



8 July, 2011

Dear Colleague,

The behaviour that has been uncovered at the News Of The World is an affront to all of us who value the integrity and credibility of good journalism, the reputation of the company and our own reputations as professionals.

Phone hacking is the antithesis of everything we stand for. It is a terrible slur on our craft.

As the Times of London editorialised yesterday:

“Journalism has a responsibility and an ethic. Its claims to public credibility rests on conducting it’s work in a way that is defensible to a reasonable person, known in the trade as a reader.”

I know, and I believe everyone here at News Limited knows that the events in the UK in no way reflect who we are, what we do and what we believe in as a media organisation.

We have obligations to do the right thing by ourselves, our colleagues, our readers and advertisers, and, more broadly, to the communities we serve in an ethical and moral way.

The decision to close the News of The World acknowledges that once the contract of trust between the newspaper and its readers had been breached it was damaged beyond repair.

It is appropriate to remind everyone at News Limited that unethical and immoral behaviour is not tolerated. We have a Code of Professional Conduct in addition to the MEAA code.

My personal belief is that adherence to these codes is the guiding principle to everything we do.

I am confident that the practices that have been uncovered in the UK do not exist in Australia, at News or any other respectable media outlet.

Given the wider reputational impact on all journalists as a result of the events in the UK I want to remind everyone that adherence to our ethical code is fundamental to our right to publish and a fundamental requirement of our work, every day.

Regrettably, a line has been crossed and it’s important at times like this that if we care about the power, value and relevance of responsible journalism then we must express in the strongest terms our distress and dismay at such a breach of faith.

John Hartigan
Chairman and Chief Executive