

RELEASED INFORMATION

Email chain 1 between officials and Peter Watson, 12 December 2012

From: [redacted name]
Sent: 12 December 2012 19:21
To: 'Peter Watson'
Subject: RE: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Dear Mr Watson

Thank you very much for this and subsequent e-mails from [redacted name]. - have been in (or travelling to) meetings until now - news release text now adjusted. Expect it to issue tomorrow morning.

[redacted name]

From: Peter Watson [redacted email address]
Sent: 12 December 2012 15:02
To: [redacted name]
Subject: Re: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Now off rules council

From: Peter Watson [redacted email address]
Sent: 12 December 2012 15:01
To: [redacted name]
Subject: Re: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Yes quite happy

From: [redacted email address]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 02:59 PM
To: Peter Watson
Cc: CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted email address] [redacted email address]
Subject: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Dear Mr Watson

I work in the Scottish Government on media policy and have been involved in taking forward work on the Leveson Inquiry. We were intending to include a brief biographical note on you in the news release for the expert group.

Would the draft below be acceptable? As you will see, it is drawn on your biography on your firm's website.

many thanks

[redacted name]

[redacted name]

Scottish Government: Directorate of Culture and Heritage - Culture Division I 2H
North Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ I [redacted contact details – telephone and email]

Peter Watson

Peter is Senior Partner and Head of Litigation at Levy & McRae. Under his leadership, Levy & McRae has built up a worldwide reputation in areas of expertise such as media law, licensing, aviation, international claims, public inquiries, employment law and tax and revenue investigations. He is also a part-time Sheriff and Visiting Professor at the School of Law, University of Strathclyde, and is President of the Society of Media Lawyers, Chairman of the Association of Mediators and a Member of the Criminal Rules Council.

Email chain 2 between officials, Peter Watson and his staff, 12 December 2012

From: [redacted email address]

Sent: 12 December 2012 16:28

To: [redacted name]

Subject: FW: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Dear [redacted name]

Please find attached an updated version of Peter's biography, to say that he is a former member of the Criminal Rules Council.

Regards.

[redacted name]

From: [redacted name]

Sent: 12 December 2012 15:09

To: [redacted email address]

Subject: FW: Leveson Expert Group - Biography

Dear [redacted name]

Here is Prof. Watson's most up-to-date biography and a PDF of an excerpt from Chambers & Partners.

Regards.

[redacted name]

PA to Prof. Peter Watson

From: [redacted email address]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 02:59 PM
To: Peter Watson
Cc: CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<CommunicationsFirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted email address] [redacted email address]
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[redacted name]

[redacted name]

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Peter Watson biography provided by his office



**Professor Peter Watson
Levy & McRae, Glasgow**

The 58-year-old Solicitor Advocate, who is married with two children, is Senior Partner and Head of Litigation at Levy & McRae, one of the most respected law firms in Scotland.

In July 2012 he became a consultant to leading English law firm Goodman Derrick LLP. The two firms have a strategic alliance which enables them to provide clients with a full service offering across the whole of the UK.

He was in September 2010 appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Law School at the University of Strathclyde. The Law School has an international reputation for academic excellence and sits within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Under his leadership, Levy & McRae have built up a worldwide reputation in areas of expertise such as media law, licensing, aviation, international claims, public inquiries, employment law and tax and revenue investigations.

Professor Watson's university education began at Strathclyde where he studied Economics and Psychology. He studied law at Edinburgh,

research at the Scandinavian Maritime Law Institute at Oslo University and studied Petroleum Law at Dundee.

In recent years he has led teams involved in some of the biggest litigation claims in British legal history following major international disasters. These include:-

- **PIPER ALPHA:** Setting up the Piper Alpha Disaster Group following the fire and explosion aboard the North Sea rig in July 1988 which claimed the lives of 167 crew members. Peter participated in the official accident inquiry under the chairmanship of Lord Cullen and was a lead negotiator in settling claims by the families of the victims.
- **BRAER TANKER:** Secretary of the Braer Disaster Group formed after the sinking of the super-tanker Braer off Shetland in January 1993 with the spillage of 85,000 tonnes of oil. In environmental terms, this was more than twice the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez.
- **LOCKERBIE AIR DISASTER:** Secretary of the Lockerbie Air disaster Group responsible for the co-ordination and representation of almost all the British claims following the destruction by terrorists of the Pan Am flight in December 1988. These multi-million lawsuits involved constant interaction with Counsel in Scotland, England and the United States and are widely regarded as a landmark in worldwide litigation.
- **RAF CHINOOK CRASH:** Represented the family of the late RAF Chinook pilot, Flight Lieutenant Richard Cook, following the crash of his aircraft in June 1994 which resulted in the deaths of 25 Secret Service personnel and two aircrew. An RAF Board of Inquiry came to the conclusion that pilot error was the cause of the accident on the flight between Ireland and Scotland but this was rejected at a Fatal Accident Inquiry after strong representations by Mr Watson.
- **SEA EMPRESS TANKER:** Represented major commercial interests in the aftermath of massive oil pollution following the grounding of the super tanker Sea Empress at the entrance to Milford Haven harbour in February 1996. Peter represented Bourne Leisure Group Ltd, a major leisure company who operate

large holiday parks in the affected areas and has now submitted a claim to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

- **AEROMEGA CRASH:** Represented Aeromega Ltd, an aircraft leasing company, when one of their helicopters crashed in October 1996 resulting in the deaths of multi-millionaire Matthew Harding and four others. Despite being an English-based firm, Aeromega decided to be represented by a Scottish solicitor because of his unrivalled expertise in aviation matters.
- **DUNBLANE:** Represented the families of the 16 pupils and one teacher murdered in the Dunblane Primary School massacre of March 1996. Peter played a key role in the Tribunal of Inquiry under Lord Cullen which examined three distinct issues – the certification and availability of firearms, school security and the vetting of adults working with children and young people. The outcome was a recommendation, now law, restricting the availability of certain calibres of handguns.
- **FL LT MALCOLM ‘SPOT’ WILLIAMS COURT MARTIAL:** Represented Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Williams (RAF) acquitted after Court Martial into the fatal crash of two American fighter planes.
- **GLASGOW AIR CRASH:** Represented the families at the Fatal Accident Inquiry which took place in September 2001. The crash killed eight people and injured three when a Cessna aircraft crashed moments into a routine flight to Aberdeen. The aircraft was taking Airtours cabin crew to Aberdeen to join an outbound flight to Majorca. In tandem, Professor Watson was able to use his extensive experience in Air Accident cases and in conjunction with Levy & McRae’s associated office in New York, proceedings were raised against the engine manufacturers in Alabama. The claims were settled out of Court.
- **COLIN McRAE, MBE:** Represented the family of the late Colin McRae MBE in relation to the AAIB inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his fatal helicopter crash and represented the family in a Fatal Accident Inquiry held at Lanark Sheriff Court.

Other high profile cases include:

- **SAUDI NURSE:** Represented the Scottish Nurse facing execution in Saudi Arabia and securing her release in 1997.
- **SHIRLEY McKIE, FINGERPRINT INQUIRY:** Represented Shirley McKie, a police officer accused of attempting to pervert the Course of Justice based on wrong fingerprint identification. This was the first successful challenge to finger print evidence in the world.
- **ROSE PARK NURSING HOME:** Represented one of the nursing home's owners in the prosecution which followed the tragic fire at the home in 2004. Following service of an indictment a challenge to the competency of the prosecution was raised and successfully argued and upheld in the High Court sitting in its appellant jurisdiction and the prosecution could not proceed.
- **ANN GLOAG:** Represented the owner of Kinfauns Castle, Perthshire in her successful action for Declarator that access rights do not apply to the grounds of Kinfauns Castle. This landmark case was the first test of the Right to Roam legislation and was the first case of this type under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and ensured the owner of the castle was entitled to reasonable measures of privacy.
- **DAME ELISH ANGIOLINI:** Representing Dame Elish Angiolini, former Lord Advocate, regarding non harassment orders and dealing with internet harassment.
- **UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE:** Representing the University of Strathclyde in respect of crisis management issues including internet harassment.
- **UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING:** Representing the University of Stirling in respect of crisis management issues including internet harassment.
- **MARTIN BAIN:** Representing Martin Bain against Rangers Football Club and all claims against Craig Whyte, then owner of Rangers Football Club.

Professor Watson is a Part-time Sheriff and has written on a number of matters. These include:-

- Civil Justice System in Britain – ISLA Journal of International & Comparative Law
- Dunblane – A Predictable Tragedy
- Crimes of War – The Anton Gecas case. Nova Southeastern University
- The Truth Written in Blood – DNA and the Criminal Trial. Strathclyde University.
- The Rule of Law and Economic Prosperity – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Rome October 2003
- Access to Justice - A Roadway to Empowering the Poor - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Rome December 2004

1.1.1 Among the posts he holds are:-

President, Legal Netlink Alliance Europe
 Visiting Professor of Law, University of Strathclyde
 Chairman, Yorkhill Children's Foundation
 Director, Hamilton Park Racecourse
 Official Collaborate, International Labour Organisation, Geneva
 Past-President of the Society of Solicitor Advocates (1997)
 Past-President of the Society of Media Lawyers
 Former Chairman, Association of Mediators
 Former Member of the Criminal Rules Council
 Member of the Board of the Sports Law Centre, Anglia University
 Member of the British Association for Sport & Law
 Member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the International Bar Association
 Visiting Scholar Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Honorary Citizen of Nashville, Tennessee
 Former Chairman in Scotland of the Reliance group of companies

In recent years Professor Watson has worked with the United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe. The work of the Commission is concerned with preparing for a Special UN High Commission to be formed to promote the circumstances for economic growth of 'transition economies'. The focus is mostly on countries in Eastern Europe, formerly part of the Soviet Union. Professor Watson's role is focused on

Access to Justice and the integrity of their legal systems. The goal is to promote the rule of law by ensuring access to justice, the strengthening of the independence and the appropriate training of the Judiciary. It will also include the promotion of training, ethical and professional standards for the legal profession and appropriate mechanisms to ensure adequate regulation and compliance capable of meaningful measurement and comparison internationally.

Levy & McRae, who have a caseload of approximately 3,600 cases, are involved in litigation around the world. Currently this includes such places as France, Spain, Turkey, Italy, India and the United States. A network of associated companies worldwide gives them access to local counsel when required.

One of their niche areas is in the media and clients include such blue-chip firms as ITN, Mirror Group Newspapers, SMG, Newsquest, Border Television, Channel Four, Reuters News, GMTV and Sky News.

Other prestigious clients include the British Field Sports Society, the majority of Police Federations in Scotland, the Prison Officers' Association Scotland and many other public bodies and private individuals.



Email chain between officials and Expert Group members sharing directory for group, 13 December 2012

From: [redacted name]
Sent: 13 December 2012 18:59
To: [redacted name]; Peter Watson; [redacted name]; [redacted email address]; [redacted email address]

Cc: [redacted name]; [redacted name]; [redacted name]

Subject: Leveson Group - Directory

[Here is a revised version with various additions made.](#)

[\[redacted name\]](#)

From: [redacted name]

Sent: 13 December 2012 17:23

To: [redacted name]; Peter Watson; [redacted name]; [redacted email address][redacted email address]

Cc: First Minister; [redacted name]; [redacted name]; [redacted name]; [redacted name]

Subject: Leveson Group

Dear Experts

As requested, I attach a directory of Group contact details. Do please let me know of any inaccuracies.

Our Director, [redacted name], has identified officials to provide a Secretariat to the Group and I believe has a telephone call scheduled with Lord McCluskey tomorrow to go over proposed arrangements with him. We should then be in a position to confirm arrangements, which we would hope to get underway next week.

In the interim I would be the "principal official" as described by Lord McCluskey.

[redacted name] and his colleagues in the First Minister's Private Office - to whom we are grateful for their efforts in pulling things together over the past few days - will now fade into the background in terms of logistics but I am in no doubt that the First Minister will look forward with great interest to the Group's advice and recommendations.

[redacted name]

[redacted name]

Scottish Government: Directorate of Culture and Heritage - Culture Division

2H North Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

tel: [redacted contact details]

mobile: [redacted contact details]

[redacted email address]

From: John McCluskey [redacted email address]

Sent: 13 December 2012 15:45

To: Peter Watson; [redacted name]; [redacted name]; [redacted email address]; [redacted email address]

Cc: [redacted name]; First Minister
Subject: Re: Expert Group - News Release

I opened my laptop to ask exactly that! We need an email directory and the name etc of the principal official who will be able to arrange dates, times, places, distribution of papers etc. I am preparing a short Note to go out to colleagues. On emails, I suggest that we use, as the SUBJECT, *Leveson Group*. It is easier to keep one's mail tidier that way. Best wishes, JOHN

[redacted email address]

From: Peter Watson [redacted email address]
Date: Thu, 13 Dec 2012 15:26:56 +0000
To: "[redacted email address] [redacted email address], [redacted name] [redacted email address], [redacted name] [redacted email address], [redacted email address] [redacted email address] [redacted email address] [redacted email address]"
Cc: "[redacted email address] [redacted email address] "FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk" <FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Expert Group - News Release

Thanks for this.

Can I suggest we create a contact directory for all on the group? I await hearing from Lord McCluskey who presumably will canvass dates and an agenda

Peter

From: [redacted email address] [redacted email address]
Sent: 13 December 2012 13:26
To: [redacted email address] [redacted email address] [redacted email address] [redacted email address] Peter Watson
Cc: [redacted email address] FirstMinister@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Expert Group - News Release

<<News Release - First Minister - Leveson Expert Panel - December 2012.doc>>
Please see the news release that will issue in the next hour, probably by 2.10.

Regards,

[redacted name]

[redacted name]
Private Secretary to the First Minister of Scotland
Scottish Government
5th Floor, St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted contact details]

Mobile: [redacted contact details]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Expert Group directory

Rt Hon Lord McCluskey of Church Hill
[redacted contact details]

David Sinclair
Head of Communications
Victim Support Scotland
[redacted contact details]

Professor Neil Walker FBA FRSE
Regius Professor of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations
School of Law
University of Edinburgh
[redacted contact details]

Professor Peter Watson
Senior Partner
Levy & McRae
[redacted contact details]

PA: [redacted name] [redacted contact details]

Ruth Wishart
[redacted contact details]