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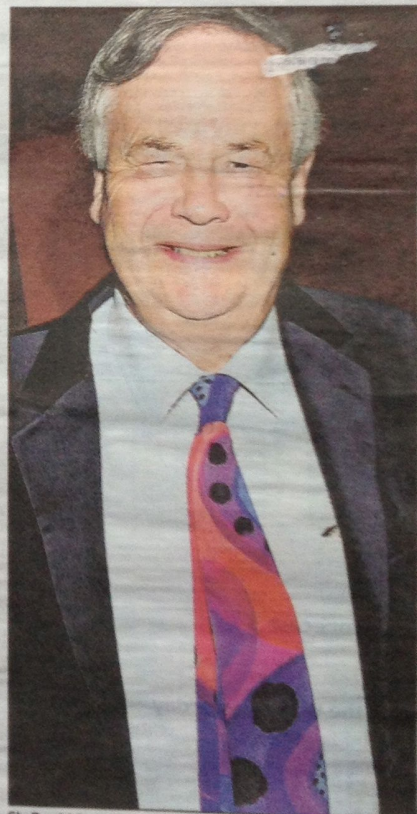
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Special Investigation into a central figure in the McAlpine scandal and judicial inquiry into the press

# LEVESON: DISTURBING QUESTIONS OVER HIS KEY ADVISER



Sir David Bell: Trustee of bureau behind the Newsnight report that led to smearing of Lord McAlpine

**DISTURBING** questions have been raised about the role of a senior adviser to the Leveson Inquiry.

Sir David Bell is on the six-strong panel of assessors assisting Lord Justice Leveson, whose report

By **Michael Seamark** and **Sam Greenhill**

into press standards is expected within weeks.

But a Daily Mail investigation has uncovered evidence that questions both his suitability as an adviser and the

impact this may have had on the objectivity and neutrality of the Inquiry. Sir David is a trustee of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, the group behind the disastrous Newsnight report that falsely implicated Lord McAlpine as a paedophile. With his lawyers preparing to sue the BIJ for damages, the former Tory Party

treasurer yesterday described the devastating impact on him of the programme that has left the BBC in crisis, with the resignation of its director general.

The 70-year-old spoke of how the shattering allegations had consigned him 'to the lowest circle of hell' and said it

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