

Witness Name: **Kit Malthouse**

Statement no: **First**

Exhibit: **KM29**

Date: 29 February 2012

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

Exhibit KM29 to the
Witness Statement of **Kit Malthouse**



Metropolitan Police Authority

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Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

18 July 2011

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dear Theresa,'.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

As you are aware from previous correspondence, including a letter from the Mayor of London on 31 May 2011, the Mayor and I have deep concerns regarding the proposed future lack of MOPC involvement in MPS officer appointments and conduct matters according to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

The Bill will remove the role of the governing body, currently the Metropolitan Police Authority, in appointment of all ACPO officers. As I have communicated to you previously, the Mayor and I feel strongly that the appointment of the MPS Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner must be on the basis of advice being provided jointly by the MOPC and Secretary of State to avoid confusion over lines of accountability. There should also be a duty placed on the MPS Commissioner to seek MOPC approval for ACPO appointments, to ensure proper accountability to Londoners for these vital officer posts.

Furthermore, the Bill will take the responsibility for dealing with complaints and conduct of ACPO officers, including appeals, from the governance body, the MPA currently via its professional standards cases subcommittee and the Police Appeals Tribunal for appeals, and place this with the MPS Commissioner. Not only do the proposals, therefore, represent a significant reduction in the role and power of the MOPC compared to the MPA, but also the loss of direct accountability, independence and transparency of the conduct of senior officers of the MPS to the people of London via the MOPC. This represents a particularly significant retrograde step in light of the events of the past two weeks.

As well as the likelihood of practices to become entrenched and the need for an independent element in any organisation, the police service is unique. Police officers are servants of the crown who have the power to take away the freedom of members of the public, and MOPC involvement would provide the checks and balances that are needed to safeguard impartiality. The only independent element currently proposed is an appeal to the IPCC at the very end of the process.

I urge you to reconsider this position urgently. My strong preference would be that you maintain the status quo by deleting MPA from the Police Reform Act 2002 and replacing with MOPC. At the very least I ask I ask you to make the MOPC the relevant appeals body and ensure MOPC direct access to information and systems where complaints are recorded to allow the MOPC to fulfil his/ her duty to oversee and direct the complaints process.

As ever, members of staff of the MPA, or I, would be happy to meet you or officials to clarify any of the points raised.

Yours sincerely



Kit Malthouse
Chair of the MPA and Deputy Mayor of London for Policing

CC: Rt Hon David Cameron, Prime Minister