just happened to be in the news.
- The way they behaved is a disgrace to the record of the what was a fine newspaper publisher and an insult to the memory of Hugh Cudlipp. Covering-up the wrong-doing to stop the truth coming out is even worse.
- Their failure to act on warnings and reports of illegality from at least 2002 onwards has led to the criminal intrusion into the lives of thousands of people, and – due to the costs of paying lawyers and damages – the jobs of scores of journalists.

- I brought this case to try and expose the cover-up, especially when I heard what Mirror executives said at the first part of the Leveson campaign. The judge in this litigation two years ago said that **[read to the words here]**:

"wrong, not just disingenuous statements, were made to the Leveson inquiry by at least 2 deponents, and that the newspaper group was indeed putting up what was in effect a strong denial, from which it has had to resile."

- It is my view that editors and executives such as Sly Bailey, Piers Morgan, Paul Vickers, Tina Weaver and Richard Wallace have not yet been subjected to proper scrutiny taking into account what has emerged since the first half of the Inquiry. The second part of Leveson Inquiry must find out who hacked, who knew about it, and who covered it up or turned a blind eye.
- The Leveson Inquiry must be completed now as the Government has promised.