# News International Limited

### **STATEMENT**

#### EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 HRS GMT ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010

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# CMS SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON PRESS STANDARDS, PRIVACY AND LIBEL

The credibility of the Select Committee system relies on committee members exercising their powers with responsibility and fairness, and without bias or external influence. Against these standards, this CMS Committee has consistently failed.

Rather than work in the public interest, certain members of the Committee appear to have pursued a party-political agenda. They have worked in collusion with The Guardian, consistently leaking details of the Committee's intentions and deliberations to that newspaper.

Indeed, the Committee has spent seven months – close to half of its time on this inquiry – on allegations made by The Guardian, despite its wide-ranging remit to examine issues of vital importance to the newspaper industry. This diversion has already delayed any serious reform which could have been implemented.

In all this time, the Committee has failed to come up with any new evidence to support The Guardian's allegations.

Sadly, this has not stopped certain members of the Committee from resorting to innuendo, unwarranted inference and exaggeration. Moreover, the reaction of the Committee to its failure to find any new evidence has been to make claims of "collective amnesia", deliberate obfuscation and concealment of the truth.

News International strongly rejects these claims.

News International believes that the Select Committee system has been damaged and materially diminished by this inquiry and that certain members of this CMS Committee have repeatedly violated the public trust.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

**News International Limited** publishes The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and News of the World. In terms of growth, share, circulation and reader engagement, the Company's titles are among the world's most successful. News Printers Group Ltd prints the national titles and operates as a contract printing subsidiary for the three state of the art printing plants. Further brands which are part of the group include the Times Literary Supplement and milkround.co.uk. The News International group has an investment in fashion website BrandAlley.co.uk.

In 2007, News International Ltd became the UK's first carbon neutral newspaper publisher. This was achieved by increasing energy efficiency, switching to renewable energy and combined heat and power and purchasing high quality offsets.