

Witness Name: **Kit Malthouse**

Statement no: **First**

Exhibit: **KM20**

Date: 29 February 2012

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

Exhibit KM20 to the
Witness Statement of **Kit Malthouse**

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Monday, 18 July 2011. By Cyril Washbrook.

John Yates to appear before MPs as future hangs in the balance

The Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner **John Yates** will face British MPs again tomorrow, amidst calls for him to resign over his handling of the phone-hacking scandal and his links to the *News of the World's* former deputy editor.

Keith Vaz, the chairman of the House of Commons home affairs select committee, said in a statement on Monday that Yates had been asked to appear before the committee tomorrow afternoon.

"The Committee has recalled Mr Yates to give evidence tomorrow to clarify aspects of his evidence that he gave to the Committee last week and following the statement of Sir Paul Stephenson," he said.



John Yates faces calls for his resignation over his links with the former deputy editor of the *News of the World* and his handling of phone hacking (Image: Oli Scarff, Getty)

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Yates gave evidence to the committee last Tuesday but his responses were branded "unconvincing". MPs will again question him over his handling of phone-hacking allegations, as well as in relation to revelations about his association with the *News of the World's* former deputy editor **Neil Wallis**.

Unconfirmed reports have suggested that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) is preparing to suspend Yates later today. It is believed that the body's professional standards committee abandoned its scheduled agenda in order to discuss the senior officer's future.

[UPDATE, 12:00AM AEST | John Yates has resigned. The full story is here.]

One of the MPA's members, **Christopher Bootham**, told reporters that he believed Yates' position was "untenable". The former deputy prime minister **John Prescott** told the BBC that "he should go, and he should go now".

It emerged at the weekend that Wallis, who was arrested in connection with phone hacking last Thursday, built a strong friendship with Yates over an extended period of time. The BBC's political editor **Nick Robinson** said that Yates was personally responsible for carrying out "due diligence" prior to the Met's decision to award a consultancy contract to Wallis' communications firm.

"I understand that Yates received categorical assurances from Wallis that nothing would emerge that would embarrass either of them or the commissioner," Robinson wrote.

Pressure on Yates stepped up a notch following the shock resignation of **Sir Paul Stephenson** on Sunday. Sir Paul said that questions over his relationship with Neil Wallis and other News International executives had become a distraction that the Metropolitan Police could not afford.

Yates himself is believed to be reluctant to relinquish his position. Earlier today, **Sky News** reported that that he had declared: "I've done nothing wrong."

Yates' reputation had already taken a hit due to his decisions on two separate occasions not to reopen the police investigation into phone-hacking allegations, despite the police being in possession of thousands of pages of files seized from the *News of the World's* private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

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