

# ENQUIRE WITHIN

**Question:** *Did you buy a final edition of the News of the World and how did you react to the revelations of phone tapping and the closure of the newspaper in July? Was this investigative journalism or just plain immoral?*

**Answer:** The News of the World is not a newspaper I would ever buy, not even a final edition, and I don't think I can remember a time when it has been in our house.

For as long as I can remember it has been a "scandal sheet" or a newspaper with stories designed to provide "Sunday Horizontalists"

with a few sniggers as they lie in bed and enjoy the discomfort of people who have been found out doing something sleazy or committing sexual indiscretions.

The demise of the NOTW will not be a big loss to me personally, and I guess it will provide Britain with a healthier Sunday than before?

The situation raises a lot of important issues.

Phone hacking is illegal and it seems to most people to be quite important that those involved should be brought to the courts to answer for their actions and receive appropriate sanctions.

The situation with Andy Coulson also raises issues about the judgement of the Prime Minister who appointed him as a senior staff member at 10 Downing Street. Thankfully he has now left this post.

Investigative journalism is a good thing and it serves the people who are thus able to see things which those in powerful positions would like to keep covered up, but phone hacking is going too far. However, I think that it was only when it was revealed that the families of murder victims were being targeted that things started to hot up. Not many people were too concerned at footballers and film-stars being targeted, were they?

The closure of the NOTW spoke more tellingly to me about the morals and practices of the Murdoch empire, with all the leadership of the News International Corp.

Whatever the final details, and the courts will need to hear all the details, the disaster has been caused by decisions taken by people at the newspaper, and people at the top of News International. These are the people who need to be identified and brought before the courts. It is tragically wrong for the NOTW to be closed down on the whim of Rupert Murdoch or James Murdoch or anyone else and it just goes to show their attitude to their workforce and the ordinary, and totally

innocent people who do the work to make the newspaper happen every week. I am thinking of people like the delivery workforce, the cleaning staff, those people whose daily work made the newspaper appear,

as well as journalists, especially those journalists who had no involvement in illegal activities.

This is the way of the global empire of Rupert Murdoch and it proves beyond doubt to me that he is not a fit person to be given control of BSkyB as he is attempting to be at present.

With such draconian attitudes towards the livelihoods of his own workforce, Murdoch has displayed his true character as an old-fashioned "screw the workers" boss.

What should have happened is that he should have investigated or facilitated the true nature of who was involved and who took the decisions and then changed the ethos of the newspaper to make it more wholesome and at least adhering to the law of the land.

However, it is perhaps difficult to investigate yourself, isn't it?

We need variety, not monopoly in our newspapers and broadcasting and with Murdoch, we will only see more and more of the same.

No thank you.

