

RESTRICTED

Not to be disseminated without permission of AC Yates

**Summary of meeting**

**Response to Guardian Article re phone tapping**

**Monday 13th July 2009 at 4.30pm**

**Room 556 (ACSO Office) – Victoria block, NSY**

**Attendees:**

AC John Yates - Chair (JY)  
DCS Clive Timmons (CT)  
DCS Phil Williams (PW)  
D/Supt Keith Surtees (KW)  
D/Supt Dean Haydon - minutes (DH)  
DI Tim Alexander (TA)  
DI Jackie Richmond (JR)  
Colin Barker (CB)  
Naz Saleh (NS)  
Sara Cheesely (SC)  
Felicity Ross (FR)

Previous minutes agreed and previous actions updated.

**Action** - SC to draft letter to the Guardian for JY agreement.

Complete - Decision made not to send. (Rationale in minutes 13/07 at 3.30pm)

**Action** - DLS to prepare legal advice on how the MPS deal with requests from people to confirm if their name is on the list, legal challenges, FOIA requests.

Complete - NS leading and will liaise with DH to respond to requests.

**Action** - DH to draft response to Stephen Rimmer's request for information and JY to clear.

Complete - DH responded by e-mail 10/07.

JY thanked members, also on behalf of Commissioner, for the work they had completed over weekend.

**DCS Williams update from informing Andy Coulson and others from 10/07 onwards**

PW informed Coulson and no issues, he took it well. 7 others selected from reviewing list. Tried to contact them Friday and Saturday but could only make contact with 1 - Andy Gray. Others phones were disconnected, old phones etc.

**RESTRICTED**

Not to be disseminated without permission of AC Yates

Over weekend. PW reviewed all files again and decided original victim strategy still stood re informing people (i.e. nothing had changed, apart from Coulson position) and after speaking with JY, it was decided no further contact was attempted with any other people. Weekend focus was then diverted to preparing briefing notes and chronology of events.

PW stated after reviewing list there were approx 60 people with activity on their phones. JY asked rationale for not informing them now. PW stated they had been in contact with phone companies and they were compiling in writing what they did at the time. Response should be received in next 24 hours and therefore decision pending until we see phone companies response in event there could be duplication of work. Press line should read presently - not prepared to discuss (this is personal data).

There are also commercial interests and sensitivities to consider. (eg. O2 always wished to inform customers first before they passed details to Police). These people are customers of the phone companies and onus to inform is on them as opposed to Police (Analogy given of banking fraud where account numbers etc seized. Banks would be informed and they would deal with preventative measures and inform customers).

**DPA - Press coverage over weekend**

SC stated coverage was OK. Andy Hayman wrote a commentary piece that supported MPS position.

There was implication in Observer and Telegraph that Police had taken backhanders and this was reason investigation was not being re-opened. This was not the case. JY stated this would be raised at the Select Committees.

Rebekah Wade admitted about 6 years ago at a Select Committee to paying Police backhanders so likely to stem from these comments.

**Action** - FR to confirm with DPS if there are any investigations involving Police corruption / money transactions etc.

Guardian have sent request to DPA to confirm what happened with Stephen Mills. He was NFA'd and SC to respond.

**Stakeholders update**

Sir David Normington and Catherine Crawford informed on Friday so likely Boris Johnson, Kit Malthouse and Home Secretary now aware. At the time, JY gave strong advice not to inform their principles until Coulson informed due to political sensitivities.

KS informed Chris Wright at Cabinet Office at the time of investigation. JTAC, SCD14 and Royal household informed due to operational security reasons.

**Action** - KS to confirm from files who was informed and when.

**RESTRICTED**

Not to be disseminated without permission of AC Yates

**CPS position**

JY met Simon Clemence and Aksar Hussain earlier today. They confirmed all who had worked on case had since moved on. There was no corporate knowledge left so hence why they have ordered a review. CPS will reveal their findings on Wednesday in press release and hopefully will concur with MPS position.

Discussion regarding CPS requesting details of who MPS informed and rational. Under victims charter, the Police inform victims of charges on their behalf but other 'victims' from the list (not part of charges) is MPS locus. Therefore any public comment on this class of victims is for the MPS, not CPS.

**Action** - PW to confirm with CPS why they require this information.

**New Team**

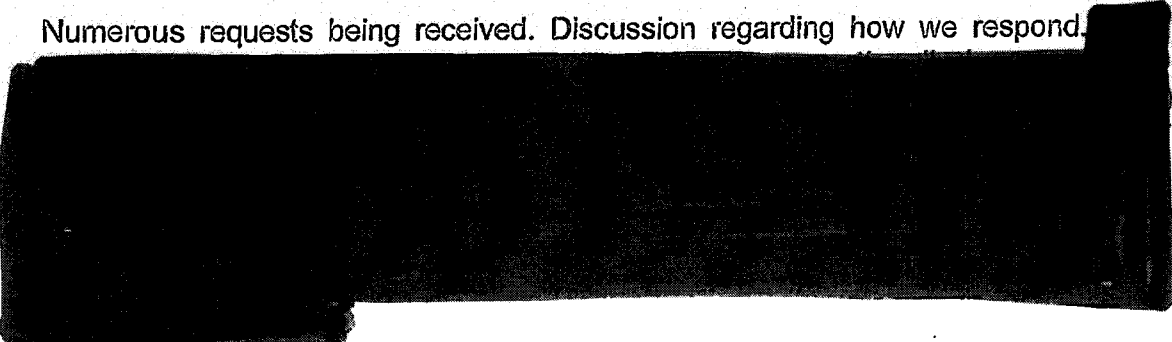
JY private office is SPOC for all requests coming into MPS. DH has circulated e-mail to business groups with this instruction.

Separate investigation name - Operation Quatraine and cost code set up to audit costs spent on these recent issues.

JY has decided due to timescales of getting new team up to speed that this is an unnecessary delay. KS and CT team will provide sufficient staff to manage. DH will send requests out to various depts to deal. JR will be on standby to provide additional support if required.

**MPS requests for information and confirmation names on list**

Numerous requests being received. Discussion regarding how we respond.



NS confirmed DLS now had the Gordon Taylor High Court papers. Consideration to be given to DLS liaising with Public Access Office re FOIA requests.

**Action** - KS to obtain David Perry's QC opening on the previous court case as there could be material in here, in public domain that we could rely on.

Letter from Chris Huhne referring MPS to IPCC. They have passed back to DPS. Issues of direction and control. Commissioner to respond.

**RESTRICTED**

Not to be disseminated without permission of AC Yates

Select Committees - Request for MPS at Cultural and media committee. Likely to get request from HASC. JY will consider convening separate sessions to prepare and co-ordinate activity for these meetings.

**Action** - Colin Barker to confirm what will be required and timings.

Police Authority next Thursday. Commissioner will require briefing notes.

**Records / Decision logs**

JY stated that this meeting (Gold Group) was the strategic oversight group which JY is chair, and that all decisions and records will be recorded in minutes. No separate decision log will be maintained. All to feed into this process so there is an auditable record.

**Home Office request 13/07**

Received from Peter Edmundsson, to assist Home Secretary's position at HASC tomorrow.

**Action** - DH to prepare response.