



PRIORITY: Monthly report
AUTHOR: Chief Executive

Chief Executive Report, September 2011

For information only
Document ID: Board 106 (11)

Submitted to: Ofcom Board
Submitted by: Chief Executive
Date Written: 8 September 2011

1. Since the last Board:

We are continuing work on Project [redacted] which relates to our ongoing duty to be satisfied that broadcast licence holders are "fit and proper". Our main focus continues to be information gathering. Over the summer this has included reviewing the latest evidence published by the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee on 16 August and 6 September. Our team has also held calls with the ICO, and [redacted] Clerk to the CMS Select Committee. She confirmed that she was alert to the fact that the information held by or coming to the Committee may be of particular relevance to Ofcom and would endeavour to ensure any such information was reported to Parliament.

The ICO indicated in our call that in the information it gathered in March 2003 relating to possible Data Protection Act breaches by the press, there were a very small number relating to broadcasters. These were not previously notified to Ofcom or made public when the ICO published its report in 2006. We have requested the relevant evidence from the ICO and expect to discuss with the ICO and the police before deciding whether

this warrants further conversations with the broadcasters concerned.

Separately, as discussed previously at the Board, the Met has opened a new investigation into computer hacking and other practices (Operation Tuleta). There have also been a number of further arrests since the last Board meeting to take the number of people reportedly arrested to 17. Chris Woolard will be meeting ; again on 21 September for a scheduled catch-up.

On 6 September Colin Myler, former Editor, News of the World and Tom Crone, former Legal Manager, News Group Newspapers gave evidence to the CMS Select Committee. The session focused on the "for Neville" e-mail that indicates that Clive Goodman was not the only person implicated in hacking at the News of the World, on the basis of which civil litigation by Gordon Taylor was settled in 2008. James Murdoch has said he was not aware of this email and its implications at the time he authorised the settlement. It is likely that James Murdoch will be recalled before the committee to give further evidence. We are continuing to monitor this.

Lord Justice Leveson began his preliminary hearings this week. In the early part of the inquiry, Leveson will receive evidence from private investigators and key victims of press intrusion who are likely to be the first people to provide evidence in person. All UK media outlets including the BBC have been sent a list of 20 questions for key members of staff to answer about ethics and working practices.

We are currently finalising the written statements that Colette, Phillip and I have been asked to provide to the inquiry. We are likely to be invited to participate in a factual public seminar on models of media regulation.

2. External update

3. Internal update

4. Key legal cases

5. Looking ahead

6. Attachments

Annex 1: Summer update to the Board
Annex 2:



Ofcom Board briefing: Summer 2011

A. Publications and announcements

1. Project

Work has continued on Project over the summer. This has included evidence gathering and meetings with the Information Commissioner's Office regarding their original investigation (Operation Motorman) and the clerk to the CMS Committee on their next steps. We are due to meet with the police for a second time in early September. There will be a full update for the Board on the 13th September.

2. Leveson Inquiry

Colette, Philip and myself have been asked to provide witness statements to the Leveson inquiry. These are due on 16 September. As well as putting together these statements we are preparing for a teach-in for the Inquiry team on regulatory models. We can expect Leveson to be hearing evidence across the autumn.

10/11

10/11

10/11

[The main body of the page contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. Some faint markings and lines are visible but cannot be transcribed.]

Ed Richards
2 September 2011

