

Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Tuesday 7, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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2. ADJUDICATION

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION SAYS JOURNALISTS MUST BE WEARY

Programme: Radio Scotland News
Programme Start: 07/07/2009 13:00:00
Presenter: Bill Whiteford
Item Start: 13:09:13
Duration: 1:30
Reporter: Torin Douglas

It is when reproducing pictures and information from Facebook. It criticised the Scottish Sunday Express. The new head of MI6 faced criticism. Reporter - more and more people are sharing pictures and personal pictures of the web.

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the World when, the suppressed evidence shows, journalists for whom he was responsible were engaging in hundreds of apparently illegal acts

- Murdoch executives who, albeit in good faith, have misled a parliamentary select committee, the Press Complaints Commission and the public

- The Metropolitan police, who did not alert all those whose phones were targeted, and the Crown Prosecution Service, which did not pursue all possible charges against News Group personnel

- The Press Complaints Commission, which claimed to have conducted an investigation but failed to uncover any evidence of illegal activity.

Davies says: "Suppressed legal cases are linked to the jailing in January 2007 of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff, an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. At the time, News International said it knew of no other journalist who was involved in hacking phones and that Goodman had been acting without their knowledge."

Gordon Taylor declined to make any comment to the *Guardian*.

Clive Goodman, now out of prison, said: "I'm not going to talk. My comment is not even 'no comment'." A spokesman for News International suggested the case did not exist: "This particular case means nothing to anyone here, and I've talked to all the people who would be involved." However, Davies says: "the Information Commission confirms that it disclosed material for the case, and the *Guardian* has pieced together a detailed account of the evidence."

BBC News has followed up the Guardian story on its website here

BBC 10 o'clock News also carried report and quoted News

International spokesman saying it was "inappropriate to comment" on Guardian story.

POSTED BY JON SLATTERY AT 5:57 PM 
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JON SLATTERY

A FREELANCE JOURNALIST WRITING FROM LONDON, ENGLAND.

WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2009

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Nick Davies in the Guardian: Sensational claims of use of phone hacking by journalists and £1m in costs and payouts by Murdoch papers

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- News of the World stories led to £700,000 payout to PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor
- Sun editor Rebekah Wade and Conservative communications chief Andy Coulson – both ex. NoW editors – involved
- News International chairman Les Hinton told MP's reporter jailed for phone-hacking was one-off case

Nick Davies

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Dramatic exclusive by investigative reporter Nick Davies on guardian.co.uk this evening alleging that Rupert Murdoch's News Group has paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of his journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories.

Davies, the author of Flat Earth News, alleges: "The payments secured secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills. Cabinet ministers, MPs, actors and sports stars were all targets of the private investigators.

"Today, the Guardian reveals details of the suppressed evidence which may open the door to hundreds more legal actions by victims of News Group, the Murdoch company that publishes the News of the World and the Sun, as well as provoking police inquiries into reporters who were involved and the senior executives responsible for them."

Sensational stuff likely to have wide implications for the British press. Davies says the evidence also poses difficult questions for:

- Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was deputy editor and then editor of the News of

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Tabloids face quiz over phone tap claims



MPs are poised to quiz newspaper chiefs following fresh claims about the use of phone taps.

Tory MP John Whittingdale said he would recommend the

Commons committee on culture, media and sport committee reopens an inquiry into the issue.

He spoke out after The Guardian claimed News Group Newspapers - part of Rupert Murdoch's News International empire which publishes the News of the World - paid out more than £1 million to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of journalists hacking into telephones.

MPs from all three parties including former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps, The Guardian said.

It quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who had hacked into 'thousands' of mobile phones.

Mr Whittingdale said: 'My view is that this has raised very serious questions about the evidence given to us.'

'There are a number of questions I would like to put to News International on the basis of what The Guardian has reported. It may well be that we decide we wish to have somebody from News International to appear before us.'

Mr Prescott said he wanted answers from the police over the claims they knew his phone was tapped by private investigators working for journalists.

The Guardian said Andy Coulson, Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World when journalists were using the private investigators.

Mr Coulson resigned from the News of the World after royal editor Clive Goodman was jailed for four months in January 2007 for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

The Guardian said one out-of-court settlement paid by News Group, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

In the Goodman trial, Mr Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Mr Coulson said: 'This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and half years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.'

'The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned.'

Former Cabinet minister Geoff Hoon said: 'It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation. David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter.'

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Tabloids face quiz over hack claims

Published: Thursday, 9 July 2009, 7:05AM

MPs are poised to quiz newspaper chiefs following fresh claims about the use of phone taps.

Tory MP John Whittingdale said he would recommend the Commons committee on culture, media and sport committee reopens an inquiry into the issue.

He spoke out after The Guardian claimed News Group Newspapers - part of Rupert Murdoch's News International empire which publishes the News of the World - paid out more than £1 million to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of journalists hacking into telephones.

MPs from all three parties including former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps, The Guardian said.

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"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

Former Cabinet minister Geoff Hoon said: "It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation. David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter."

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david cameron, the police and the press complaints commission all have questions to answer in relation to today's Guardian revelations [about 1 hour ago](#) from [mobile web](#)



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not any other journalist knew - if this was the case it does beg the question why only Clive Goodman was prosecuted.

"Illegally intercepting private communications is against the law and one would have expected prosecutions to follow... I have not seen any other evidence that any other journalist knew but what we have seen is apparently a very large payment being made by News International and certainly I would want to ask why that was the case.

"The committee will want to discuss [the allegations] very urgently - if we decide there are further questions to ask then we would summon back witnesses and ask those questions."

In response to whether he was concerned by Andy Coulson's appointment as communications officer for the Conservative party Mr Whittingdale said:

"Andy Coulson gave his absolute assurance that he had no knowledge as editor.

"He did step down but he did say because he took responsibility as the editor - as far as I am aware it remains that he did have no knowledge and therefore we accept that."

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Channel 4 News

Murdoch group pays £1m over 'phone hacks'

Updated on 08 July 2009

By Channel 4 News

The Guardian is reporting that two to three thousand public figures had their phones hacked into by the News of the World. Secret out of court settlements have so far reached a £1m.

The Guardian newspaper is reporting tonight that two to three thousand people - politicians, actors, footballers and more - had their phones illegally hacked into by the News of the World.

Secret out of court settlements have so far reached a million pounds.

Tonight John Prescott, one of those whose phone they say was hacked into, tells us he's outraged the police have taken no action.

He's also called for the News of the World editor at the time, Andy Coulson, to be sacked from his present post as David Cameron's communications chief.

News International has always said it has no knowledge of phone hacking by anyone acting on its behalf. We have asked the News of the World for a statement, but haven't yet received one. We've also asked the Metropolitan Police for a comment. They've not yet replied.

Prescott calls for Andy Coulson to go

John Prescott's mobile phone was reported to have been one of those hacked into, Jon Snow spoke to him on the phone from Cumbria and asked him if the police or anyone else had told him his phone had been tapped?

He said:

"Absolutely not. I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people known to have their phone tapped, I am named as one of them, for such a criminal act not to be reported to me and not for action to be taken against the people who've done it reflects very badly upon the police and I want to know their answer.

"I'm not surprised that News International are into this. I think Andy Coulson was editor at the time in the News of the World and moved on from the job while the reporter went to jail. And in that case they admitted to tapping phones. "

"I find it absolutely staggering that Andy Coulson can go to be the communication officer for the Tory party ... surely Andy Coulson can not be the man who's been supervising over all this activity as the editor in charge of the paper and still stay in that job. "

"I hope Mr Cameron will clear him out."

Whittingdale: "We will want to discuss the allegations urgently"

John Whittingdale, chairman of the Commons culture select committee, told Jon Snow that he was concerned by the allegations and that the committee would want to "ask News International about the payments".

"My committee put out an enquiry immediately after it was revealed that Clive Goodman had been using an investigator to break the law...but we were given an absolute assurance by News International, by the chairman of the company, that no other journalist at News of the World had any knowledge.

"The fact that other people had their phones tapped I think was known...the question is whether or

"We were given an absolute assurance when we carried out an inquiry that only one journalist on News of the World had any knowledge of interceptions - Clive Goodman," he said.

Two years ago, Goodman, the News of the World's royal reporter, was jailed after pleading guilty to hacking into the phone messages of royal staff. A private investigator was also jailed and Mr Coulson resigned but he denied being aware of what was going on.

The Guardian now says it has evidence of repeated involvement by the group's journalists in illegal activity, which could open the way for police inquiries and legal action by the victims.

A Met Police spokesman said an investigation had been carried out into the alleged unlawful interception of telephone calls.

"Two people were charged and subsequently convicted and jailed. We are not prepared to comment further," he said.

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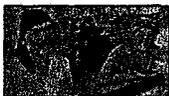
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News of the World 'bugging' claim

The publisher of the *News of the World* paid £1m in court costs after its journalists were accused of involvement in phone tapping, it has been claimed.



Thousands of politicians and celebrities were allegedly targeted

The Guardian says three cases were settled out of court after journalists allegedly hired private investigators who obtained the information illegally.

It claims News Group paid £700,000 in damages and costs to the head of the professional footballers' association.

News International told the paper the case "means nothing to anyone here".

A spokesman said: "This particular case means nothing to anyone here, and I've talked to all the people who would be involved." The BBC has yet to receive a response from News International.

Mobile phones

The Guardian claims up to 3,000 high-profile figures were targeted including model Elle Macpherson, former deputy prime minister John Prescott and the publicist Max Clifford.

The *News of the World* editor at the time, Andy Coulson, said: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the *News of the World* two and a half years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor."

Mr Coulson, now the Conservative Party communications director, declined to comment further.

A spokeswoman for David Cameron said the Conservative leader was "very relaxed" about the story.

"The ramping up of this story is ridiculous - this is about a payment made well after Andy (Coulson) left the *News of the World*," she said.

The Guardian says evidence alleging journalists used investigators to hack into the mobile phone messages and voicemails of numerous public figures was presented in High Court proceedings.

It claims the investigators went in search of information such as bank statements and tax records.

Mr Prescott told the BBC he had not been told his phone may have been tapped.

"I had no evidence of this though frankly, a lot of the stories in the paper were coming from information that was highly private," he said. "It's quite staggering really."

Police investigation

Former Labour home secretary Charles Clarke said the allegations were "sensational".

"If they are true, the behaviour of News International and some of its senior executives is disappointing, immoral and probably illegal," he said.

John Whittingdale, Conservative chairman of the Commons culture committee, said it would consider the alleged revelations tomorrow.

"I have to say I'm extremely surprised if it is the case that a payment of a million pounds has been made by News International to people who allegedly have had their phones intercepted by an investigator," he said.

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said: "This particular case means nothing to anyone here, and I've talked to all the people who would be involved." The BBC has yet to receive a response from News International.

John Whittingdale, Conservative chairman of the Commons culture committee, said it would consider the alleged revelations when it meets on Thursday.

"I have to say I'm extremely surprised if it is the case that a payment of a million pounds has been made by News International to people who allegedly have had their phones intercepted by an investigator," he said.

The Guardian alleges up to 3,000 high-profile figures were targeted including London Mayor Boris Johnson and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell.

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Police call over phone tap claims

John Prescott is to contact police over claims private investigators allegedly working for News of the World reporters intercepted his mobile phone messages.



John Prescott says the tapping claims are "staggering"

The Guardian alleges News Group Newspapers paid £1m in out-of-court settlements after its journalists were accused of involvement in phone tapping

It claims the Professional Footballers' Association's head received £700,000.

The paper alleges the former deputy prime minister and thousands of public figures were targeted.

A Commons select committee has said it will investigate the claims.

Mr Prescott told the BBC he would be contacting the police to ask if his phone had indeed been tapped, why was he not informed and why was no action taken.

"We were given an absolute assurance when we carried out an inquiry that only one journalist on the News of the World had any knowledge of interceptions"

John Whittingdale MP

"I had no evidence of this, though frankly a lot of the stories in the paper were coming from information that was highly private," he said. "It's quite staggering really."

And writing in his blog, he questioned the role of the News of the World editor at the time, Andy Coulson, who now works as director of communications for Conservative party leader David Cameron.

"This really does call Cameron's judgement into question in hiring Coulson," wrote Mr Prescott. "The question Cameron must answer is 'do you back him or sack him?'"

Mr Coulson resigned when the phone-tapping allegations first surfaced in 2006 check but denied being aware of what was going on.

He said: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and a half years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor."

A spokeswoman for David Cameron said the Conservative leader was "very relaxed" about the story.

"The ramping up of this story is ridiculous - this is about a payment made well after Andy (Coulson) left the News of the World," she said.

The allegations stem from a court case involving the News of the World's royal editor Clive Goodman, who was jailed two years ago for tapping into the voicemail messages of royal staff.

A private investigator - Glenn Mulcaire - was also jailed in January 2007.

'No knowledge'

The court heard how he had hacked into the phones of well-known names, including supermodel Elle Macpherson, publicist Max Clifford and the Professional Footballers' Association's Gordon Taylor.

The Guardian says News Group Newspapers, the Rupert Murdoch company which publishes the Sun and the News of the World, has secretly paid more than a million pounds in out-of-court settlements in three similar cases.

According to the paper, £700,000 of that was paid to Mr Taylor, who sued on the basis that News Group must have known about the phone taps.

A spokesman for News Group's parent company, News International,

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News of the World phone-hacking saga: how the story unfolded

Background to the revelations that the News of the World paid
£1m to silence phone-tapping victim

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 July 2009 17:30 BST

August 2006

Anti-terror police arrest the News of the World royal editor, Clive Goodman, on suspicion of illegally intercepting phone calls. Glenn Mulcaire, 35, a former footballer turned private detective, is also arrested.

Scotland Yard had previously been contacted by members of the royal household who suspected their mobile phones had been hacked into. A series of stories in the paper seemed to be based on voicemails left on their phones. Goodman is suspended a few days later.

November 2006

Goodman admits conspiracy to intercept phone calls made by staff at St James's palace "without lawful authority" between November 2005 and August 2006 at the Old Bailey. Mulcaire pleads guilty to the same offence, and to further charges of intercepting phone calls made by other well-known figures, including Simon Hughes MP and model Elle Macpherson. The News of the World editor, Andy Coulson, apologises to the Prince of Wales and says: "I have put in place measures to ensure that they will not be repeated by any member of my staff.

January 2007

Clive Goodman is sentenced to four months in jail. Mulcaire receives six months. The judge, Mr Justice Gross, describes Goodman and Mulcaire's behaviour as "low conduct, reprehensible in the extreme". Coulson resigns immediately saying he took "ultimate responsibility". Les Hinton, the chairman of the paper's parent company, News International, says: "I understand Andy's logic and accept his resignation with great sadness."

March 2007

Hinton tells MPs conducting an inquiry into the self-regulation of the press that Goodman acted alone. He defends phone-tapping, arguing that it can be in the public interest.

May 2007

The Press Complaints Commission concludes its investigation into the affair, finding there was no evidence that News of the World executives knew about his behaviour. Coulson was not asked to give evidence. His successor Colin Myler told the PPC that he had improved internal controls at the paper.

June 2007

David Cameron appoints Coulson as the Conservative party's director of communications and planning, a newly-created post. He starts the job the following month.

December 2007

Hinton is made chief executive of Wall Street Journal owner Dow Jones by Rupert Murdoch and moves to New York.

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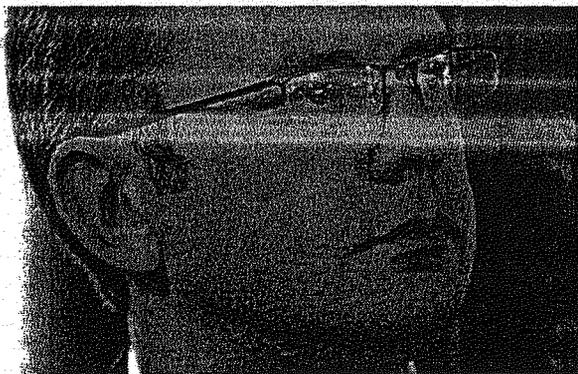
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Andy Coulson: ex-editor who took 'ultimate responsibility'

Andy Coulson resigned as News of the World editor, but quickly resurfaced as Tory director of communications

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 July 2009 17.45 BST



Andy Coulson. Photograph: Martin Argles

Few people have bounced back from a potentially career-ending scandal as rapidly as Andy Coulson, the Conservative Party's director of communications and planning. He resigned as News of the World editor, a job he held for three-and-a-half years, in January 2007 after the paper's royal editor, Clive Goodman, was jailed; Coulson accepted "ultimate responsibility". In June, he was chosen to become the Tories' director of communications, taking up his new post a month later.

Even some Conservative MPs thought David Cameron had acted with undue haste by appointing Coulson so soon after his humiliating resignation, but the Tory leader was eager to recruit a heavyweight who would overhaul the party's media operation. Sources close to the Tory leader said at the time: "It was felt the pluses outweighed the minuses."

Goodman's conviction ended Coulson's glittering career at News International, and almost certainly scuppered a plan to make him Rebekah Wade's successor as Sun editor when she finally stood down. Wade and Coulson had been Wapping's golden pair for more than a decade, groomed for executive positions from an early age.

When Goodman was arrested in August 2006 it seemed that Coulson might survive the affair, partly because the News of the World had enjoyed a run of scoops since his appointment as editor in 2003. It had ended the leadership ambitions of Liberal Democrat MP Mark Oaten by revealing a gay affair, a typical NoW scoop, and published further revelations beyond its traditional showbiz heartland, including evidence that British troops had abused Iraqi prisoners.

When Goodman was sentenced to four months in Belmarsh, however, Coulson fell on his sword, describing the conduct of his reporter as "entirely wrong". In his only public statement about the affair he added: "I deeply regret that they happened on my watch. I also feel strongly that when the News of the World calls those in public life to account on behalf of its readers, it must have its own house in order."

Coulson has not spoken about Goodman since, offering a curt "no comment" on the rare occasions he is asked about it. Cameron, criticised by his own backbenchers for employing a disgraced tabloid hack on a large salary, has backed his version of events. "I

am satisfied that Andy Coulson was not aware that a journalist at the News of the World was engaged in this practice," he said shortly after Coulson's appointment. "But he did the right thing, took responsibility and resigned." Coulson's boss at the time, Les Hinton, told a Commons Select Committee inquiry in March 2007 that he believed "absolutely that Andy did not have knowledge of what was going on".

By agreeing to bow out, Coulson made it easier for his bosses at the News of the World's parent company, News International, to deflect further criticism about the affair.

His departure effectively stymied further enquiries about how much News International executives knew about Goodman's activities, and how many other journalists might have been employing similar techniques.

The Press Complaints Commission, the industry body that regulates newspapers, had planned to interview Coulson during an investigation into the affair, part of a wider probe into phone-hacking on Fleet Street, but dropped that request after Coulson stepped down.

Coulson's friends said at the time of his departure that he had "taken a bullet" for Murdoch and most expected him to return to newspapers. Despite his highly paid job working for Cameron, and the likelihood of a Conservative election victory next year, he is still mooted as a possible successor to Wade at the Sun now that she is about to be promoted to a management job at News International.

After leaving school, Coulson joined the *Basildon Echo* in 1986 at the age of 18, coming to the Sun as a showbiz reporter two years later. He worked under Piers Morgan, who would also go on to edit the News of the World, closely following Morgan's career path by becoming editor of The Sun's influential showbiz gossip column, *Bizarre*, in 1994. Until his resignation, he had spent most of his adult life working at News International, apart from a brief stint at the Daily Mail, and had told colleagues that Wapping, where the company is based, was his "spiritual home".

Coulson has proved invaluable to Cameron, however, and not only because he knows how the tabloid press operates. He has instilled discipline into the Tories' dealings with broadcasters and the press, vetoing media appearances by shadow cabinet members.

His instincts and upbringing could not be more different from the privileged backgrounds of many members of Cameron's inner cabal, and the Tory leader is believed to relish the contrast. Coulson leant heavily on his lobby team at the News of the World, and does not claim to be a deep political thinker.

He has been credited with encouraging some tougher Tory talk over issues like immigration and law and order, however, helping him cement his place in Cameron's inner circle alongside the party's director of strategy, Steve Hilton, and the shadow chancellor, George Osborne.

Early expectations that Coulson might help Cameron to win over Murdoch, who has publicly questioned his credentials as a future prime minister, may have been misplaced. Nor has he so far managed to persuade other Tory-supporting papers, including the Daily Mail and the Telegraph titles, to endorse the Conservative leader as wholeheartedly as he would have liked. But there is little doubt that, should the Conservatives win the next election, a job in No 10 awaits Coulson should he want it.

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Rebekah Wade: Rising star who left for Sun before Goodman scandal

Rebekah Wade made her name at the News of the World, but had left for top job at the Sun before incidents in Goodman case

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 July 2009 18.26 BST



Rebekah Wade. Photograph: Yui Mok/PA

Rebekah Wade made her name at the News of the World, the paper she joined as a researcher in 1989, rising rapidly through the ranks to become its editor in 2000. Later this year she is to become chief executive of News International.

Born in Warrington, Cheshire, in 1968, she became one of the youngest ever national newspaper editors when she was handed the top job at the News of the World days before her 32nd birthday after serving a two-year apprenticeship at its sister title the Sun, where she was deputy editor.

Wade made headlines as News of the World editor, launching a high-profile campaign to introduce "Sarah's Law", named after Sarah Payne, the child who was murdered the year Wade took up the post. It aimed to change the law to give parents the right to know if sex offenders were living in their area. That backfired after several suspected paedophiles were attacked by angry mobs, and was condemned by some senior police officers, but Wade remained unrepentant. Under her editorship, the News of the World circulation averaged around 3.5m, less than the 4m it sold during its 1980s heyday, but sales held up at a time when the circulation of many of its rivals were falling sharply.

She was made editor of the Sun, Murdoch's most influential paper, in 2003, and was not caught by the fall-out from the Clive Goodman affair because the crimes for which he was convicted were committed after she had left the News of the World.

Along with Andy Coulson, who succeeded her at the Sunday paper, Wade was identified as a potential executive early in her career, finally achieving a long-held ambition to break into Rupert Murdoch's cadre of key corporate lieutenants last month. It was announced in June that Wade will become chief executive of News International, publisher of the Times, Sunday Times, News of the World and the Sun, in September. The promotion from editor to businesswoman confirms her status as one of Murdoch's favoured UK executives.

Her six-year editorship of the Sun has been characterised by some major scoops, including publishing the findings of the Hutton report into the death of David Kelly before it was made public, but there have been some slipups along the way. Soon after

she took the editor's chair, Wade ran a front-page story about ex-boxer Frank Bruno after he was sectioned under the Mental Health Act under the headline "Bonkers Bruno Locked Up". She subsequently donated money to Sane, the mental health charity.

Like most News International executives, she rarely gives interviews. Her public appearances have not always gone smoothly.

In 2003 Wade told a House of Commons select committee that the Sun had paid police offers for information, a statement that prompted News International to issue a hasty clarification emphasising that the practice was highly unusual. In a letter to the same MPs, she also wrote that: "The days of foot-in-the-door harassment and snatched photos are gone" – an attempt to improve the paper's image in the eyes of politicians.

Wade has ventured into the spotlight more regularly recently as James Murdoch, appointed by his father to take run his UK newspapers in 2007, prepared to relinquish some of his powers to her.

At another parliamentary grilling, this time at the hands of the House of Lords media committee in January 2008, she was more self-assured, teasing the Bishop of Manchester after he criticised Page 3. "If you wanted to meet [page 3 girl] Keeley you only had to ask", she told him.

In January, Wade delivered her first public speech to an audience of media executives, attacking a High Court decision to award Max Mosley damages for invasion of privacy following the News of the World's revelation he had taken part in orgies. She also criticised rival papers, including the Guardian, for failing to support its fight to prevent the introduction of a privacy law by the backdoor, a familiar News International complaint.

Wade has been called "the most charming tabloid operator of all time" but her personal life has been as colourful as the lives of the celebrities her paper covers. In 2005 she was arrested following an argument with actor Ross Kemp, her then husband, at the home the couple shared. No charges were ever laid.

She married partner Charlie Brooks, a racehorse trainer, last month, at St Bride's church on London's Fleet Street, and threw a huge party in the Cotswolds attended by some of the biggest names in showbiz, the media and politics. Guests included David Cameron, Gordon and Sarah Brown, Blur bassist Alex James, Guy Ritchie and, of course, Rupert Murdoch. The guest list was testament to the power she wields at the Sun. Her influence is likely to grow stronger when she is installed as News International chief executive in September.

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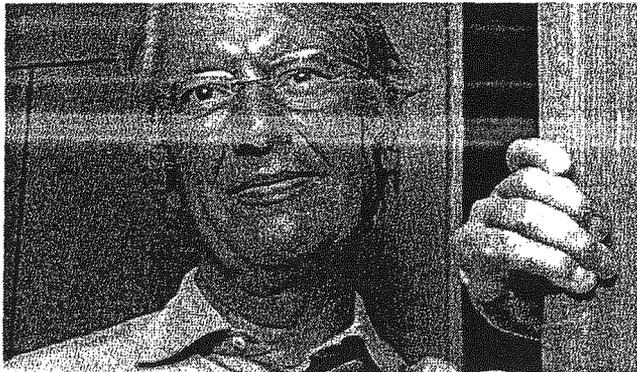
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Les Hinton: Murdoch consigliere who smoothed waters after Goodman case

Former News International chairman Les Hinton was key in drawing a line under News of the World phone-hacking

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 July 2009 17:30 BST



Les Hinton. Photograph: Eamonn McCabe

Debonair and unflappable, former journalist [Les Hinton](#) served as Rupert Murdoch's consigliere for over a decade, smoothing the ruffled feathers of the rich and powerful whenever they were on the receiving end of stories published in [News International's](#) stable of titles. The former News International chairman now carries out a similar role as CEO of Dow Jones, which Murdoch bought in July 2007, an acquisition that gave him control of the Wall Street Journal.

Murdoch turned to Hinton to assuage concerns in the US over his ownership of the paper and convince senior journalists, along with the business community it serves, that he would not push through radical changes at a title that is widely revered in the States.

He persuaded the 65-year-old Hinton to return to the US, where he made his career working on Murdoch titles, in December 2007. Hinton was asked to reprise the ambassadorial role he carried out at Wapping, when he acted as a conduit between Murdoch and the political elite.

It was Hinton, a former Sun journalist who has worked for Murdoch for nearly 50 years, who dealt with the fallout following the arrest of former [News of the World](#) royal editor Clive Goodman in August 2006, successfully drawing a line under the incident by insisting phone-tapping was not widespread at the News of the World, and that senior executives had no knowledge of the practice.

Giving evidence to the House of Commons culture select committee in March 2007, two months after Goodman was jailed, he told MPs: "I believe that Clive Goodman was the only person who knew what was going on."

Hinton steered News International through several investigations that could have had serious consequences for the company, including a Press Complaints Commission inquiry into phone-tapping on Fleet Street and the culture committee's inquiry into self-regulation of the press.

Goodman broke the Press Complaints Commission's code of conduct, which includes strict rules on protecting privacy. Since 2004, it has stated that: "The press must not seek to obtain or publish material acquired ... by intercepting private or mobile

telephone calls, messages or emails" except where there is a public interest.

Hinton was chairman of the PCC code committee, which enforces the code of conduct, but after Goodman was jailed, he persuaded the PCC not to impose further sanctions.

Perhaps most importantly, he secured the resignation of Andy Coulson, then News of the World editor, accepting his decision to step down with: "deep sadness" and calling him a "newspaperman of great talent". By resigning, Coulson avoided being questioned by the PCC, which began its investigation into phone-tapping shortly afterwards, and News International was spared further embarrassment.

In his appearance before the Commons media select committee in the wake of the Goodman scandal, Hinton warned that genuine investigations should not be caught in the fallout from the Goodman affair. "Placing too great an inhibition on people setting out to explore what are considered genuine issues of public concern is a dangerous thing to do," he told MPs.

To replace Coulson, Hinton turned to his old friend Colin Myler, with whom he had worked at the Sun in the 1970s, calling him back from America, where he had been editing Murdoch's tabloid New York Post. With a new regime in place at the News of the World, the Goodman episode began to fade from memory.

Hinton's handling of the affair provided another example of his ability to deal with a potentially damaging scandal with the minimum of fuss.

Hinton was born in Bootle, the son of a soldier. His family moved to Australia when he was 15 and he landed a job on the Adelaide News, then run by a 28-year-old Rupert Murdoch. Six years later, he landed a job on the Sun, but it was in America that Hinton made his reputation, during a 20-year stint working in newspapers, magazines and television. He became an American citizen in the 80s.

Hinton returned to the UK in 1995 to become chairman of News International and carried out the diplomatic duties associated with the role with relish. In March 2007, he announced a self-imposed ban on paparazzi images of Prince William and Kate Middleton in all of his group's publications, including the Sun, after Middleton complained to the PCC about harassment. That typified his ability to take a long-term view, striking compromises with establishment figures when it served News International's corporate interests and protected its public image. The fact that he has since been sent to America to reassure those who still regard Murdoch with suspicion, and fear he could "dumb down" the Journal, illustrates how highly the media mogul regards him. It is little wonder one former colleague describes him as "Murdoch's special envoy on earth".

Hinton announced his engagement to Kath Raymond, a former aide to Gordon Brown, earlier this year.

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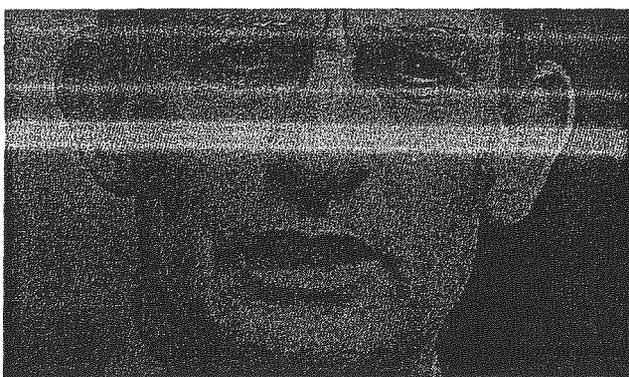
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Stuart Kuttner: Managing editor who was News of the World's public face

The News of the World's long-serving managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, was the paper's public defender during controversies

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 Jul y 2009 20.21 BST



Stuart Kuttner, managing editor of the News of the World for 22 years Photograph: Fiona Hanson/PA

Stuart Kuttner, the News of the World's managing editor for 22 years, resigned on Friday before the Guardian revelations. No reason was given for his departure, but News International said he would continue to work on "specialised projects", including its Sarah's Law campaign. Kuttner has played a leading role in the paper's drive to change the law so parents can be told when registered sex offenders move into their area.

A former deputy editor of the paper who was previously news editor at the London Evening Standard, it usually fell to Kuttner to defend the paper when it courted controversy.

His only comment following the arrest of former royal report Clive Goodman in 2006 was when he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme in February 2008 that only one News of the World journalist had been involved in illegal phone hacking: "It happened once at the News of the World. The reporter was fired; he went to prison. The editor resigned."

As managing editor, Kuttner was in charge of the paper's finances. The paper conceded that Mulcaire was on its payroll, receiving £100,000 a year, but claimed that was for carrying out unrelated, and legitimate, investigative work.

Kuttner's role as the public face of the News of the World became more important at the start of the decade when successive editors, Rebekah Wade and her replacement Andy Coulson, seemed wary of talking to the media.

When Wade's "Sarah's Law" campaign whipped up public hysteria in several towns and cities, prompting some Portsmouth residents to burn the homes of suspected paedophiles, it was Kuttner who faced the cameras.

That is a role he had become accustomed to. When the paper had some explaining to do, Kuttner was invariably asked to carry out that task. He visited Soham in 2002, following the disappearance of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, to defend the paper's decision to offer a reward of £150,000 in conjunction with the Sun for information that could lead to their safe return. He also appeared on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost,

responding to criticism of the reward and saying the man leading the investigation into the girls' disappearance, detective-superintendent David Hankins, had welcomed it.

Kuttner had also been an influential presence behind the scenes. When Gordon Brown and Tony Blair gave their first joint newspaper interview for over 10 years to the paper in April 2005, Kuttner's byline was on the story, along with that of Ian Kirby, the paper's long-serving political editor. Following his departure, the News of the World's current editor Colin Myler paid tribute to Kuttner, saying: "His DNA is absolutely integrated into the newspaper which he has represented across the media with vigour." Kuttner and a colleague were also named "team of the year" at the British Press Awards in 2002 for their work on the Sarah's Law campaign. Clive Goodman walked away with a gong for best royal editor the same evening.

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David Cameron urged to sack Tory spin doctor Andy Coulson

- Calls for Andy Coulson to be fired after new details emerge of phone-hacking by the News of the World while he was its editor
- John Prescott says he will contact police over claims phone messages were intercepted

Caroline Davies and Robert Booth
The Guardian, Thursday 9 July 2009

John Prescott last night called on David Cameron, the Tory leader, to axe his party's director of communications Andy Coulson after the Guardian revealed fresh details about phone-hacking by the News of the World, the tabloid paper the spin doctor used to edit.

Prescott, the former deputy prime minister, said he had no idea his phone was targeted in the spring of 2006, and demanded an explanation from police about why no action appeared to have been taken.

"The timing is interesting. Spring, 2006, that was when there was this bloody business of an affair," he said, referring to his relationship with his secretary Tracey Temple. "All the women in my office were phoned by the press, and they all had their private mobile numbers. My office was absolutely shocked as to how the press got every one of their private numbers. They were all being asked questions about me. It was all connected to that. The whole thing is deplorable."

He added: "I must say after all the fuss about [Damian] McBride, I think Mr Cameron should be thinking of getting rid of Coulson. McBride was bad enough as it was, now really, just ask Mr Cameron whether he's got the courage to get rid of Coulson, or, certainly to make sure if he was to come in to No 10 he didn't have access to privileged information. To my mind, it is unacceptable that this man goes into the Tory party office. The Murdoch press called for the sacking of McBride, and I actually agreed with it. But I wonder if we will hear them demand Cameron get rid of Coulson."

Prescott said he would ask the police if they were "aware that I'd been phone hacked, and why did they not take action? And why was I not informed so that I knew what was going on. So I shall be writing to the police and asking if is this true, and what actions did you take?"

"I am bound to say, they didn't take any action over McBride, or any action over the ... material given to the Telegraph. They are very political over who they chose to take action over".

Former Cabinet minister Geoff Hoon, also weighed in on the issue, concurring with Prescott's views.

"It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation.

"David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter."

A spokeswoman for David Cameron said last night that the Tory leader was "very relaxed about the story".

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne also drew parallels with the Damian McBride case.

"At the very least Andy Coulson was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and at worst he was personally implicated," he said.

"Either way, a future prime minister cannot have someone who is involved in these sort of underhand tactics. The exact parallel is with Damian McBride.

"If it is more than a thousand (phone taps) it seems most unlikely to me to have been just one journalist. There needs to be a full investigation."

Simon Hughes, the Lib Dem energy spokesman whose mobile phone messages were hacked into in 2006, said yesterday the court settlement by News Group Newspapers was proof the illegal practice is "always corporate responsibility as well as individual responsibility".

He said he had been left feeling "angry and frustrated" by the intrusion into his personal affairs which came shortly after he had outed himself as a homosexual. "The settlement suggests the company clearly accepts, informally, responsibility for the actions," he said.

Hughes said he planned to consult his lawyer over what action he may take. He also warned the £400,000 damages settlement to Gordon Taylor could leave News Group open to more civil actions by individuals who may have become victims of intrusions into their personal data.

"There is a question as to whether this newspaper group or any other newspaper group is liable to other actions," he said. "The lesson is that they shouldn't presume that this is something that will only be dealt with in criminal courts, but it will also be dealt with in civil courts."

He also said the Metropolitan police could face requests from other people who believe their personal data was obtained by the newspaper group and its agents. Hughes said parliament is likely to scrutinise the payouts and consider whether UK privacy law is sufficient in "the new data centred age".

"It is very easy for individuals to break into, buy their way into, data on the rest of us, ordinary citizens, well-known and not well-known, and it is very difficult for the ordinary citizen to get any come back. If you are rich and you take legal action and be willing to risk the costs of legal action, that is one thing, but it doesn't apply to most of the people in this country."

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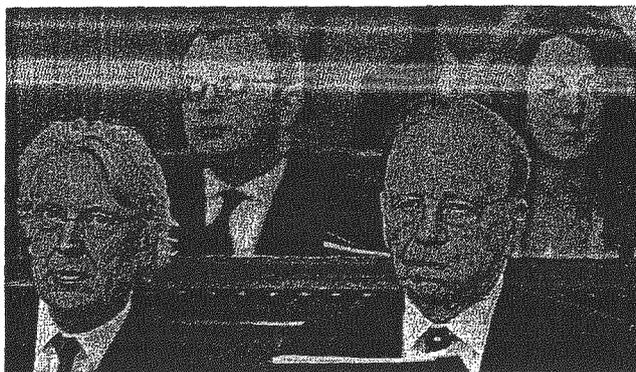
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Ex-Murdoch editor Andrew Neil: News of the World revelations one of most significant media stories of our time

Former Sunday Times editor says tabloid did not have a public interest defence and Andy Coulson has questions to answer

Vikram Dodd

guardian.co.uk, Thursday 9 July 2009 01.15 BST



Les Hinton, Rupert Murdoch, Andy Coulson and Rebekah Wade at a St Bride's service in 2005 to mark the departure of the last news organisation from Fleet Street. Photograph: Graeme Robertson/Getty Images

One of Rupert Murdoch's former leading editors said last night the Guardian's revelations of the News of the World's phone hacking represented one of the "most significant media stories of modern times".

Andrew Neil, who edited the Sunday Times, said the News of the World did not have a public interest defence for its practices, exposed by the Guardian.

Neil said: "I think it is one of the most significant media stories of modern times. It suggests that rather than being a one off journalist or rogue private investigator, it was systemic throughout the News of the World, and to a lesser extent the Sun.

"Particularly in the News of the World, this was a newsroom out of control ... Everyone who knows the News of the World, everybody knows this was going on. But it did no good to talk about it. One News of the World journalist said to me ... it was dangerous to talk about it."

Neil was one of Murdoch's closest aides for over a decade. He edited the Sunday Times from 1983-94, then became chairman of Sky Television from 1988-90, and was entrusted by the media tycoon to be the executive editor of Fox Television News in 1994.

Neil said he saw no public interest in the methods used against any of the politicians or celebrities targeted by the Murdoch owned newspapers: "It is illegal. That doesn't mean it should never be done, you may have a public interest defence. But that's not the case in any of this, it was a fishing expedition; let's listen to who we can. It was corrupt."

"If you imagine there was something of real major importance, you could have a public interest defence. But breaking into Gwyneth Paltrow's voicemail after she's just had a baby is not in the public interest. I'm at a loss to know what the public interest might be."

He also said the police had to explain why they failed to tell top politicians that their phones had been hacked into.

Neil said the story raised serious questions for Scotland Yard, top prosecutors and for judges: "It's not just a media story, it raises serious questions about the police.

"The police learn that the deputy prime minister has had his mobile phone compromised and they don't tell him. I just don't understand that.

"The police investigation unearthed evidence of clear wrongdoing and the Crown Prosecution Service does nothing."

He added: "The court is faced with evidence of conspiracy and systemic illegal actions and agrees to seal the evidence. All that is completely wrong, I just don't understand it."

Speaking earlier, on the BBC's Newsnight programme: "This is our criminal justice system in the dock."

Neil also said News International may face legal action from those who were victims of the phone hacking, a so called class action: "News International could face a class action by people who want to mount a class action to unseal those documents. There could be the most almighty class action, you're talking about multimillion pound losses. That gets scary.

"If this was in the US, shares in News International would collapse tonight."

Neil said that former News of the World editor Andy Coulson, now director of communications at the Conservative party, had questions to answer: "If a journalist comes to you with a great story, one of the first questions you ask is how did you get it. How you got it is relevant to judging its accuracy and preparing yourself for any legal challenge.

"If this behaviour was systemic in the newsroom, why would you not know about it, why would you of all people, not know about it? Either you're incompetent or complicit."

Asked if Murdoch himself knew of the practice, Neil, formerly one of his closest lieutenants, said: "That we will never know."

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**GREENSLADE
BLOG**

Did Coulson know about the hacking after all? And if not, why not?

It is amazing, but it is not surprising. From the moment the Goodman story broke in August 2006, journalists were saying that hacking was endemic within the **News of the World** (and in some other tabloids too).

But the NoW was always more likely than other papers to have been found out because - according to commenters to this blog and to emailers who contacted me in confidence - information obtained by phone hackers was routinely available within the newsroom. Several reporters used it as a matter of course.

After all, in a paper where stings and the use of *agents provocateurs* are regarded as legitimate forms of journalism, hacking was no big deal.

Now **Nick Davies** has produced facts to back up the allegations. And, in so doing, he has raised two rather large questions that were asked at the time and never successfully answered.

Did the then NoW editor, **Andy Coulson**, know how his reporters were obtaining their information? Why did the **Press Complaints Commission** not pursue a proper inquiry into the whole affair when it was a live issue?

Those two questions are linked, of course, because it was the timely resignation of Coulson that provided the PCC with a sufficient reason/excuse (you decide) to abort any possible investigation.

Now we must contemplate yet another question. When Coulson was appointed to be the communications chief for Tory leader **David Cameron** I assumed that he had been vetted to ensure that there would be no return to the voicemail hacking saga. It was, I thought, all done and dusted.

So what will Cameron and his Conservative party advisers do about Coulson in the light of this new revelation? Let's bend over backwards for a moment and concede that an editor might have known nothing about the activities of one of his senior reporters.

Let's bend a little more and concede that he might not have realised what a single freelance "investigator", **Glenn Mulcaire**, was doing in return for fees of £100,000 in the course of a year.

But we would break our backs if we bent any further by trying to imagine that an editor was entirely ignorant of a process used widely by journalists that was designed to obtain exclusive stories.

If he did not know, as he has previously maintained, then he is guilty of poor editorship. In my years on popular papers - as an editor and a senior executive on the **Daily Mirror**, **The Sun** and the **Daily Star** - it was inconceivable that any journalist could have produced an exclusive story without revealing its provenance.

It was the first question an executive asked of a reporter? How did you get it? And when the executive, be it news editor, features editor, assistant editor, whoever, presented that story at a conference, any editor worth his/her salt would ask the same.

Again, it's possible, if improbable, that a senior executive (or a cabal of senior executives) kept Coulson, and his predecessor, **Rebekah Wade**, in the dark. And it's similarly possible that Coulson and Wade did not wish to shed light on how their reporters went about their task. Better not to know.

However, I cannot imagine that previous editors of the News of the World, whom I knew well, would have wished to remain in total ignorance of how stories arrived. Not **Bernard Shrimmsley**, not **Ken Donlan**, not **David Montgomery**, not **Wendy Henry**, not even **Piers Morgan**.

The irony about Wade, of course, is that she was a victim of the voicemail hacking herself. Mulcaire admitted unlawfully intercepting messages on her mobile phone.

So what should happen now? Well, I guess the culture, media and sport select committee might like to ask the NoW's executives - including former News Int chief **Les Hinton** - to return to the Commons and explain themselves. Fat chance of that happening.

The MPs might also ask Coulson to sit before them and explain himself, though he cannot be compelled to do so. Anyway, it sounds unlikely.

I suppose the PCC could hold a belated inquiry. That should prove an interesting test for the new chairman, **Baroness Buscombe**. But I wouldn't hold my breath.

Perhaps News International's other Wapping papers - **The Times**, the **Sunday Times** and **The Sun** - could carry leading articles calling on the News of the World to come clean, echoing their persistent demands for transparency at Westminster.

Meanwhile, the climate of suspicion now hangs over both Coulson and Wade, and it will continue to do so if they say nothing. Are their employers going to be happy about that?

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As the former editor of the Sun's gossip column Bizarre, former employees said it was unlikely that Coulson would not be well-versed in most investigative methods.

Another former reporter said the culture in the newsroom was that "no questions are asked" in regard to methods of obtaining information. They added that Coulson must have been aware of the systemic use of private investigators by his staff. "It's hard to imagine that he wouldn't have been aware of that – he was a reporter too."

"...A current journalist said phone hacking was no longer widespread: "There were a few bad apples who have screwed the paper really badly," they said. Another said there was a siege atmosphere at the paper following this week's revelations. "It is like you feel under fire and it is not a very nice place to be," the journalist said. "We give people a hard time, so it's probably fun for people to see us getting a hard time. If you don't want to work for a controversial newspaper then don't work here."

On 11 July the Guardian published the following article by Wensley Clark, a former tabloid journalist:

Confessions of a tabloid hack

On Thursday morning, I got a phone call from an ex-cop I know who now calls himself a security consultant. He'd just read the Guardian, and was not in a good mood. "That's half my salary down the tubes, then," he said. This ex-cop, like several others I know, specialises in illegal hacking and other "assignments" that often end up splashed across the tabloids.

What we are hearing about this week is only the tip of the iceberg. So far there have been just two fall guys: the News of the World's former royal reporter Clive Goodman and his private eye sidekick, Glenn Mulcaire, both of whom were jailed in 2007. But the tabloids - primarily, but not only, the News of the World - have been involved in illegal surveillance operations for years.

I should know: I've worked in and around the tabloids since I was 20 years old - starting out as a staff news reporter for the Sunday Mirror and, later, for the Mail on Sunday, and as a freelance reporter for all the other red-top titles. And I confess that I've been involved in my fair share of illicit snooping in the past.

It all seemed relatively innocent once. When I started out, in the late 70s, we used to pay the odd £50 for a tame police officer to check a car registration number. We didn't think anything of it, though it was of course illegal to bribe a friendly copper to gather material to snoop into people's private lives. But this wasn't the main source of big stories. Back then, circulations were buoyant and the sort of money being spent on exclusives was often higher than it is today. We'd think nothing of signing up a kiss'n'tell with a footballer's secret lover for 40 or 50 grand.

But by the early 1980s, the competition between the tabloids had become so intense that we were encouraged to do just about anything to secure an exclusive. When a Wiltshire police officer came to the Sunday Mirror with surveillance logs that seemed to show that Prince Charles was using the royal train to meet his then secret girlfriend Lady Diana Spencer for "love trysts" we happily paid the man, and got our money's worth when the subsequent story caused a storm of controversy. These were the so-called "mad" years of the tabloids in the 80s and 90s - when the red tops all had similar circulations to one another, and the competition was intense (I can recall many times turning up at the house of someone I needed to interview only to find another paper had beaten me to it; a doorstep auction would then ensue). At that time a lot of undercover surveillance was paid for. Tabloid journalists talked about it quite openly. Many editors either sanctioned what was happening or ignored it because the big stories were all that counted. The attitude was: "What you don't ask about, you won't find out about."

The culture in any tabloid newsroom is to make the story work at whatever cost. The pressure on the news editors and, in turn, their reporters has always been immense - I've never forgotten the time I witnessed a stand-up fight between a news editor and one of his reporters after the reporter refused to make up a quote to embellish a story - but since the 80s it has got steadily more intense.

As a reporter, we used every tool at our disposal. On one highly risky tabloid escapade in the 80s I used an electronics surveillance expert to bug Richard Burton's hotel room to see if he was having an affair with his leading lady. We ended up overhearing him arguing with his daughter about her allowance, and learned what type of whisky he preferred, but we never stood up the affair. For every story that got in the paper, there were three like this that never made it.

And when a former inmate of Cookham Wood women's prison, in Kent, claimed that a chef at the jail was running a vice racket that used women inmates as prostitutes, I mounted a two-month surveillance job that involved bugging every room in a house and taking secret photos of assignations between the informant and the chef. Much of that job was spent hiding in an airless, blacked-out van round the corner, while monitoring everything from the ex-inmate's hoovering to her sex life. I was completely driven - over-focused on getting the story and giving little thought to any collateral damage. By the 1990s, the News of the World's ever-rising circulation began to pull away from its Sunday paper rivals. Their huge editorial budget enabled it to out-bid the others for the biggest, most salacious stories. And they certainly had the most money to spend on private investigators.

Camillagate starring Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles is the most classic example of the phone-tapping which began to gain favour in newsrooms. The tabloids got away with that one, which only fuelled their enthusiasm for this new source of stories. Increasingly, private investigators were used to do their dirty work, providing a "distance" between the journalists and the overtly illegal activities they were commissioning. By the new millennium the so-called art of tabloid reporting, which had always been reliant on underhand methods to some degree, was turning a lot darker.

Sometimes, this illegally obtained surveillance data is used by the tabloids indirectly. The "target" is told that the paper has loads of dirt that is undeniable, and is then offered a relatively soft option: spill the beans on what they've got up to in the past, and the paper will drop the current scandal. It's a form of blackmail, really, and it's very effective: everyone goes home a winner. One celebrity with a sugar-and-spice reputation recently managed to "negotiate" their way out of a drugs exposé by reworking the story as an interview in which they "revealed" their life-long struggle with addiction. Their reputation seems to have been unharmed in the process.

Many celebrities co-operate with the tabloids when it suits them, so I find it hard to be sympathetic with them. One of the great ironies of this week's revelations is that PR king Max Clifford is among those who have allegedly had their phones tapped. Yet during the 1990s, Clifford brilliantly played the tabloids off against each other and so helped his clients rake in hundreds of thousands of pounds every year by selling their stories to the best payer in Fleet Street: often the News of the World.

But what about the ordinary citizens whose lives have been invaded by private eyes using surveillance techniques that are supposed to be employed against criminals and terrorists, not law-abiding members of the public? I know of at least two families connected to TV reality show contestants whose phones have been tapped and emails intercepted by private eyes working on behalf of the tabloids.

In fact, this kind of news-gathering is now so ingrained in the tabloid culture that, most days, if you took out all the illicitly gathered stories the tabloids would end up with more blank spaces than an MP's expenses statement.

There is also an extraordinary "crossover" aspect to the business which allows it to flourish. A lot of the private eyes employed by the tabloids are former police officers who retain links to old colleagues in the force. I have even heard of some tabloid journalists who go on to become private investigators. Not only that, but many of the private investigators are also regularly commissioned by big businesses in the City. Some even work as consultants for government agencies, including the security services. This is great for the private eye: lots of work, and one assignment may even cross-fertilise another. One of the tabloids' biggest stories of recent years was about a politician's sexual habits, which had first been leaked by the security services to a private investigator with links to the tabloids. He then carried out his own surveillance operation to gather further concrete evidence before presenting the story to a tabloid, which duly published every sordid detail, knowing full well the story had been "copper-bottomed" by undeniable subterfuge.

Many billionaire business people use the very same dodgy characters to check out their business rivals and other individuals they are interested in. I personally know of one global tycoon who had his own prospective son-in-law's email and phone records checked out by a private investigator, who uncovered that the "target" had at one time been a drug dealer. The tycoon tried to persuade his daughter to call off the wedding but

she refused and they remain happily married to this day, although the target did agree to sign a prenuptial agreement.

So, it's a spider's web of subterfuge which extends far beyond the offices of News International in Wapping, east London, to the City and even into government. If Fleet Street is increasingly dependent on surveillance, so too is wider society.

*Of course, today's sophisticated computer technology makes it much easier to delve even further inside people's lives. In fact, the tabloids are finding it increasingly hard to dig up any really juicy stories without using private investigators. It's a bit like DCI Gene Hunt in *Life on Mars* admitting: "I had to take a bribe when I first started working as a copper otherwise none of the other bastards would have talked to me." They're all at it.*

And they're all dependent on it for another reason too. Until recently, reporters were sent out on stories at the drop of a hat. These days, even at Rupert Murdoch's News International, there is a tendency not to speculate on stories so much, which means fewer trips out of the office. If you've got access to a shady character who can tap into people's emails and phones then you tend to leave it all to them.

The legal profession must also take its fair share of the blame. Lawyers chase potential libels so ferociously these days that newspaper editors are obsessed with having everything copper-bottomed. This means hard evidence like secret surveillance material has become a form of "back up" and a vital part of any major tabloid story, even if it cannot be officially and openly referred to.

All this can be hard to prove. Private investigators rarely put their name to anything and are often paid through a myriad of companies to avoid any direct link to the story they have helped expose through illegal surveillance activities. There is even a code of honour between the private investigators and their tabloid paymasters. Massive fees are paid out on condition the shady snoopers never "grass up" their employers. It's not dissimilar from being a professional criminal who would never inform on his associates and would prefer to serve his time and come out to a welcome home party from his underworld bosses.

Today, the rest of Fleet Street is watching this story unfold with great interest. Murdoch's tabloids appear to have flagrantly defied all the so-called rules and regulations for many years, thanks in part to their immense wealth but also due to their obsession with exclusive stories. Murdoch's circulations have been the envy of Fleet Street for many years but the cold, hard truth is that in order to get the best stories and the highest readership they have had to employ the most underhand tactics.

To a tabloid hack, paying out Gordon Taylor £700k and then making him sign a gagging order sounds like a good bit of business for both sides. Murdoch's News International manages to sweep all this stuff under the carpet and Taylor gets a shed-load of money for a story that never damaged him because it didn't even get in the tabloids in the first place.

Now, instead of journalists knocking on the doors of News Group's alleged "victims", expect ambulance-chasing lawyers to take their place. It's a circle of greed and deceit that just goes around and around and around.

- *Wensley Clarkson is the author of Dog Eat Dog: Confessions of a Tabloid Journalist (Fourth Estate)*

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Murdoch reporters accused of phone hacking

By Ben Fenton,
 Chief Media Correspondent

Journalists working for News Group Newspapers, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, paid for private investigators to conduct multiple illegal "hacks" on mobile telephones, it was alleged last night.

The incidents, investigated by the Metropolitan police, ended in at least three civil actions by well-known personalities whose privacy was violated, which lawyers for News Group settled for sums running into hundreds of thousands of pounds, The Guardian newspaper claimed.

The people involved in the suits, including Gordon Taylor, leader of the Professional Footballers' Association, signed agreements that allowed News Group to prevent evidence of the illegal activities gathered by the police seeing the light of day, the paper said.

The alleged incidents took place while Andy Coulson, now the director of communications for David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative party, was the editor of the News of the World. But a person close to Mr Cameron said the Tory leader was "relaxed" about the claims because the central allegation involved a payment made after Mr Coulson left the newspaper.

Mr Coulson resigned from the editorship of the News of the World in 2007 after one of his reporters, Clive Goodman, and a private investigator, Glenn Mulcaire, were jailed for hacking into the mobiles of three members of staff of the royal family. He subsequently said he had no knowledge of Mr Goodman's activities.

Mr Coulson said last night: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

Mr Murdoch said he was not aware of any payments made to settle legal cases in which the company's reporters might have been involved in criminal activity. "If that had happened, I would know about it."

At the time, News International, parent of News Group, said the incident was isolated and that no other reporters had been involved. But The Guardian alleged the police investigation had turned up evidence

of other reporters and editorial executives being involved with Mr Mulcaire's illegal activities.



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Cameron aide in phone hacking row

► Ex-Ministers call for Tory director of communications to be sacked after allegations

By Lewis Smith

DAVID CAMERON was last night facing calls for his director of communications to be sacked amid a row over telephone hacking.

The demands followed a series of allegations about journalists at News International, which includes the *News of the World*, being involved in telephone hacking. It has been alleged that News Group Newspapers, part of News International, paid out more than £1m to settle legal claims which threatened to reveal journalists' involvement in hacking into phones.

Andy Coulson, now the Conservative leader's communications chief, was deputy editor and then editor of the *News of the World* during the period hacking was claimed to have taken place.

John Prescott, the former Prime Minister, last night called for Mr Cameron to sack Mr Coulson, saying: "I hope Mr Cameron will clear him out," he said.

Private investigators are alleged to have carried out the phone hacking for journalists. Cabinet ministers including Mr Prescott and Tessa Jowell, the former culture secretary, were said to be among those targeted, as were MPs from all three main political parties.

Mr Prescott, responding to claims that the police knew his phone had been monitored, was appalled that none of the officers had bothered to inform him.

"I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people who had their phone tapped," he told *Channel 4 News*. "For such a criminal act not to be reported to me ... reflects very badly on the police. I want to know their answer."

Geoff Hoon, the former transport secretary, joined the calls for Mr Coulson to go. "It is hard to see how Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief," he said. "Mr Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take."

Similarly, the former home secretary Charles Clarke said the allegations of "phone bugging" were "sensational" and that if true it would mean the behaviour of some senior executives was "disappointing, immoral and probably illegal".

He demanded the newspaper group publish a full list of everyone who had been targeted and said: "Mr Cameron now has to make his contribution to cleaning up public life by sacking his media adviser Andy Coulson who is closely implicated in this utterly unacceptable behaviour."

In 2007 Clive Goodman, the royal editor at the *News of the World*, was jailed for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides. During the hearing it was revealed that a number of public figures had telephone messages illegally intercepted by Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator.

It has been alleged by *The Guardian* that Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, received a £700,000 settlement from News Group Newspapers.

But Mr Coulson, who resigned when Mr Goodman was jailed, said yesterday that he was unaware of a settlement with Mr Taylor. He added: "The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

Two other settlements amounting to £300,000 are alleged to have been agreed with other claimants.

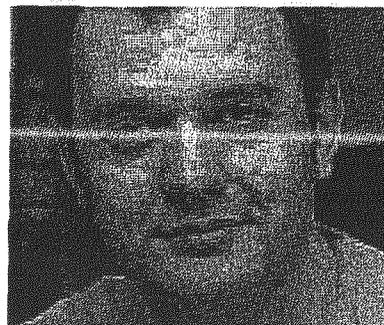
After the trial News International executives maintained to a parliamentary select committee and the Press Complaints Commission that Mr Goodman was the only journalist involved and that he acted without their knowledge. Yesterday, however, there were allegations that a number of journalists may have been involved with hacking.

John Whittingdale, the Conservative

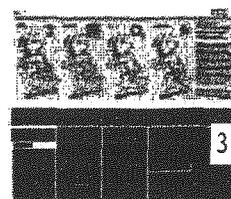
chairman of the Commons Culture Select Committee, said it would consider the alleged revelations today. "I am concerned. We were given an absolute assurance by News International, by the chairman of the company, that no other journalist at the *News of the World* had any knowledge, and that an inquiry had been made, and it was solely Clive Goodman who had been involved."

A spokeswoman for News International said last night: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time."

Mr Whittingdale added that the allegations "raised very serious questions" and he hoped to reopen a Parliamentary inquiry.



The former *News of the World* editor Andy Coulson denies the allegations



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People on the move

Paymentsshield board replaces CEO and appoints sales and marketing director

PROTECTION

Paymentsshield, the provider of mortgage-related general insurance products, has made a number of senior management team changes to position the business for growth in the next three to five years. Paymentsshield under **Stuart Pender**, the chief executive up to now, has experienced significant growth in the last five years. The board now believes that in order to sustain this level of growth it must look towards a broader product set and extend its UK distribution footprint to complement its core market of mortgage intermediaries. As a result Mr Pender has become non-executive chairman, focusing on the broader three to five-year strategy for the business and the development of the distribution model for Paymentsshield. **Tim Johnson**, who has been chief executive of CCV in the last three years, has been appointed as the new chief executive of Paymentsshield. **Andy Haistead**, formerly chief executive of Erinaceous Insurance Services, has been named as sales and marketing director of Paymentsshield.

REGULATION

Adam Phillips has been appointed chairman of the Financial Services Consumer Panel. He has been vice chairman of the panel since 2005 and acting chairman since last December. Mr Phillips said: "At a time when financial services regulation is under the spotlight, I am taking on the leadership of the

consumer panel in its vital role of constructively challenging the FSA on its regulatory policies." Mr Phillips has served on the Press Complaints Commission and the Council of ESOMAR, the world association of market research professionals. His background is in market research, and he now runs his own market research consultancy, Real Research, and also chairs ESOMAR's professional standards committee.

Walter Merricks, chief ombudsman for the Financial Ombudsman Service, is to step down after 10 years in the post. Under his tenure as chief ombudsman, the Fos has handled more than £5m consumer enquiries and resolved many disputes between consumers and financial businesses. Mr Merricks said: "It has been a privilege to lead this organisation and its excellent people - but it is now time for me to move." Mr Merricks is planning to leave Fos in the autumn and is to become the first chairman of the Office of the Health Professions adjudicator.

PENSIONS

Rowanmoor Pensions has appointed **Robert Graves** as head of technical services. Mr Graves will now have overall responsibility for technical services within the business. He joined Rowanmoor Pensions in February last year as product development manager and has been overseeing the development of new products, including

Rowanmoor Pensions' self-invested personal pension in May. Mr Graves is also chairman of the Association of Member-Directed Pension Schemes and is involved in discussions involving HM Revenue & Customs and the Treasury. Ian Hammond, managing director of Rowanmoor Pensions, said: "In his new role, Mr Graves will oversee our technical service department and help to develop wider offerings."

INVESTMENTS

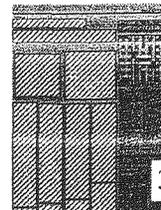
Edge Group has hired **Sanjay Wadhvani** to help drive the expansion of its media investment businesses. Mr Wadhvani joins from Ingenious Media, where during nine years he helped build the corporate finance and venture capital businesses. Edge manages over £50m in its VCT and EIS funds. Until April this year, Mr Wadhvani was a director in Ingenious Ventures, that company's private equity and VCT business. He was also a member of the investment team managing the Aim-listed private equity fund, Ingenious Media Active Capital and a member of the investment committee of the Ingenious VCLs. Prior to joining Ingenious in early 2000, he was a corporate tax specialist and corporate financier with Arthur Andersen for 10 years.

JO Hambro Capital Management has named **Andy Steel** as chief executive of the group's private client business, which in time will be separately branded. Mr Steel

joins from JO Hambro Investment Management, where he was chief executive, and brings with him more than 15 years of experience in the private client investment management industry. LV= Asset Management has appointed **Robin Brown** as national accounts manager of its sales team. With more than 35 years in financial services, Mr Brown brings a wealth of experience from across the industry. He joins from F&C Asset Management where he was sales director in its strategic partners team, working with a range of networks and service providers as well as life companies.

Alan Fleming, an associate of investment managers JM Finn & Co, has been elected president of the Yorkshire branch of the Securities & Investment Institute. Mr Fleming, 53, joined JM Finn & Co in January 2003 and has more than 25 years of investment management experience. Regionally, Mr Fleming has spent 21 years living and working in Derbyshire and Yorkshire. He continues to be involved with the management of client portfolios and, in addition, represents JM Finn & Co at Yorkshire Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers meetings. Prior to being elected Yorkshire branch

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Press Complaints Commission

3. PCC GENERAL

SoE annual conference focuses on the fight back to recovery

THIS year's Society of Editors conference is to have a *Fighting Back* theme and will debate the twin effects on the newspaper industry of the recession and the changing technological landscape.

The focus will fall on editors' efforts to build new platforms for news delivery, revenue streams and working practices at a time when the world economic downturn is having a dramatic effect on media organisations.

SoE president Nigel Pickover, editor of the *Evening Star*, Ipswich, said: "While our main focus will be on fighting back to recovery from the combined effects of recession and structural change that are having dramatic impact on the media, we shall also be debating the vital issues of media freedom that are so vital to our efforts to inform and serve readers, listeners and viewers on paper, through broadcast, mobile technology and the internet.

"Previous conferences have spotlighted the amazing innovation demonstrated by tradi-

tional media companies and the ingenuity and adaptability of editors and journalists. This year we will show that despite tremendous battering the media at all levels is more than ready to take on new challenges."

The conference will open with the 2009

Society of Editors Lecture delivered by Press Complaints Commission chairman Baroness Buscombe. There will also be a keynote speech from the Lord Chief Justice Lord Judge and presentations from other senior figures from the media, politics and the law.

The conference takes place from Sunday 15 November to Tuesday 17 November at the Radisson SAS hotel at London Stansted airport.

Delegate fees are being held at or below previous levels and discounts will be available in recognition of the special difficulties faced particularly by the regional media.

For more information and booking details visit the Society of Editors website at www.societyofeditors.co.uk and follow the links.



● SoE president Nigel Pickover: 'Our main focus will be on fighting back to recovery'



Sunday Express Dunblane controversy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Sunday Express Dunblane controversy** began on Sunday 8th March 2009, when the Scottish edition of the Sunday Express newspaper published a front page article, "Anniversary Shame of Dunblane Survivors"^[1], critical of survivors of the Dunblane massacre, by then aged 18 and 19, for posting "shocking blogs and photographs of themselves on the Internet". The "shocking" content, read from the survivors' social networking pages, with Bebo being mentioned in the article, included colloquial language and some swearing, mentions of sex and alcohol and joking references to a confrontation (interpreted as the tabloid as a "boast" about "getting in fights") and to being a "Scottish terrorist" in London. The article received a great deal of negative attention given the tenuous grounds for making the attacks. Survivors and members of the public complained to the UK Press Complaints Commission.^{[2][3][4]}

The offending news article was removed from the Daily Express web site, but despite this has continued to provoke strong reactions, particularly among the blogging community.^[5] An online petition was drawn up asking for a front-page apology from the paper, as well as disciplinary action against the journalist and editor responsible; by the 30th March when it closed, it had attracted 11,186 signatures.^[6]

Criticism has also attached itself to Elizabeth Smith, a Member of Scottish Parliament, who was quoted in the article as describing the contents of some blogs as "in bad taste", a comment that was implied by the article to apply to those of the Dunblane survivors. She has since claimed that her comments were quoted out of context, and were directed at teenage bloggers in general — a claim disputed by the Scottish Sunday Express editor Derek Lambie.^[7]

Apology

On the 22nd March, the Scottish Sunday Express printed an apology, stating that: "Our front-page story about the teenage survivors of the Dunblane massacre and their use of social networking websites has caused terrible offence, not only in that town, but across Scotland and around the world. Where possible, we have spoken to the families involved and given them a heartfelt apology. Today we apologise to you, our loyal readers." ^{[8] [9] [10]}

The organisers of the online petition criticised the apology as "inadequate", stating that it "dodges the issue of what was wrong with the original article, fails to provide a satisfactory explanation for how this piece happened, holds nobody to account for its publication and offers no reassurance that this won't happen again". ^[11]

Press Complaints Commission

On 22nd June 2009, the Press Complaints Commission issued an adjudication stating "... the breach of the Code was so serious that no apology could remedy it." ^[1]

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"Publication represented a serious error of judgement on the part of the newspaper."

'New guidance'

It added: "Although the editor had taken steps to resolve the complaint, and rightly published an apology, the breach of the code was so serious that no apology could remedy it."

The watchdog also urged journalists to be wary when reproducing images and information from networking sites like Facebook and issued new guidance.

It said it can be acceptable to publish such information, but only when a person might expect media scrutiny or has come to public attention through their own actions.

The PCC said privacy settings can provide protection, and journalists who get round them must justify their actions in the public interest.

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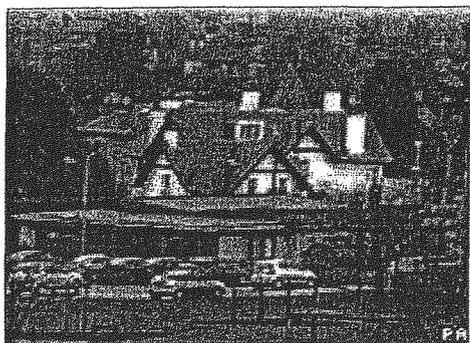
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16:57 GMT, Monday, 6 July 2009 17:57 UK

PCC criticises Dunblane article



The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) has criticised the **Scottish Sunday Express** for intruding into the private lives of Dunblane massacre survivors.

In March, the paper published an article claiming that some of those who lived through the 1996 shooting had shamed the memory of those who died.

It used photos and details from social networking sites to claim they boasted about sex, fights and drinking.

The PCC ruled that was a "fundamental failure" to respect private lives.

Sixteen children and their teacher were killed when gunman Thomas Hamilton went into Dunblane Primary School on 13 March, 1996, and opened fire. He then shot himself.

The parents of the boys involved in the Sunday Express story complained that the newspaper was wrong to identify their children as Dunblane survivors and publish information about their private lives.

"Publication represented a serious error of judgement on the part of the newspaper"

PCC ruling

A petition against the paper's actions was signed by 11,000 people.

The newspaper later published an apology about the tone of the article, but claimed that the identities of the survivors had been published before and that the pictures and information were found on publicly-accessible websites.

However the PCC ruled: "The images appeared to have been taken out of context and presented in a way that was designed to humiliate or embarrass them.

"Even if the images were available freely online, the way they were used - when there was no particular reason for the boys to be in the news - represented a fundamental failure to respect their private lives.

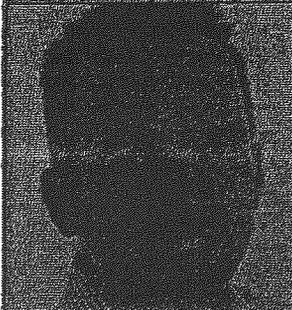
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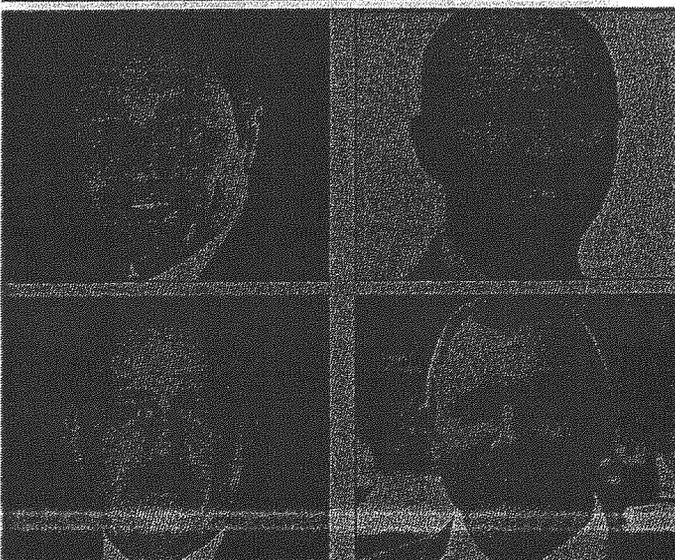
Press Complaints Commission

president, Mr Fleming served on the SII Committee in various roles culminating in his most recent position of vice president As Yorkshire branch president of the SII, Mr Fleming's role will be to lead the region's SII membership strategy, directing its programme of continuing professional development activities and promoting the SII values of professionalism, integrity and ethics. His role at JM Finn & Co is unaffected.

Prudential names Davey as Pretjohn's replacement in chief exec role



Davey Banking Group has today announced that Pretjohn is chief executive of Prudential UK and Europe and Pretjohn will leave the group in December. Mr Davey will join Prudential in July 2009 as chief executive of Prudential UK and Europe. He will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business and will report to the Prudential board.



Clockwise from top left: Tim Johnson from Paymentsfield, Robert Graves of Rowanmoor Pensions, Andy Steel from JQ Hambro Capital Management and Alan Fleming of JM Finn & Co

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Press Complaints Commission

and many others are owed an apology as well as an explanation. So are less well-known individuals who have attracted the NoW's interest.

Those members of the government who have supported the state's acquisition of so much personal data and have now been subjected to the NoW's hacking operation may think that privacy laws that guarantee the communications of innocent individuals from unscrupulous corporations, as well as the state, are long overdue.

Henry Porter blogs at guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/henryporter

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the guardian

Press and privacy

Secret spies

The world is waking up to the extent to which modern technologies can destroy privacy. Any citizen with a mobile phone, car or computer is open to surveillance by a broad range of agencies. Newspapers have taken the lead in fighting against state intrusions into privacy - resisting ID cards, databases and the mindless spread of CCTV. Editors inveigh against Google and its potential to intrude into our lives.

More hidden is the way some of the same newspapers have systematically pried into the lives of people in rather repellent ways. It has emerged that one of Rupert Murdoch's news organisations in the UK has quietly paid out huge sums to settle three cases, thereby suppressing details which threatened to expose its involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories. In return for a secrecy agreement, they paid damages of £400,000 or more to one victim - dwarfing the previous record £60,000

breach of privacy payment to the Formula One boss Max Mosley. The total paid in damages and costs tops £1m.

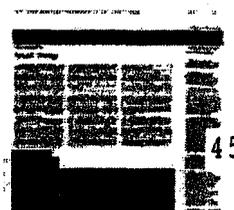
Most of the work was subcontracted to private investigators. A senior Metropolitan police officer claimed to have evidence that thousands of people in public life had had their phones hacked by agents working on behalf of papers. The victims included MPs, cabinet ministers, minor celebrities and sportsmen. The Scotland Yard files mirror parallel evidence compiled by the information commissioner, who uncovered thousands of examples of activity which was "certainly or very probably" illegal.

That detailed evidence has never been requested or seen by the Press Complaints Commission, nor by the Commons media commit-

tee, currently investigating press regulation. Both bodies have hitherto been content with the reassurances of News International executives,

who claimed that Clive Goodman - the News of the World reporter jailed for hacking into royal phones - was a rogue operator. The PCC never called evidence from the newspaper's editor at the time, Andy Coulson, who is now working as David Cameron's director of communications, nor demanded to see paperwork or invoices. Both the PCC and the committee look incurious if not plain gullible. It is awkward for Mr Cameron to have at his side a man who, in a previous life, was responsible for journalists who were breaching the privacy of MPs.

The Murdoch organisation is a powerful one, with tentacles into many areas of public and political life. Individuals working for one of its UK companies have demonstrated their ability to jettison civilised standards of behaviour to attack targets. These allegations should be examined in daylight, not dealt with by means of secret cash payments.



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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Revealed: Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

● Tory PR chief under fire over tabloid hacking

● Politicians and celebrities among victims

Nick Davies

Rupert Murdoch's News Group newspapers has paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of his journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The payments secured secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills. Cabinet ministers, MPs, actors and sports stars were all targets of the private investigators.

Today, the Guardian reveals details of the suppressed evidence which may open the door to hundreds more legal actions by victims of News Group, the Murdoch company that publishes the News of the World and the Sun, as well as provoking police inquiries into reporters who were involved and the senior executives responsible for them. The evidence also poses difficult questions for:

● Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was deputy editor and then edi-

tor of the News of the World when, the suppressed evidence shows, journalists for whom he was responsible were engaging in hundreds of apparently illegal acts ● Murdoch executives who, albeit in good faith, have misled a parliamentary select committee, the Press Complaints Commission and the public

● The Metropolitan police, who did not alert all those whose phones were targeted, and the Crown Prosecution Service, which did not pursue all possible charges against News Group personnel

● The Press Complaints Commission, which claimed to have conducted an investigation but failed to uncover any evidence of illegal activity.

The suppressed legal cases are linked to the jailing in January 2007 of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff, an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. At the time, News International said it knew of no other journalist who was involved in hacking phones and that Goodman had been acting without their knowledge.

However, one senior source at the Met told the Guardian that during the Good-

man inquiry, officers had found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones. Another source with direct knowledge of the police findings put the figure at "two or three thousand" mobiles. They suggest that MPs from all three parties and cabinet ministers, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell, were among the targets. News International has always maintained that it has no knowledge of phone hacking by anybody acting on its behalf.

A private investigator who had been working for News Group, Glenn Mulcaire, was also jailed in January 2007. He admitted hacking into the phones of five other targets, including Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. Among those phones he hacked into were the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew. News Group denied all knowledge of the hacking, but Taylor

Continued on pag

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Trail of hacking and deceit under nose of Tory PR chief



Nick Davies on how the News of the World was involved in illegal activity, from intercepting phone messages to buying confidential personal data

When the high court last summer ordered the News of the World to pay damages to Max Mosley for secretly filming him with prostitutes, the paper was furious. In an angry leader column, it insisted that public figures must maintain standards. "It is not for the powerful and the influential to run to the courts to gag newspapers from publishing stories that are TRUE," it said. "This is all about the public's right to know."

Even as those words were being published, lawyers and senior executives from News International's subsidiary News Group were preparing to run to court to gag Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who was suing the News of the World for its undisclosed involvement in the illegal interception of messages left on his mobile phone.

By persuading the high court to seal the file and by paying Taylor more than £400,000 damages in exchange for his silence, News Group prevented the public from knowing anything about the hundreds of pages of evidence which had been disclosed in Taylor's case, revealing potentially criminal behaviour by journalists on its payroll. It also protected some powerful and influential people from the implications of that evidence.

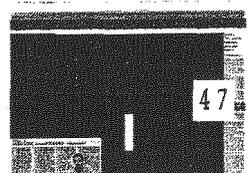
David Cameron's chief press adviser, Andy Coulson, is not named in any of the suppressed evidence. However, the paperwork shows that during the time when he was editor of the News of the

World, and contrary to News Group's earlier denials, editorial staff for whom he was responsible were involved with private investigators who engaged in illegal phone-hacking; and that when Coulson was deputy editor, reporters and executives were commissioning multiple purchases of confidential information, which is illegal unless it is proved to be in the public interest. These purchases were not secret within the News of the World office: they were openly paid for by the accounts department with invoices which itemised illegal acts. News Group has always maintained that it acts lawfully and in the public interest.

The scale of the activity is bound to provoke questions about whether Coulson knew of and sanctioned the activity. When he was asked by the Guardian whether he accepted that his journalists had been hacking into phones and

illegally obtaining information, Coulson made no comment beyond saying he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action. When he resigned, he said he had had no knowledge of his reporter Clive Goodman's involvement in hacking the phones of royal staff.

The full picture on News Group's involvement in the hacking of mobile phones is still not clear, largely because the Metropolitan Police took the controversial decision not to inform the public figures whose phones had been targeted and the Crown Prosecution Service



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Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

« continued from page 1

last year sued them on the basis that they must have known about it.

In documents initially submitted to the high court, News Group executives said the company had not been involved in any way in Mulcaire's hacking of Taylor's phone. They specifically denied keeping any recording or notes of intercepted messages and claimed they had not even been aware of the hacking. However, at the request of Taylor's lawyers, the court ordered the production of detailed evidence from Scotland Yard's inquiry in the Goodman case and also from a separate inquiry by the Information Commissioner into journalists who dishonestly obtain confidential personal records.

The Scotland Yard files included paperwork which revealed that, contrary to News Group's initial denial, Mulcaire had provided a recording of the messages on Taylor's phone to a News of the World journalist who had transcribed them and emailed them to a senior reporter; and that a News of the World executive had offered Mulcaire a substantial bonus payment for a story specifically related to the intercepted messages.

Several famous figures in football are among those whose messages were intercepted. Coulson was editing the paper at this time. He told the Guardian this week he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action, which began after he left the paper.

The paperwork from the Information Commission revealed the names of 31 journalists working for the News of the World and the Sun, together with the details of government agencies, banks, phone companies and others who were conned into handing over confidential information on politicians, actors, sportsmen and women, musicians and television presenters, all of whom are named in the paperwork. This is

an offence under the Data Protection Act unless it is justified by public interest.

Senior editors are among those impli-

cated. This activity occurred before the mobile phone hacking, at a time when Coulson was deputy and the editor was Rebekah Wade, now due to become chief executive of News International. The extent of their personal knowledge, if any, is not clear: the News of the World has always insisted that it would not break the law and would use subterfuge only if essential in the public interest.

Faced with this evidence, News International changed their position, started offering huge cash payments to settle the case out of court, and finally paid out £700,000 in legal costs and damages on the condition that Taylor signed a gagging clause to prevent him speaking about the case. The payment is believed to have included more than £400,000 in damages. News Group then persuaded the court to seal the file on Taylor's case to prevent all public access, even though it contained prima facie evidence of criminal activity.

The Scotland Yard paperwork also provided evidence the News of the World had been involved with Mulcaire in his hacking the mobile phones of at least two other football figures. They filed complaints, which were settled earlier this year when News International paid more than £300,000 in damages and costs on condition that they signed gagging clauses.

The Guardian's understanding is that the paperwork disclosed by Scotland Yard is only a fraction of the total material gathered on News Group's involvement with Mulcaire. And it is a matter of record that the Information Commission has refused to release paperwork which implicates national newspaper journalists in thousands of apparently illegal acts.

Taylor declined to make any comment. Goodman, now out of jail, said: "My comment is not even 'no comment'." A spokesman for News International said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time." A spokeswoman for Cameron said the Tory leader was "very relaxed about the story".

Henry Porter, page 28 »
Leader comment, page 30 »

*Mulcaire
 2002
 may not
 have been
 illegal*

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Cameron urged to dump close aide over allegations of phone tapping

Former editor's staff accused of paying hackers

Sam Coates, Dan Sabbagh
 Sean O'Neill

David Cameron faced calls last night to sack one of his most trusted advisers over allegations of illegal phone hacking. The alleged offences were carried out while Andy Coulson was Editor of the *News of the World*.

Mobile phones belonging to Cabinet ministers, actors, models and sports stars are claimed to have been among the targets of private investigators working for the newspaper while Mr Coulson — the Conservative Party's director of communications — was in charge.

The *News of the World* was also alleged to have paid an out-of-court settlement after a legal case allegedly threatened to make public evidence of hacking. The *News of the World* is part of News International, which also publishes *The Times*.

The issue first came to court in January 2007 when Clive Goodman, a *News of the World* reporter, was jailed

for hacking into the phones of three royal staff. Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator, was also jailed for tapping further phones, including those of Max Clifford, the celebrity PR consultant, and Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association.

According to senior sources in the Metropolitan Police quoted in *The Guardian* newspaper, which made the allegations, officers found evidence of *News of the World* staff using private investigators to obtain information from mobile phones. Police sources claimed last night that their investigation had uncovered evidence that

many hundreds of mobile phone voice-mail inboxes had been tapped into.

Mr Coulson said: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the *News of the World* 2½ years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor. The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and the Press Complaints Commission. I took full re-

sponsibility for what happened on my watch, but without my knowledge, and I resigned."

It emerged last night that 31 journalists ehad allegedly been involved in "the buying and selling of personal information". Mick Gorrill, the assistant information commissioner, said that his department had compiled a dossier within the past two years which showed that journalists at the titles "had acquired people's personal information through blagging".

Mr Coulson became deputy editor of the *News of the World* in 2003 and was promoted to Editor the same year. He resigned in January 2007 after Mr Goodman's sentence, but always main-

tained he was unaware of the actions of his reporter.

Yesterday, however, he faced fresh questions about his involvement in the affair. John Prescott, the former Deputy Prime Minister, who along with Tessa Jowell, now Cabinet Office Minister, was named as a target of the hacking, said it was "absolutely staggering" that Mr Coulson should have gone to work for the Tory party in the first place. "I hope Mr Cameron will clear him out," he said.

Alastair Campbell, the former Director of Communications for Tony Blair,

said Mr Cameron should find our quickly whether Mr Coulson acted improperly and "act accordingly".

A spokeswoman for Mr Cameron said that the Tory leader was "relaxed" about the allegations.

Last year Mr Taylor took the company to court in an attempt to prove it must have been aware. He did not return calls seeking comment last night.

The claims will also put pressure on the Metropolitan Police, over whether they alerted all those whose phones they found had been targeted. Mr Prescott said it was "staggering" he was not alerted, adding it would "reflect very badly on the police".

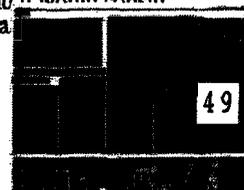
Police sources said that detectives contacted everyone they could trace over the possible tampering with their phones. Another obstacle to further prosecutions was that many of the public figures did not want to pursue the issues through the courts.

A source said: "People were pleased we had found out what had happened but they didn't want to take it any further — the reaction of many was 'thank you, but get rid of it'."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The Metropolitan Police Service carried out an investigation into the alleged unlawful interception of telephone calls.

"Officers liaised closely with the Crown Prosecution Service. Two people were charged and subsequently convicted and jailed. We are not prepared to comment further."

John Whittingdale, Conservative chairman of the Commons Culture Select Committee, said it would consider the alleged revela-



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revelation today. He

told *Channel 4 News*: "I am concerned." Geoff Hoon, the former Cabinet minister, said: "It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief."



Andy Coulson, the Tories' PR chief, resigned from the *News of the World*

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decided not to take News Group executives to court. Scotland Yard is likely to face questions about whether senior officers intervened to avoid alienating a powerful media group.

Scotland Yard disclosed only a limited amount of its evidence to Taylor. The Guardian understands that the full police file shows that several thousand public figures were targeted by investigators, including, during one month in 2006: John Prescott, then deputy prime minister; Tessa Jowell, then responsible for the media as secretary of state for culture; Boris Johnson, then the Conservative spokesman on higher education; Gwyneth Paltrow, after she had given birth to her son; George Michael, who had been seen looking tired at the wheel of his car; and Jade Goody.

When Goodman, the News of the World's royal editor, was jailed for hacking into the mobile phones of Palace staff, News International said he had been acting without their knowledge. One of the investigators working for the paper, Glenn Mulcaire, was also charged with hacking the phones of the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew as well as Taylor. At the time, the News of the World claimed to know nothing about the hacking of these targets, but Taylor has now proved that to be untrue in his case. Others who are believed to have been possible targets include the Scottish politician Tommy Sheridan, who has previously accused the News of the World of bugging his car; Jeffrey Archer, whose perjury was exposed by the paper; and Sven-Göran Eriksson, whose sex life became a tabloid obsession.

According to one source with direct knowledge of the Scotland Yard evidence, News of the World journalists were systematically using private investigators who would break the law to obtain information, hacking into thousands of mobile phones and supplying raw material which was then converted into stories that made no reference to their real source. Against that - and in apparent contradiction of the evidence supplied and suppressed in Taylor's case - senior News International executives have publicly claimed that Goodman was the only person at the News of the World who was involved in hacking, and that he acted without their knowledge.

In evidence to the House of Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, on 6 March 2007, seven months after Goodman's arrest, Les Hinton, chairman of News International, was asked if he had conducted "a full, rigor-

ous internal inquiry" and was "absolutely convinced" that Goodman was the only person who knew about the phone hacking. Hinton replied: "Yes we have and I believe he was the only person." Hinton added that the investigation would continue under the new editor, Colin Myler, but Myler had already told the Press Complaints Commission 12 days earlier that Goodman's hacking was "aberrational", "a rogue exception" and "an exceptional and unhappy event in the 163-year history of the News of the World, involving one journalist". The same claim was made later by the News of the World's managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, who told Radio Four's Today programme in February 2008 that

only one News of the World journalist had been involved in illegal phone hacking: "It happened once at the News of the World. The reporter was fired; he went to prison. The editor resigned."

These executives were not aware of the evidence disclosed by Taylor's legal action at the time that they made these claims. In an unconnected move, Kuttner yesterday announced that he was stepping down as managing editor of the News of the World.

The then chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Sir Christopher Meyer, promised to investigate "the entire newspaper and magazine industry of the UK to establish what is their practice" but opted not to question Andy Coulson on the grounds that he had resigned, and not to question any other journalist or editorial executive on the paper, apart from Myler, who necessarily had no direct knowledge of what had been going on before his arrival. The PCC's subsequent report failed to uncover any evidence of any phone hacking by any media organisation beyond that revealed at Goodman's trial.

In suppressing Taylor's legal action, News Group buried not only the Scotland Yard evidence but also paperwork that had been seized by the Information Commis-

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sion from a Hampshire private investigator, Steve Whittamore, who had been running a network of sources who specialised in the illegal extraction of information from police computers, British Telecom, the DVLA, Inland Revenue and others. Whittamore subsequently pleaded

guilty to criminal offences, although the newspapers who hired him were never prosecuted.

Although the Information Commission has since said that almost all of this activity was "certainly or very probably" illegal under the Data Protection Act, the paperwork shows no sign of secrecy at all as 27 different journalists from the News of the World and four from the Sun ordered more than a thousand searches. One News of the World reporter made 130 requests. Another made 118. One news executive is recorded as directly commissioning 90 actions by Whittamore. This included 23 illegal searches of the DVLA for the details behind car number plates; two illegal searches of police databases for criminal records; five illegal searches of phone company records to convert a mobile number into a private address; and three requests for illegal access to records of ex-directory phone numbers.

Another news executive is recorded commissioning 70 more actions including nine illegal searches of British Telecom records to convert landline phone numbers into addresses, 13 illegal searches at the DVLA and two illegal accesses to criminal records from police computers. A very senior executive of the paper is recorded directly commissioning illegal access to records from a mobile phone company.

Among those whose privacy apparently was illegally violated when British Telecom was conned into handing over their addresses and/or ex-directory numbers are Nigella Lawson (four times); Patsy Kensit; Jude Law and Sadie Frost; Lisa Snowdon (three times); Anne Robinson and her former partner; Carol Caplin; Lenny Henry; Vanessa Feltz; Lord Mountbatten's grandson;

and witnesses to the murder of Jill Dando, thus potentially interfering with the course of a live police inquiry.

When the actress Charlotte Coleman died after an asthma attack, the News of

the World paid for BT to be conned into handing over the itemised Friends and Family list from her bereaved parents' phone bill. When the TV presenter Linda Barker moved house, they hired Whittamore to get her new home address from the supposedly confidential social security database.

Working on instructions from the News of the World, Whittamore and his network also conned the criminal records database of the police, which is a specific criminal offence; the Inland Revenue, also a specific criminal offence; a cab company used by Ken Livingstone; a Paris hotel used by Jason Donovan; the actors union, Equity, for the addresses of actors; Granada TV, for information on a Coronation Street actor; and on numerous occasions the DVLA for the home details of people whose car numbers they had spotted. The News of the World has insisted that its journalists use subterfuge only when justified in the public interest.

The Information Commissioner has resisted all requests to release the entire collection of paperwork seized from Whittamore, which covers a total of 13,343 requests for information from 305 journalists not only from News International but also from the Mirror Group, the Observer and Associated Newspapers. The Daily Mail alone made 985 requests, more than any other paper.

After the conviction of Whittamore, the Information Commission, which is responsible for policing confidential databases, urged the Press Complaints Commission to issue "a clear public statement warning journalists and editors of the very real risks of committing criminal offences." Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the PCC, which is funded by newspapers, resisted doing this and finally produced guidance which the Information Commission has publicly described as "disappointing".

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News of the hacked

Henry Porter

If Murdoch's papers really believe in public interest they should disclose all details of illegal tapping

The major threat to privacy is assumed to come from the state. But Nick Davies's story in the Guardian today - about News Group's payments to settle cases that could reveal details of an operation to use information from intercepted text messages sent by many well known individuals - shows how privacy is equally threatened by determined commercial organisations.

News of the World (NoW) journalists used information obtained by hacking into the phone of Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and after reaching a settlement with Taylor suppressed hundreds of pages of evidence. In 2007, the NoW reporter Clive Goodman was found guilty under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, and sent to jail - but Davies's investigation shows that the practice was much more widespread than suspected. Phones belonging to MPs from all parties, including Tessa Jowell and John Prescott, were hacked using a private investigator named Glenn Mulcaire, also jailed in the 2007 trial.

As well as trying to suppress documentation, News Group initially denied keeping any records or notes of the messages. This turns out to be untrue: among messages transcribed were those to Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer. Significantly, Rupert Murdoch's company has denied interceptions of this scale to a parliamentary select committee and the Press Complaints Commission. This jeopardises any claim

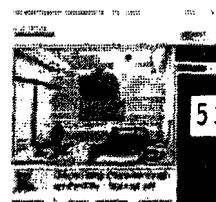
the company may make in the course of exposing well known figures. The company's credibility is now seriously called into question.

More disturbing is the possibility that because of the company's influence in British public life, the Metropolitan police could have stayed its hand when considering more widescale prosecutions. It is now incumbent on the police to explain publicly why the investigation was not brought to the sort of conclusion the public would expect for this level of alleged criminal activity.

One officer suggested that two or three thousand mobile phones had been hacked. If true, it would speak of a programme of interception with reporters from the NoW ordering from a menu supplied by the shady investigator. The public needs to know to what extent Murdoch's papers indulge in this illegal activity: it is legitimate matter of public interest, the very thing cited by the NoW as it pursues people such as Max Mosley, whom they bugged and filmed in a sado-masochistic sex session.

Mosley received £60,000 after the paper had fought and lost the case on a spurious public interest defence, which seems even harder to swallow now we know the extent of its spying programme. There is no doubt that executives understood how damaging the revelations about phone-tapping would be because they paid over seven times as much (£450,000) to Gordon Taylor.

The cover-up has failed. The Press Complaints Commission needs to reopen its investigation and call executives before it. The parliamentary committee will almost certainly want to know if it has been deceived, and to take evidence again. Nigella Lawson, Patsy Kensit, Jude Law, Anne Robinson



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The law

Phone hacking, private data and the public interest defence

Hacking into messages on mobile phones is covered by the same law which now regulates phone tapping and other forms of covert information-gathering, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, known as Ripa.

This makes it a criminal offence to intercept phone calls unless it is done by a member of the police or intelligence agencies acting with a secretary of state's warrant, which can be granted only to protect national security, to prevent serious crime or to safeguard the economic wellbeing of the UK.

It also makes it an offence to gain access to material which is stored on a communication system, such as a voice message, without a search warrant or a "production order", either of which has to be approved by a judge.

The act makes no provision for anybody outside the intelligence agencies and the police to obtain any kind of authority to intercept phone calls or messages. Specifically, there is no public interest defence for anybody caught breaking Ripa.

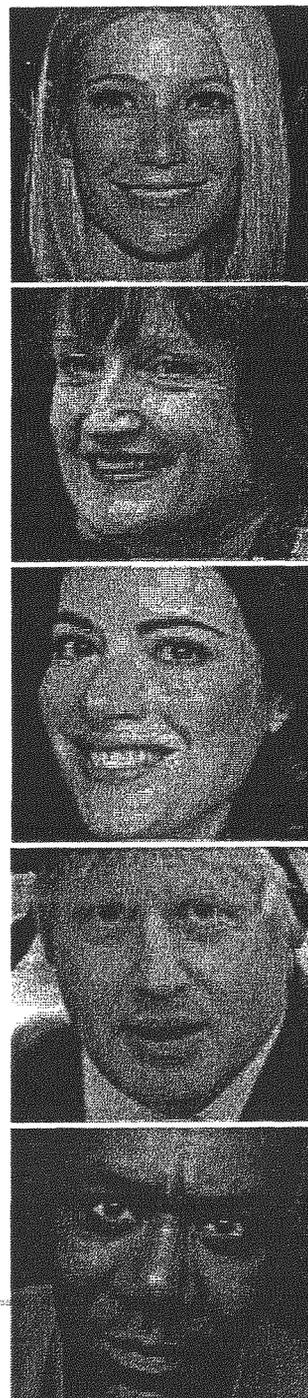
The former News of the World reporter Clive Goodman was jailed for four months and the private investigator with whom he had been working, Glenn Mulcaire (right) for six



months for hacking phone messages in breach of Ripa.

Access to confidential databases, such as telephone accounts, bank records and information held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, is covered by a different law, the 1998 Data Protection Act. Section 55 makes it an offence to gain unauthorised access to such data, punishable by a fine. However, unlike Ripa, this offence carries a public interest defence.

The Information Commission, which is responsible for policing the Data Protection Act, has twice published reports about the widespread breach of the act by private investigators acting for journalists. The outgoing commissioner, Richard Thomas, has made it plain that he believes almost all of this activity has been without sufficient public interest. In 2007, after a lengthy consultation, the commission secured the agreement of the government to make such breaches an imprisonable offence. However, a lobby by leading figures from News International, the Telegraph group and Associated Newspapers, which publishes the Daily Mail, persuaded Gordon Brown to overrule the plan.



Public figures whose privacy apparently was illegally violated included, from top: Gwyneth Paltrow, Tessa Jowell, Nigella Lawson, Boris Johnson and Lenny Henry

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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Revealed: Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

● Tory PR chief under fire over tabloid hacking

● Politicians and celebrities among victims

Nick Davies

Rupert Murdoch's News Group newspapers has paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of his journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The payments secured secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills. Cabinet ministers, MPs, actors and sports stars were all targets of the private investigators.

Today, the Guardian reveals details of the suppressed evidence which may open the door to hundreds more legal actions by victims of News Group, the Murdoch company that publishes the News of the World and the Sun, as well as provoking police inquiries into reporters who were involved and the senior executives responsible for them. The evidence also poses difficult questions for:

● Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was deputy editor and then edi-

tor of the News of the World when, the suppressed evidence shows, journalists for whom he was responsible were engaging in hundreds of apparently illegal acts ● Murdoch executives who, albeit in good faith, have misled a parliamentary select committee, the Press Complaints Commission and the public

● The Metropolitan police, who did not alert all those whose phones were targeted, and the Crown Prosecution Service, which did not pursue all possible charges against News Group personnel

● The Press Complaints Commission, which claimed to have conducted an investigation but failed to uncover any evidence of illegal activity.

The suppressed legal cases are linked to the jailing in January 2007 of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff, an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. At the time, News International said it knew of no other journalist who was involved in hacking phones and that Goodman had been acting without their knowledge.

However, one senior source at the Met told the Guardian that during the Good-

man inquiry, officers had found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones. Another source with direct knowledge of the police findings put the figure at "two or three thousand" mobiles. They suggest that MPs from all three parties and cabinet ministers, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell, were among the targets. News International has always maintained that it has no knowledge of phone hacking by anybody acting on its behalf.

A private investigator who had been working for News Group, Glenn Mulcaire, was also jailed in January 2007. He admitted hacking into the phones of five other targets, including Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. Among those phones he hacked into were the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew. News Group denied all knowledge of the hacking, but Taylor

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Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

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last year sued them on the basis that they must have known about it.

In documents initially submitted to the high court, News Group executives said the company had not been involved in any way in Mulcaire's hacking of Taylor's phone. They specifically denied keeping any recording or notes of intercepted messages and claimed they had not even been aware of the hacking. However, at the request of Taylor's lawyers, the court ordered the production of detailed evidence from Scotland Yard's inquiry in the Goodman case and also from a separate inquiry by the Information Commissioner into journalists who dishonestly obtain confidential personal records.

The Scotland Yard files included paperwork which revealed that, contrary to News Group's initial denial, Mulcaire had provided a recording of the messages on Taylor's phone to a News of the World journalist who had transcribed them and emailed them to a senior reporter; and that a News of the World executive had offered Mulcaire a substantial bonus payment for a story specifically related to the intercepted messages.

Several famous figures in football are among those whose messages were intercepted. Coulson was editing the paper at this time. He told the Guardian this week he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action, which began after he left the paper.

The paperwork from the Information Commission revealed the names of 31 journalists working for the News of the World and the Sun, together with the details of government agencies, banks, phone companies and others who were conned into handing over confidential information on politicians, actors, sportsmen and women, musicians and television presenters, all of whom are named in the paperwork. This is

an offence under the Data Protection Act unless it is justified by public interest.

Senior editors are among those impli-

cated. This activity occurred before the mobile phone hacking, at a time when Coulson was deputy and the editor was Rebekah Wade, now due to become chief executive of News International. The extent of their personal knowledge, if any, is not clear: the News of the World has always insisted that it would not break the law and would use subterfuge only if essential in the public interest.

Faced with this evidence, News International changed their position, started offering huge cash payments to settle the case out of court, and finally paid out £700,000 in legal costs and damages on the condition that Taylor signed a gagging clause to prevent him speaking about the case. The payment is believed to have included more than £400,000 in damages. News Group then persuaded the court to seal the file on Taylor's case to prevent all public access, even though it contained prima facie evidence of criminal activity.

The Scotland Yard paperwork also provided evidence the News of the World had been involved with Mulcaire in his hacking the mobile phones of at least two other football figures. They filed complaints, which were settled earlier this year when News International paid more than £300,000 in damages and costs on condition that they signed gagging clauses.

The Guardian's understanding is that the paperwork disclosed by Scotland Yard is only a fraction of the total material gathered on News Group's involvement with Mulcaire. And it is a matter of record that the Information Commission has refused to release paperwork which implicates national newspaper journalists in thousands of apparently illegal acts.

Taylor declined to make any comment. Goodman, now out of jail, said: "My comment is not even 'no comment'." A spokesman for News International said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time." A spokeswoman for Cameron said the Tory leader was "very relaxed about the story".

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Trail of hacking and deceit under nose of Tory PR chief



Nick Davies on how the News of the World was involved in illegal activity, from intercepting phone messages to buying confidential personal data

When the high court last summer ordered the News of the World to pay damages to Max Mosley for secretly filming him with prostitutes, the paper was furious. In an angry leader column, it insisted that public figures must maintain standards. "It is not for the powerful and the influential to run to the courts to gag newspapers from publishing stories that are TRUE," it said. "This is all about the public's right to know."

Even as those words were being published, lawyers and senior executives from News International's subsidiary News Group were preparing to run to court to gag Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who was suing the News of the World for its undisclosed involvement in the illegal interception of messages left on his mobile phone.

By persuading the high court to seal the file and by paying Taylor more than £400,000 damages in exchange for his silence, News Group prevented the public from knowing anything about the hundreds of pages of evidence which had been disclosed in Taylor's case, revealing potentially criminal behaviour by journalists on its payroll. It also protected some powerful and influential people from the implications of that evidence.

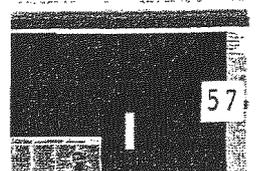
David Cameron's chief press adviser, Andy Coulson, is not named in any of the suppressed evidence. However, the paperwork shows that during the time when he was editor of the News of the

World, and contrary to News Group's earlier denials, editorial staff for whom he was responsible were involved with private investigators who engaged in illegal phone-hacking; and that when Coulson was deputy editor, reporters and executives were commissioning multiple purchases of confidential information, which is illegal unless it is proved to be in the public interest. These purchases were not secret within the News of the World office: they were openly paid for by the accounts department with invoices which itemised illegal acts. News Group has always maintained that it acts lawfully and in the public interest.

The scale of the activity is bound to provoke questions about whether Coulson knew of and sanctioned the activity. When he was asked by the Guardian whether he accepted that his journalists had been hacking into phones and

illegally obtaining information, Coulson made no comment beyond saying he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action. When he resigned, he said he had had no knowledge of his reporter Clive Goodman's involvement in hacking the phones of royal staff.

The full picture on News Group's involvement in the hacking of mobile phones is still not clear, largely because the Metropolitan Police took the controversial decision not to inform the public figures whose phones had been targeted and the Crown Prosecution Service



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decided not to take News Group executives to court. Scotland Yard is likely to face questions about whether senior officers intervened to avoid alienating a powerful media group.

Scotland Yard disclosed only a limited amount of its evidence to Taylor. The Guardian understands that the full police file shows that several thousand public figures were targeted by investigators, including, during one month in 2006: John Prescott, then deputy prime minister; Tessa Jowell, then responsible for the media as secretary of state for culture; Boris Johnson, then the Conservative spokesman on higher education; Gwyneth Paltrow, after she had given birth to her son; George Michael, who had been seen looking tired at the wheel of his car; and Jade Goody.

When Goodman, the News of the World's royal editor, was jailed for hacking into the mobile phones of Palace staff, News International said he had been acting without their knowledge. One of the investigators working for the paper, Glenn Mulcaire, was also charged with hacking the phones of the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew as well as Taylor. At the time, the News of the World claimed to know nothing about the hacking of these targets, but Taylor has now proved that to be untrue in his case. Others who are believed to have been possible targets include the Scottish politician Tommy Sheridan, who has previously accused the News of the World of bugging his car; Jeffrey Archer, whose perjury was exposed by the paper; and Sven-Göran Eriksson, whose sex life became a tabloid obsession.

According to one source with direct knowledge of the Scotland Yard evidence, News of the World journalists were systematically using private investigators who would break the law to obtain information, hacking into thousands of mobile phones and supplying raw material which was then converted into stories that made no reference to their real source. Against that - and in apparent contradiction of the evidence supplied and suppressed in Taylor's case - senior News International executives have publicly claimed that Goodman was the only person at the News of the World who was involved in hacking, and that he acted without their knowledge.

In evidence to the House of Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, on 6 March 2007, seven months after Goodman's arrest, Les Hinton, chairman of News International, was asked if he had conducted "a full, rigor-

ous internal inquiry" and was "absolutely convinced" that Goodman was the only person who knew about the phone hacking. Hinton replied: "Yes we have and I believe he was the only person." Hinton added that the investigation would continue under the new editor, Colin Myler, but Myler had already told the Press Complaints Commission 12 days earlier that Goodman's hacking was "aberrational", "a rogue exception" and "an exceptional and unhappy event in the 163-year history of the News of the World, involving one journalist". The same claim was made later by the News of the World's managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, who told Radio Four's Today programme in February 2008 that

only one News of the World journalist had been involved in illegal phone hacking: "It happened once at the News of the World. The reporter was fired; he went to prison. The editor resigned."

These executives were not aware of the evidence disclosed by Taylor's legal action at the time that they made these claims. In an unconnected move, Kuttner yesterday announced that he was stepping down as managing editor of the News of the World.

The then chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Sir Christopher Meyer, promised to investigate "the entire newspaper and magazine industry of the UK to establish what is their practice" but opted not to question Andy Coulson on the grounds that he had resigned, and not to question any other journalist or editorial executive on the paper, apart from Myler, who necessarily had no direct knowledge of what had been going on before his arrival. The PCC's subsequent report failed to uncover any evidence of any phone hacking by any media organisation beyond that revealed at Goodman's trial.

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The law

Phone hacking, private data and the public interest defence

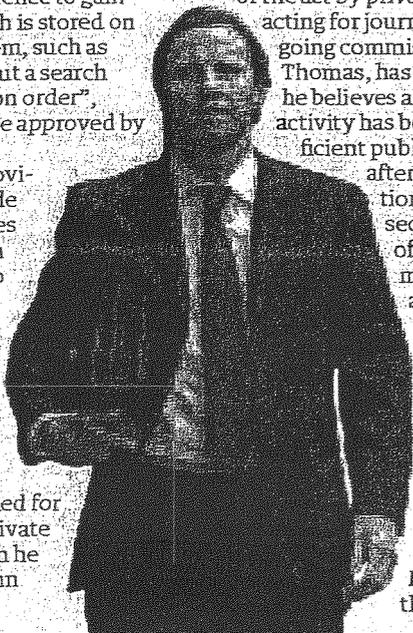
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The former News of the World reporter Clive Goodman was jailed for four months and the private investigator with whom he had been working, Glenn Mulcaire (right) for six



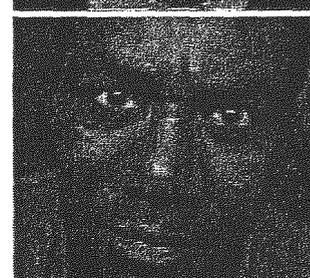
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The outgoing commissioner, Richard Thomas, has made it plain that he believes almost all of this activity has been without sufficient public interest. In 2007,

after a lengthy consultation, the commission secured the agreement of the government to make such breaches an imprisonable offence. However, a lobby by leading figures from News International, the Telegraph group and Associated Newspapers, which publishes the Daily Mail, persuaded Gordon Brown to overrule the plan.



Public figures whose privacy apparently was illegally violated included, from top: Gwyneth Paltrow, Tessa Jowell, Nigella Lawson, Boris Johnson and Lenny Henry

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Press and privacy

Secret spies

The world is waking up to the extent to which modern technologies can destroy privacy. Any citizen with a mobile phone, car or computer is open to surveillance by a broad range of agencies. Newspapers have taken the lead in fighting against state intrusions into privacy - resisting ID cards, databases and the mindless spread of CCTV. Editors inveigh against Google and its potential to intrude into our lives.

More hidden is the way some of the same newspapers have systematically pried into the lives of people in rather repellent ways. It has emerged that one of Rupert Murdoch's news organisations in the UK has quietly paid out huge sums to settle three cases, thereby suppressing details which threatened to expose its involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories. In return for a secrecy agreement, they paid damages of £400,000 or more to one victim - dwarfing the previous record £60,000

breach of privacy payment to the Formula One boss Max Mosley. The total paid in damages and costs tops £1m.

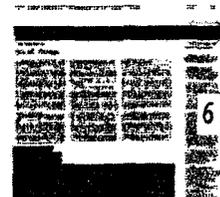
Most of the work was subcontracted to private investigators. A senior Metropolitan police officer claimed to have evidence that thousands of people in public life had had their phones hacked by agents working on behalf of papers. The victims included MPs, cabinet ministers, minor celebrities and sportsmen. The Scotland Yard files mirror parallel evidence compiled by the information commissioner, who uncovered thousands of examples of activity which was "certainly or very probably" illegal.

That detailed evidence has never been requested or seen by the Press Complaints Commission, nor by the Commons media commit-

tee, currently investigating press regulation. Both bodies have hitherto been content with the reassurances of News International executives,

who claimed that Clive Goodman - the News of the World reporter jailed for hacking into royal phones - was a rogue operator. The PCC never called evidence from the newspaper's editor at the time, Andy Coulson, who is now working as David Cameron's director of communications, nor demanded to see paperwork or invoices. Both the PCC and the committee look incurious if not plain gullible. It is awkward for Mr Cameron to have at his side a man who, in a previous life, was responsible for journalists who were breaching the privacy of MPs.

The Murdoch organisation is a powerful one, with tentacles into many areas of public and political life. Individuals working for one of its UK companies have demonstrated their ability to jettison civilised standards of behaviour to attack targets. These allegations should be examined in daylight, not dealt with by means of secret cash payments.



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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS - FRIDAY

Three inquiries into hacking claims as new victims emerge

● MPs summon Murdoch chiefs over dirty tricks

● Targeted public figures consider suing tabloid

● Scotland Yard refuses to reopen tapping probe

James Robinson

News International was last night facing three fresh inquiries into the conduct of its journalists and executives following the Guardian's disclosures that Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire paid £1m to keep secret the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The director of public prosecutions, Keir Starmer, announced he was intending to launch an urgent review of the evidence relating to phone hacking in the case of the News of the World reporter Clive Goodman, who was jailed for obtaining information illegally.

His intervention came after a powerful Commons select committee said it would be calling senior managers from News International to give evidence as early as next week to clarify what they knew about malpractice by journalists at the News of the World. Andy Coulson, the former editor of the paper and now the Conservative party's director of communications, will be asked to appear. He has always denied he knew reporters working for him had hacked into the mobile phones of politicians and celebrities.

The Press Complaints Commission also announced it was conducting an inquiry.

At Westminster, senior Labour figures continued to call for Coulson to resign and the prime minister said that there were "serious questions" to answer.

Gordon Brown was responding after the Guardian revealed that News Group, the publishers of the News of the World, had made the £1m payout to secure secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of journalists using private investigators

to illegally hack into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures. It is also alleged journalists gained unlawful access to confidential personal data, including tax records, social security files, bank statements and phone bills. Targets included John Prescott and Tessa Jowell.

The chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, was one victim and last year he received £700,000 from News International in compensation and legal costs. He agreed not to discuss the case as part of the deal.

However, hundreds of other public figures may also have been targeted. Yester-

day, some of those thought to have been caught up in the affair said they were seeking legal advice. Among them were the celebrity publicist Max Clifford and TV presenter Vanessa Feltz.

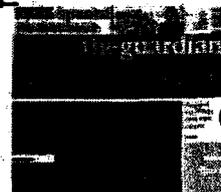
Lawyers told the Guardian that News International could face a series of expensive legal actions if it was proved that reporters working for the group were engaged in behaviour that breached privacy.

The Met's assistant commissioner John Yates said yesterday that Scotland Yard would not be reopening its files on the case because no new evidence had come to light and the original inquiry had concluded phone tapping had occurred in only a minority of cases. "I therefore consider no further investigation is required."

Legal experts made it clear that the Yard's decision would not affect the ability of alleged hacking victims to sue the News of the World for breach of privacy.

The parliamentary inquiry will focus on executives at News International, including Rebekah Wade, the outgoing Sun editor who has been promoted to News International chief execu-

tionary chief execu-



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executive; Stuart Kuttner,
the News of the World's outgoing manag-

Continued on page 5 »



Sir Alex Ferguson's messages were intercepted on PFA chairman Gordon Taylor's phone Photograph: Chris Jackson/Getty

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Three inquiries launched into hacking claims

« continued from page 1

ing editor; Colin Myler, the current News of the World editor; and Les Hinton, the former chairman of News International.

John Whittingdale, the chairman of the committee, said he was particularly keen to question Hinton, who told a previous hearing Goodman had been acting alone.

The Conservative leader, David Cameron, was forced to defend Coulson following calls that he should be sacked.

Cameron told reporters outside his home in London: "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification. That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two and a half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance. As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

The Tories also pointed to Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen its inquiry.

Nevertheless, the DPP said he was setting up a team to review the evidence

and the decision taken over the material discovered during the police inquiry into Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who was also jailed.

"In the light of the fresh allegations ... I have now ordered an urgent examination of the material supplied to the CPS by the police," he said.

He was taking this action "to satisfy myself and assure the public that the appropriate actions were taken in relation to that material". He said the evidence was extensive and complex, "but it has all been located and a small team is rapidly working through it ... It will necessarily take some time. I am only too aware of the need for urgency."

News International broke its silence last night. But the company did not address any of the specific allegations made by the Guardian, saying: "News International is prevented by confidentiality obligations from discussing certain allegations made in the Guardian newspaper today." It said its journalists had complied with relevant legislation and codes of conduct since February 2007, after the Goodman case and Coulson's resignation.

Alan Rusbridger, the editor in chief of the Guardian, said: "We note that News International has not contested any part of the Guardian coverage - including the central assertion that the company had paid a record £1m to ensure secrecy over damages paid to victims of illegal phone-hacking."

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Press Complaints Commission

Victims

Targets of tabloid dirty tricks consider legal action against News of the World

Caroline Davies
 Matthew Taylor

Victims of the phone-hacking scandal were last night taking legal advice following the Guardian's revelations over News Group's secret £1m payout.

The football agent Sky Andrew said: "After being told certain individuals have taken legal action, I will take advice."

Speaking from Barcelona, where he is on business, he said he was surprised by the apparent scale of the hacking. He suspected his own phone had been tampered with when he found his pin number no longer worked. "When you are in an industry like mine, you suspect this type of thing could go on, but you don't actually expect it to happen to you."

Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator working for News International, was jailed in 2007 for accessing Andrew's voicemails during the trial that also saw former royal editor of the News of the World, Clive Goodman, jailed for hacking into the voicemails of royal aides.

But News Group has never publicly admitted any responsibility for Mulcaire's actions, which also saw the hacking of phones belonging to the model Elle Macpherson, the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, publicist Max Clifford, and the Professional Footballers' Association chairman, Gordon Taylor.

Clifford said yesterday: "If all the allegations are true, then it is tremendously serious, because all of us were convinced by the police, by everybody that this was just two people, a rogue journalist and a private investigator, and it was a one-off."

"But what is now coming out is an awful lot more damaging for everyone involved, not just for the News of the World, but also for the Metropolitan police, the

He believed he became a target after falling out with the News of the World in 2005, when Coulson was editor, over its treatment of Kerry Katona. "I suppose I was a prime target because I was no longer dealing with the News of the World, and I was the source of some of their biggest stories under many different editors."

News of Taylor's successful action against the newspaper could open the floodgates for others eager to explore similar actions, Clifford said.

The TV and radio presenter Vanessa Feltz said she had called her solicitor immediately on discovering she was one of several celebrities who had been targeted by "blaggers" - private investigators who con BT, the DVLA, mobile phone companies and other organisations into handing over private details, then sell them to newspapers.

She said: "I am trawling through it all in my mind now, and the more I think about it, the more curious and bizarre the occasions where journalists suddenly appeared out of nowhere."

"In 2006, one of my daughters was taken to hospital. I remember journalists showing up that night at the hospital, and I was thinking: 'How could they possibly have known? I haven't told anybody yet.'

"It's one thing to see paparazzi at the Ivy. But I was finding them at Pizza Hut. There they were, even if it [the visit] had been arranged at the last minute."

Boris Johnson, mayor of London and chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority, was aware News of the World reporters had hacked into his phone before yesterday's story broke. A close source said he had been told by the police around the time of the Goodman trial that his phone may have been bugged.

Yesterday he said many good stories came from "contaminated sources" and that material was often obtained illicitly, - the issue was whether they were in the public interest.

Speaking on the BBC Today programme

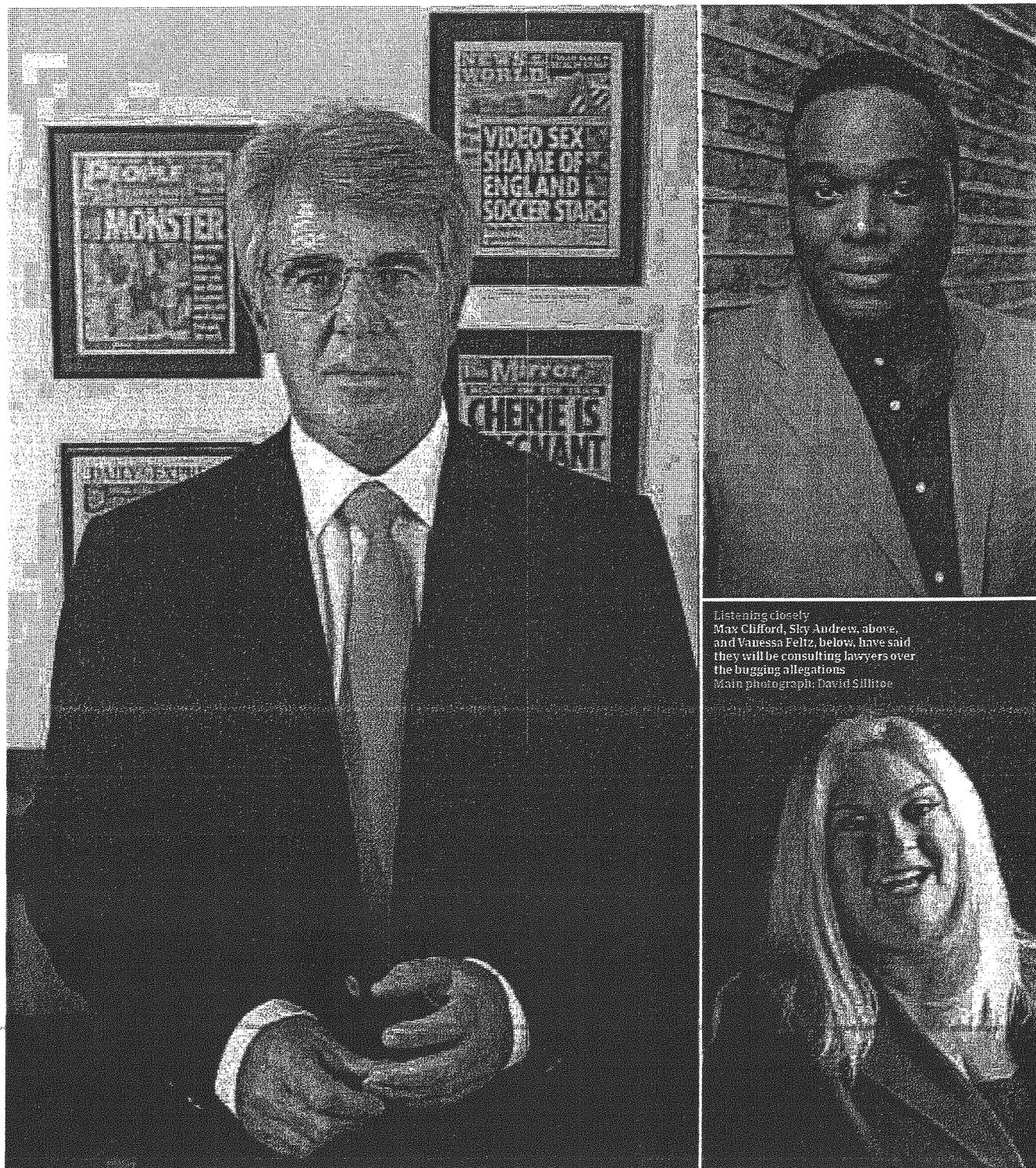
he said: "I'm sure the Met's commissioner will take account of whatever allegations have been made in the Guardian, but I am sure he will go ahead and take the proper action."

Press Complaints Commission and, of course, for Andy Coulson. "Am I taking legal advice? Yes. Have I decided what I am going to do? No."



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Listening closely
Max Clifford, Sly Andrew, above,
and Vanessa Feltz, below, have said
they will be consulting lawyers over
the bugging allegations
Main photograph: David Sillitoe

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Press

Watchdog to examine if News of World executives told the truth

Vikram Dodd

The Press Complaints Commission yesterday said it would investigate whether News of the World executives had told the truth over the extent of phone hacking at the newspaper.

The industry watchdog's decision followed revelations by the Guardian about the scale of the practice, and that the NoW's parent company, News International, had paid £1m to those targeted by its journalists and private investigators they had hired.

A PCC spokesman said it would write today to the Guardian and to the information commissioner to see what evidence both organisations could divulge about the practice.

The PCC said it would also investigate any suggestions of "further transgressions" since its 2007 inquiry into the use of subterfuge by journalists. That inquiry was triggered by the conviction in January 2007 of the News of the World's royal edi-

tor, Clive Goodman, and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, for phone hacking.

In its 2007 report after the convictions and after the resignation of the paper's editor, Andy Coulson, the PCC appeared to accept the News of the World's assertion that the phone hacking was limited to Goodman, and that he had kept the practice from his bosses.

Announcing its fresh inquiry, the PCC said: "The PCC has previously made clear that it finds the practice of phone message tapping deplorable. Any suggestion that further transgressions have occurred since its report was published in 2007 will be investigated without delay.

"The PCC is contacting the Guardian and the information commissioner for any further specific information in relation to the claims published today about the older cases, which suggests the commission has been misled [in] its inquiries."

The PCC operates with the consent of the newspaper industry and has faced criticism that it is too soft on journalists and editors.



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Press Complaints Commission

Legal advice

Anyone who fears their phone calls or personal data may have been hacked could potentially bring an invasion of privacy action against the News of the World, lawyers said yesterday.

"While there is a potential criminal path open, that would have to be brought by the Crown Prosecution Service," said Rod Christie-Miller, of Schillings, a law firm that specialises in defamation and privacy. But there is a civil route too, he said. "The obvious action here is a right-to-privacy breach under article 8 of the European convention on human rights. That generally doesn't give out big damages."

Gavin Millar QC, a specialist in media law at Doughty Street Chambers, said public figures and their lawyers would be attempting to discover whether they had been targeted.

"I think the first step would be for any individual worried about this to go to their phone company or to some expert consultancy that can help them investigate whether their phone's been hacked." **Sam Jones**



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Ministers who justify state snooping might now learn that biters can be bit

The News of the World phone-hacking scandal lays bare the chaos that surrounds our privacy and data security



Simon Jenkins

Every journalist knows that breaking the law is inexcusable - except, of course, where there is an excuse. As a general rule, what I write, however obtained, is in the public interest. What you write is money-grubbing prurience. Now what was the juicy story you told me the other day?

The News of the World scandal is in danger of submerging the body politic in a wave of hypocrisy. The paper did what some newspapers have long done, which is scrape the dustbin of gossip in which lurks the fame of all public figures. Aided by electronic surveillance, journalists use private detectives, hackers, oddballs and dodgy policemen to dig the dirt on behalf of their readers and shareholders. They usually pay money, even if this is not allowed.

Sometimes, as with the Daily Telegraph on MPs' expenses, we are served copper-bottomed sensation. Although the scoop was allegedly based on payment for theft, the world cheered the "public interest". Other times, as with the Dianagate tapes, salacious material

is uncovered with no shred of public interest but which no amount of self-restraint could keep from the public eye. In the case of the News of the World, the ease with which mobile phones can be eavesdropped on supplied a mountain of celebrity gossip.

Human rights law may offer "a right to respect for private and family life, home and conversation", but this is merely a pious hope. When a cloud of secret range-finders can hover over the mobile phones of the stars, policing is near impossible. Hackers can squat in caravans or attics, equipped from any backstreet store. The News of the World gained access to thousands of phone messages. These could as easily have been posted on the web.

Although the police have decided to take no further action, the case raises intriguing but tangential issues. It is implausible for the former News of the World editor Andy Coulson to plead that he did not know what was going on. No editor would be left in the dark about the costly source of such scoops. Even a remark that "I would rather not know" admits responsibility.

When a member of the paper's staff, Clive Goodman, went to jail in 2007 for the hacking offence, a parliamentary committee was told that he was a "rotten apple" and an isolated case. We now learn that Coulson's staff had access to thousands of mobile phone records, all illegally obtained and currently in the hands of the police.

The paper then lavishly paid off some of its victims on condition of confidentiality, while the police (and Crown

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Prosecution Service) agreed to turn a blind eye. They neither pursued other offences by News of the World reporters nor informed those whose private lives they knew to have been compromised. The police appeared to collude in a massive breach of privacy.

The much-vaunted framework of parliamentary oversight and media self-regulation was also left looking idiotic. We have been told for 18 years that the presence of working editors on the voluntary Press Complaints Commission brings a weight of expertise and judgment to its decisions. This is self-serving rubbish, trotted out by successive PCC chairmen who enjoy cavorting with the barons of media power.

The case for non-statutory regulation of the press remains strong, but depends heavily on that regulation being scrupulous and outspoken, as it largely was under the old Press Council with its vigorous chairmen. The present Press Complaints Commission claims to work its magic "behind the scenes". It works no magic. It is dead.

None of this impinges on the central issue of the News of the World case, that chaos now surrounds the confidential-

ity of electronic data in Britain. That law-breaking now depends wholly on the robustness of an "excuse" is hopeless. Most people accepted that the Telegraph was justified in using stolen information to reveal the details of MPs' expenses. But the argument was tested neither in the courts nor before the PCC. It was granted by acclamation.

Public interest is ambiguous. The 1989 Calcutt committee on press privacy, on which I served, spent hours seeking to define that interest and failed, abandoning the term as near useless. A piece of information might be of interest to the public yet in no way impinge on public policy, while a vast grey area covered the lives of public figures. Virtually nothing to do with the private life of Princess Diana was in the public interest - but pull the other one.

Clearly the News of the World would have difficulty proving that its phone-hacking of Gordon Taylor was confined to sporting economics, of Gwyneth Paltrow to debt relief, or of Nigella Lawson to kitchen health and safety. But what if the paper had uncovered evidence that

John Prescott was up to no good? Public interest often emerges in the course of an otherwise prurient fishing trip. The

Telegraph's details of the family food eaten by MPs were highly intrusive, yet considered great fun by one and all.

Meanwhile ministers outraged at press misbehaviour should examine their own. They have passed some 14 measures intruding on the privacy of British citizens in the past decade, powers that outstrip those in any other democratic state. The notorious 2000 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act authorises the home secretary to collect information without limit on any citizen, not just for national security but for "public health and national economic wellbeing".

The national identity register allows all phone and internet browsing to be collected, possibly by private companies, and passed to the state. Under an amendment to the 1998 Data Protection Act, information gathered by one branch of government can be shared with others for "policy purposes". The 2008 children's computer record is accessible to 400,000 officials, yet not to parents.

Some MPs may bridle at the extent of public surveillance, but parliament has shown not the slightest desire to defend personal freedom from state surveillance. The bland claim is made by home secretaries that intrusion is required for "national security", the excuse for absolute power down the ages. Nor is data remotely safe in state hands. When the government tells us its national identity register is wholly secure, it is lying: witness the high-security laptops and CDs discarded by the week. There is no such thing as secure electronics.

Technology gives to those in power, whether in government or the media, immense scope for intrusion. The snooper will always be one step ahead of the defenders of personal freedom. In the case of the government, ministers might at least learn from the Telegraph and News of the World that biters can be bit. If they find ways of gathering absurd amounts of information about private citizens, citizens will gather absurd

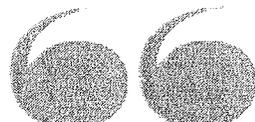
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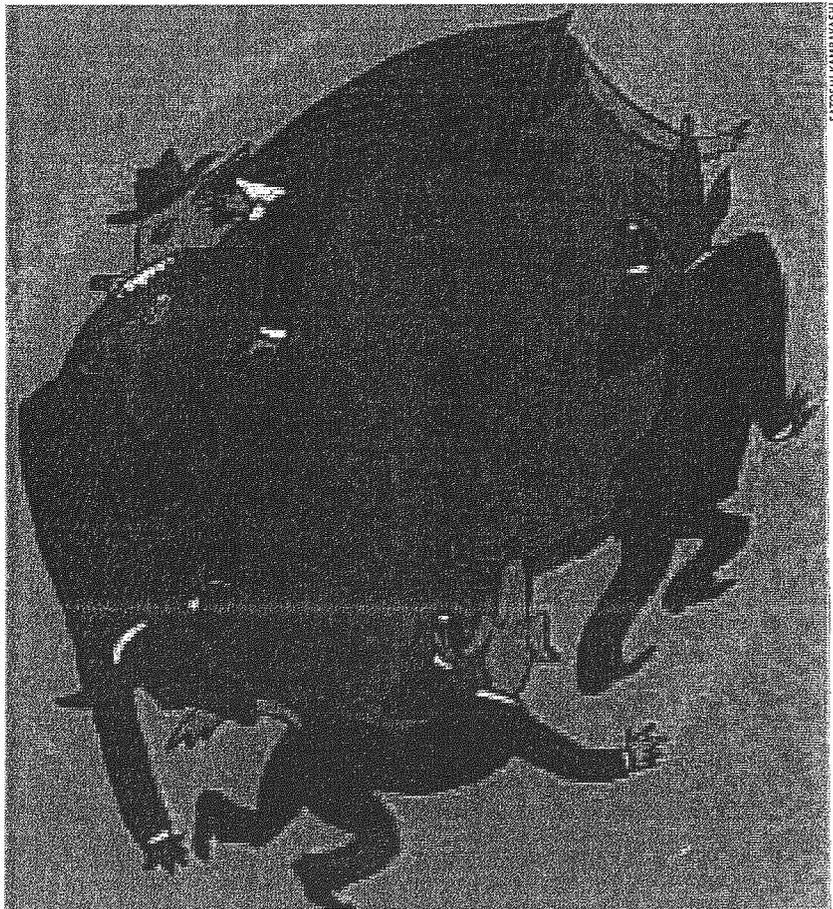
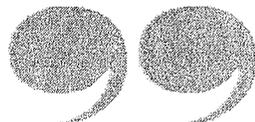
Press Complaints Commission

amounts of information about them.
The press too dices with disaster. However feeble self-regulation has become, common law is increasingly being deployed against intrusion, as the News of the World itself recently found in the Max Mosley case. Privacy laws targeted at the press would be bad because hard to define, as the “public interest” defence shows. But if liberty is to be championed against government, the champions cannot keep shooting themselves in the foot.

simon.jenkins@guardian.co.uk



It is implausible for the former editor Andy Coulson to plead that he did not know what was going on



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Press Complaints Commission

Comment is free ... Tabloid dirty tricks

Paul Farrelly

We will chase this press watchdog that won't bite

The Guardian's "phone-hacking" revelations had a certain, impeccable timing. After a fascinating parliamentary inquiry, with witnesses including Gerry McCann and Max Mosley, our select committee was due this morning to consider its long-awaited report on press standards, privacy and libel.

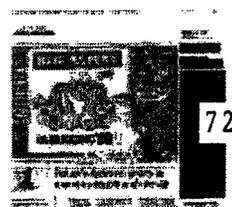
Instead - like the government, the Press Complaints Commission and the police - the select committee on culture, media and sport had to urgently react to what has already been dubbed a News of the World newsroom apparently "out of control", and with the alleged knowledge of senior executives.

Two years ago we carried out a short inquiry into phone hacking by former NoW royal editor Clive Goodman, who went to jail. The editor himself, Andy Coulson, took the rap and resigned. In our 2007 report, we were incredulous that the press watchdog failed to interrogate him, nonetheless, as part of its review into the affair. Also at issue was illicit media use of private investigators - and how effective, therefore, press self-regulation was.

In evidence, News International - its then chairman Les Hinton - assured us that it had carried out a rigorous inquiry and that regarding cash-for-hacking, Goodman was the "only person" who knew what was going on. We have invited Hinton to appear before us again to ask whether he wishes to correct, or amplify, his evidence. That reopens our inquiry and, if we are not satisfied with the answers, parliament can potentially take the rare but reputationally serious step of finding witnesses in contempt.

Today, the PCC said it would act on any fresh evidence. We are already revisiting, after the McCann affair, how effectively self-regulation is working. But we will want to pursue the watchdog further, too, over its "phone-hacking" investigations to date.

Paul Farrelly MP serves on the culture, media and sport select committee



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the guardian

News International

Scandal met with silence

Wapping and Westminster are three miles apart but yesterday the gap between them was much wider. In parliament, MPs were shocked by the reported scale of the News of the World phone-tapping scandal, as described by officers familiar with the case. They were appalled too by the way the courts permitted a newspaper company to seal evidence of apparently criminal behaviour. The Commons culture committee, under its Tory chair John Whittingdale, has promised an immediate inquiry, hauling in media executives and editors, including the Tory communications chief, Andy Coulson, to give evidence.

From News International's east London headquarters, though, little was heard, as if the scandal had happened in a quite different organisation, and there were no charges to answer. The company eventually issued a statement which amounted to little more than

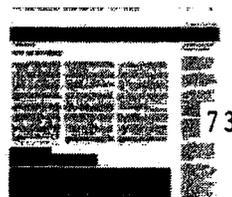
a timeline of the known elements of the tapping scandal of 2006-07. No facts were disputed.

When the phone-tapping scandal first broke, in 2007, the establishment averted its gaze. The Commons culture committee held a one-day hearing; the courts sealed documents and the Press Complaints Commission was diverted by the rapid resignation of the man who then edited the News of the World, Mr Coulson. The blame was heaped on one supposedly rogue reporter and his agent. The Conservative leader even hired Mr Coulson within months - and yesterday he was still defending him, unconcerned by the disgraceful nature of his former paper's activities.

This time round, there must be a proper response. The culture committee is one route: it must ask Mr Coulson, his former executives

and reporters what they did and what they knew. Mr Coulson's narrow denial yesterday,

focusing on payments made after he left, was inadequate. The statement from Assistant Commissioner John Yates was also curious, confining itself to the activities of the royal reporter Clive Goodman. But Goodman was not the reporter who hacked into Gordon Taylor's phone - the case (known to Scotland Yard) which led to the secret payment of £400,000 in damages. Mr Yates referred to Goodman's "hundreds of potential targets". Other police sources say the figure runs into thousands when the work of the newsroom as a whole is considered. News International's statement offers no clarification of the numbers involved. Whether it was hundreds or thousands - attempted or successful - matters less than the £1m in payments to ensure that the culture at work in the organisation remained secret. The police should share their evidence with MPs so that a wider public can judge.



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Yard rules out inquiry as hacking row simmers on

► Recriminations fly after allegations that News of the World phone-hacking targeted 3,000 individuals

► Murdoch's News Group braced for compensation claims but Tories stand by director of communications

By Michael Savage
 POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD announced last night that "no further investigation is required" into allegations that Rupert Murdoch's News Group newspapers conducted a massive phone-hacking campaign against up to 3,000 individuals - but the company's lawyers are braced for a rash of compensation claims from public figures who may have been targeted.

The Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Yates came to the conclusion after reviewing the case yesterday. That followed claims that the former deputy prime minister John Prescott was among the victims of a hacking operation which resulted in the jailing of Clive Goodman, former royal editor of the *News of the World*, and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire in 2007, for unlawfully intercepting communications in an effort to find out information about Prince William.

After being told by *The Guardian* that he had also been a target, Mr Prescott called for the sacking of Andy Coulson, the director of communications for the Conservative Party and a former editor of the *News of the World* who resigned at the time of Goodman's conviction.

A procession of senior Labour figures attempted to heap pressure on David Cameron and his aide Mr Coulson, sniffing revenge for the damage inflicted on the Government by the departure of its disgraced spin doctor Damian McBride.

Gordon Brown took time out from the G8 summit in Italy to say that the phone-bugging allegations raised "questions that are serious and will obviously have to be answered". Lord Mandelson said the public needed "a proper explanation of what went on, how it was

financed, who was involved, and who authorised it", while Alastair Campbell questioned Mr Coulson's position. Tom Watson, the former Cabinet Office minister who was close to Mr McBride before his departure, also chipped in.

But Mr Yates declared last night there was no evidence that Mr Prescott's phone had been tapped. The Crown Prosecution Service does plan an "urgent" review of the evidence on phone-hacking.

In spite of the police statement, News Group still faces the possibility of paying millions in damages to victims of phone-hacking. It was claimed that Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, had been paid £700,000 in an out-of-court "gagging" settlement, after being a victim of the campaign. News Group refused to comment on the allegation.

The Guardian also alleged that News Group settled claims with two other victims, paying out £300,000, and that "two or three thousand" others, including the actors Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow and the chef Nigella Lawson, may have been targeted by private investigators hired by Mr Murdoch's journalists.

But Mr Yates said the police inquiry had been "solely concerned with phone tapping" and that detectives were only aware of this affecting "a much smaller pool of people".

Lawyers urge public figures worried that they have been targeted by the tapping to consider seeking damages. Nigel Tait, a media partner at Carter Ruck, said: "I would encourage those affected by the activities of the *News of the World* to ascertain what information is being held about them, how it was obtained, an order for destruction of the information, recordings etc - and of course to seek compensation and an undertaking or injunction against the newspaper group to prevent this happening again."

Nick Armstrong, a media lawyer with the London law firm Charles Russell, pointed out: "The damages paid to Gordon Taylor were presumably civil damages for breach of privacy, the sum involved dwarfs the £60,000 previous record privacy damages to Max Mosley."

Mr Coulson has always claimed that he knew nothing of Goodman's unlawful methods, despite their wide use. Mr Cameron insisted yesterday that his press chief's job was safe.

The House of Commons select committee on culture, media and sport will on Tuesday reopen its inquiry, set up after the Goodman trial, into how journalists at the *News of the World* obtained their information. John Whittingdale, the Tory MP who chairs the committee, said Mr Coulson was "almost certain" to be called to give evidence.

In an embarrassing development for News Group, the former chairman of News International, Les Hinton, who is now chief executive of Dow Jones and one of Mr Murdoch's most senior executives, is set to be summoned. Mr Hinton assured MPs in 2007 that Goodman was acting independently of senior *News of the World* staff and that his methods were not used by any other journalists.

Rebekah Wade, a former editor of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, will also be asked to provide evidence. Ms Wade was recently appointed chief executive of News International.

Mr Murdoch, who has placed his son James in charge of his British media operations, will be furious at the developments. He told Bloomberg News on Wednesday evening that he had no knowledge of the alleged payment to Mr Taylor, adding that "if that had happened I would know about it".

Among the victims of *News of the World* stories assessing their chances of winning damages



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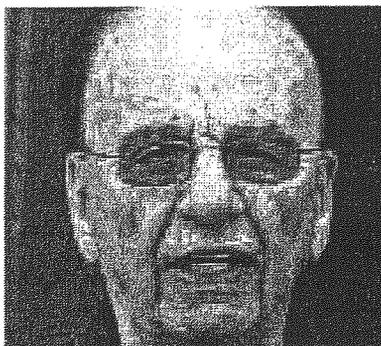
Mr. Mark Oaten,

the Liberal Democrat MP whose relationship with a male prostitute was exposed by the newspaper in 2006. He said he would demand that the Met and the Information Commissioner - whose office raided and successfully prosecuted a Hampshire private investigating firm - hand over any details pertaining to him. "But I urge caution on widespread attacks on journalism over this issue as there may be some cases where it could be justified for good investigative journalism," he said.

Tessa Jowell, who was also named as among those who had allegedly had her phone tapped, is said to be concerned over the allegations. Vanessa Feltz and Max Clifford are among those already consulting their lawyers.

News International said: "It is inappropriate to comment at this time."

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act creates a criminal offence of intentionally intercepting a communication in the course of its transmission on a public telecommunications system without lawful authority. The only defences are if proper authorisation has been given or there is a strong public interest in breaking the law to reveal a crime or serious wrongdoing.



News Group boss Rupert Murdoch and two of the *News Of The World's* alleged victims, Gwyneth Paltrow and John Prescott

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Editorials

The press must not be cowed

REVELATIONS OF widespread phone hacking have landed aspects of British journalism in the dock. A gallery of accusers, from Peter Mandelson to Andrew Neil, have rushed to condemn what took place. But is this pillorying totally justified?

It would seem some newspapers, probably the majority, have occasionally used unethical methods to gain information. It would also appear that some of this was in pursuit of stories that were not genuinely in the public interest.

Such behaviour should not be defended, nor excused. Yet some perspective is needed. The outrage expressed by some of the politicians in this affair is out of proportion to the scale of the alleged breaches of privacy. There is also some score-settling going on. Many of the parliamen-

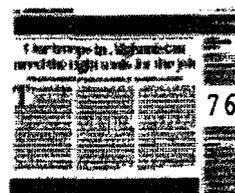
tarians lining up to kick the press are extracting their revenge for what they see as their unfair treatment by the media, most notably during the recent expenses scandal.

Others are extracting partisan advantage out of the affair by demanding the resignation of Andy Coulson, a former editor implicated in the abuses who is now head of communications for David Cameron. We also need to recognise that some politicians have an agenda that goes beyond ensuring that journalists stay firmly within the law. There are elements in Westminster who believe that the press needs to be cut down to size.

This affair should not become an excuse for curbing the freedom of the media to investigate public figures. Many areas of public life in Britain

remain shrouded in secrecy. Despite the passing of the Freedom of Information Act, our right to access information on how we are governed is still limited. Moreover we are moving the wrong way. A privacy law is being constructed by stealth in the courts. And, while politicians hyperventilate about press intrusion, the state is accruing greater powers to pry into the private lives of ordinary people.

Many people in positions of power would much prefer a supine and cowed media. But that would not make our democracy healthier. Nor would it do anything for the cause of privacy. We should ignore the hysteria and remember that, although a free press can be a blunt tool, it remains far preferable to any of the alternatives.



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Hunting nuggets in the public interest – or just to interest the public?

Analysis Dominic Kennedy, Investigations Editor

Time was when a reporter looking for a private address would go into a library and spend hours poring over an electoral roll. Or, to trace a home from a car numberplate they would write to DVLA describing a fictitious bump and request the address for insurance purposes. Did nobody in Swansea wonder why so many potential suitors of young Royals seemed to be involved in non-injury collisions?

As for checking a criminal record, you just had to know an obliging police officer who would make a quick phone call for you.

I was once arrested for “interfering with the Royal Mail” for trying to get suspected terrorists’ names from an IRA safe house by getting a postman to show me the envelopes from his bag. No charges were pressed.

The rise in computer databases created an opportunity for Fleet Street to reduce the tedium and, sometimes, to outsource the skulduggery to private detectives. An information market arose selling details about individuals so that hackers could trace their movements, benefit claims, shopping habits and phone calls.

Newspapers have long paid for stories. The popular press in particular relies on scoops acquired with a chequebook. On the *Daily Mail*, I found that £7,500 was the magic number that turned protests about an invasion of privacy into a willingness to talk.

But the new phenomenon was the arrival of professional information mongers. Any hacker knowing the right passwords could get access to personal computer information — often at call centres. The private detective just needed to pose as, say, a

health worker to check details. Once one newspaper started hiring these gumshoes, rivals were obliged to follow. It became standard practice to ring an investigator and request all manner of information to avoid being beaten to the story.

The amount of detail available could be remarkable. For £50 or £100 it was possible to get an address from a car registration number; an individual’s social security claims from their address; travel arrangements from computerised flight lists. Do you know the most important detail to trace the most reclusive person? Their GP’s address. Everybody needs a GP to access the health service and the family doctor is local, so it is easy to narrow the search. The best key to getting useful information from databases? A date of birth.

In practice, there seemed to be no law against all this. Journalists were far from the only market for these private investigators or PIs — their other main clients were the legal profession. The Data Protection Act forbids the misuse of private data, but there is a public interest defence. Journalists would usually be confident that they could mount such an

argument should the need arise. The tide turned with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act of 2000, which dealt with phone tapping. By defining the narrow circumstances in which it was legal to intercept telephone calls, everything else was outlawed. Now only the police and spies can tap phones legally.

The Act coincided with the rapid growth of mobile telephones and voicemail. PIs had been able to provide two main types of



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information from any phone number: "Friends and Family" or recently dialled numbers. But any child could intercept voicemail as a party trick. Mobiles provide remote access to messages protected by a password, but most users forget to set a password so it remains a default, such as 1234, and can be easily guessed.

Sunday newspaper reporters are particularly vulnerable to laws against intrusion because they survive entirely on exclusives and there is a great temptation to push the envelope. It is hard to offer a public interest defence if a pursued celebrity has been harmlessly pursuing their private life.

Today the line between legitimate and illegal databases is still a bit shaky. Every newspaper has some form of searchable electoral roll to trace home addresses and phone numbers quite legally. Access to the computerised births, marriages and deaths register provides crucial detail about generations of family history. Databases of company directors provide dates of birth and home addresses. These are all paid-for services.

Other databases such as car numberplates, credit history and criminal records are protected by the Data Protection Act — although not if the public interest can be invoked. What may seem like an intrusion into privacy, a search of a database, can lead to information that is clearly in the public interest to disclose.

What about the tip-off that a woman deported to Britain after a welfare scandal abroad is living off social security benefits in this country? Without using a PI to find her address, it would have been impossible to interview her about how much she claimed.

What about a journalist's investigation into a mosque linked to radical terrorists inciting teenagers to racial hatred and the killing of Jews? Is it wrong for a

reporter to find out a suspicious preacher's home address by checking his car number?

The Information Commissioner has warned journalists that he will prosecute for infringements, and in practice there is a daily dilemma about what is acceptable. When a suspected serial murderer of prostitutes was arrested and his car seized by police, did the Press check the numberplate to get his identity? You bet they did — and the interested public read about it the next day.

dkennedy@thetimes.co.uk

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Prosecution chief orders fresh look at phone-tapping investigation files

Sean O'Neill Crime Editor

Prosecutors began an urgent review yesterday of case files relating to the tapping of telephones belonging to prominent politicians, sportsmen and celebrities.

Keir Starmer, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, ordered a renewed examination of the successful case against a *News of the World* journalist and a private investigator. Clive Goodman, the newspaper's former royal editor, and Glen Mulcaire, the investigator, were jailed in January 2007 for intercepting the voicemail messages of Clarence House aides.

The *Guardian* newspaper has claimed that thousands of people, including MPs, footballers, actors, models and other journalists, had their phone messages illegally hacked into.

It was further alleged that many of Goodman and Mulcaire's "targets", including the former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, were not told by police about the threat to their privacy.

Mr Starmer said he had "no reason to consider that there was anything inappropriate in the prosecutions that were undertaken in this case". Nevertheless, he had ordered prosecution lawyers to conduct an urgent examination of the material supplied by the police three years ago. He wanted to satisfy himself and assure the public

that the appropriate actions were taken, Mr Starmer said.

The Metropolitan Police rejected calls for a fresh criminal inquiry into the affair and said that it had been comprehensively investigated by some of its most experienced detectives.

Assistant Commissioner John Yates said that Goodman and Mulcaire had engaged in a sophisticated and wide-ranging conspiracy to gather private and personal data, principally about high-profile figures. "Their potential targets may have run into hundreds of people, but our inquiries showed that they only used the [tapping] tactic against a far smaller number."

Mr Prescott had written to Sir Paul Stephenson, the Met Commissioner, to ask if he had been a target, but Mr Yates said: "This investigation has not uncovered any evidence to suggest that John Prescott's phone had been tapped. No additional evidence has come to light since this case has concluded. I therefore consider that no further investigation is required."

Where there had been clear evidence that people's phones had been tapped, they had all been contacted by the police. Mr Yates added, however, that he would take further steps to ensure that those who suspected they might have been targets was given advice on protecting their privacy.

The investigation into Goodman and Mulcaire began in December

2005 when the Yard received a complaint that the telephones of senior royal aides had been tapped. Suspicions arose after an item about Prince William suffering a knee injury appeared in the newspaper's gossip column. Because of the Royal Family's involvement, the case was taken on by Counter Terrorism Command, then led by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke.

Goodman's relationship with Mulcaire was discovered and the two men put under surveillance. Detectives established that the pair had obtained the override passwords that mobile networks could use to access customers' voicemails and were using them against a small group of people.

When Mulcaire's office in Cheam, southwest London, was raided, detectives found "a war room" where he had compiled vast amounts of information about figures in public life. However, evidence of phone tapping applied to only a few of those in whom Mulcaire had taken an interest.

In his statement, Mr Yates said: "One was a private detective and one was a journalist. It is reasonable therefore to expect them to be in possession of data about such matters as it's part and parcel of their job. Our inquiries were solely concerned with phone tapping. This, as far as we are aware, affected a much smaller part of people."

The investigation pr



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proceeded to prosecution
in the cases where detectives had uncovered the strongest evidence of criminality. Goodman admitted conspiracy to intercept telephone communications. Mulcaire admitted the same charge and five similar counts.

The Old Bailey heard that they tapped into 609 messages left for the Clarence House staff. Mulcaire also admitted hacking into the phones of Elle Macpherson, the model, Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP, Max Clifford, the publicist, and Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association.

A media law firm said last night that it had a list of about 12 people who might join in a "class action" for damages if phones were tapped.

The hunters and the hunted: who's who in the controversy



Gordon Taylor sued the News of the World, but settled out of court



John Prescott was a target, but police say there is no evidence his phone was tapped



The Met chief Sir Paul Stephenson has been approached by Prescott



Richard Thomas, as information Commissioner, compiled dossier



Keir Starmer, the DPP, is reviewing the newspaper hacking case files



David Cameron, Tory leader, is standing by Coulson as his director of communications



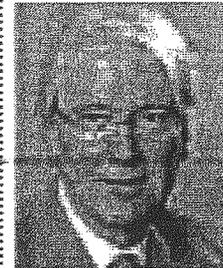
A story about Prince William's injured knee sparked the Operation Motorman inquiry



The model Elle Macpherson had her phone tapped by Mulcaire



The publicist Max Clifford also had his phone calls intercepted



Les Hinton, the former News International chairman, is to be questioned by MPs

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Andy Coulson resigned as Editor; now works for David Cameron



Assistant Commissioner John Yates promises to reassure "targets"

Royal editor Clive Goodman was jailed for corruption

Jailed Investigator Glen Mulcaire had a "war room" of information about people in the public eye



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What happened when

November 2002 Information Commissioner and Metropolitan Police begin investigations into police corruption after a raid in Surrey reveals evidence that officers were selling confidential information from the Police National Computer

February 2003 Andy Coulson promoted from deputy to Editor of *News of the World*.

2003 Information Commissioner's Operation Motorman leads to a raid on the office of Steve Whittamore, a Hampshire private detective. Yields detailed information showing how 305 journalists across Fleet Street had paid him for personal information about politicians, celebrities and ordinary people

April 2005 Whittamore and three others charged with corruption and offences under Data Protection Act. All given a two-year conditional discharge, a penalty so light that the Information Commission abandons plans to pursue the 305 journalists

May 2006 Commission publishes overview of the Motorman case

August 2006 Clive Goodman, the royal editor of the *News of the World*, and the private investigator Glen Mulcaire arrested and charged after hacking into messages left on mobile phones of Palace aides. Police raids reveal that Mulcaire targeted up to 3,000 other people

December 2006 Information Commissioner publishes a table of journalists who used Whittamore. It is topped by the *Daily Mail*, with 58 chasing 952 items of information. *News of the World* is fifth, with 23 journalists after 228 items

January 2007 Goodman jailed for four months and Mulcaire for six under phone-tapping legislation. Coulson resigns, saying he had no knowledge of Goodman's actions. Mulcaire admits hacking into voicemails left for Elle Macpherson, Max Clifford and Gordon Taylor

2007 Taylor sues the *News of the World*

March 2007 Les Hinton, then the chairman of News International, publisher of the *News of the World* and owner of *The Times*, tells Culture Select Committee that to the best of his knowledge Goodman acted alone

May 2007 Press Complaints Commission concludes there is no evidence to conclude that Goodman was doing anything other than acting alone, but says controls at the *News of the World* were inadequate

June 2007 David Cameron names Coulson director of communications

2008 Taylor's legal team serves the Information Commissioner with a court order, asking for details of *News of the World* reporters who engaged in hacking or any other breaches of data protection law. Commissioner provides a dossier listing 27 journalists from *News of the World* and 4 from *The Sun*. The Taylor case is settled on a confidential basis

July 2009 *The Guardian* uses information from the Taylor case to accuse *News of the World* of paying to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of the use of illegal methods to get information

Dan Sabbagh



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Met refuses to reopen Murdoch papers probe

Police inquiry

By Megan Murphy
and Salamander Davoudi

The Metropolitan Police has refused to reopen a criminal investigation into allegations that journalists at Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation illegally tapped into the mobile phones of hundreds of high-profile figures, saying "no additional evidence had come to light".

John Yates, assistant commissioner, last night launched a robust defence of an earlier investigation into the claims, which eventually saw one former News of the World reporter, Clive Goodman, and one private investigator, Glenn Mulcaire, jailed for a variety of hacking offences in 2007.

"Our inquiries found that these two men had the ability to illegally intercept mobile phone voicemails, commonly known as phone-tapping," Mr Yates said at a packed press conference outside Scotland Yard.

"Their potential targets may have run into hundreds of people, but our inquiries showed that they only used the tactic against a far smaller number of individuals... In the vast majority of cases there was insufficient evidence to show that tapping had actually been achieved."

Mr Yates, who is fre-

quently tasked with inquiries that attract intense public and media interest, had been asked to review the case by Sir Paul Stephenson, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, following yesterday's claims by The Guardian newspaper.

While the Met's decision not to reopen the investigation effectively ruled out further criminal prosecutions, lawyers said it was still open for potential victims to bring civil lawsuits.

The Guardian claimed that News Corp had already paid hundreds of thousands of pounds to settle civil cases brought by Gordon

'The practice of phone message tapping [is] deplorable'

Statement by Press Complaints Commission

Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and at least two other high-profile figures.

A court order barring access to documents in Mr Taylor's case was put in place in September 2008, according to the judicial communications office.

"I think the biggest concern for News International is their brand," said Neal Gibson, partner at Nabarro, the law firm. "These are

very serious allegations. If there has been a systematic abuse of privacy laws and that message is repeated again in a civil context, it could have severe ramifications for the brand and the key individuals associated with the corporation."

News Corporation declined to comment.

Mr Yates yesterday explicitly rejected speculation that John Prescott, former deputy prime minister, had been one of the targets of the alleged hacking operation.

The Crown Prosecution Service also damped speculation about a wide-ranging criminal probe, although it said it would review the evidence presented in the Goodman and Mulcaire prosecution.

The Press Complaints Commission, frequently criticised for its failure to crack down on "rogue" journalistic practices, said it would investigate The Guardian's allegations "without delay".

"The PCC has previously made clear that it finds the practice of phone message tapping deplorable."

The PCC issued specific recommendations to publishers to ensure such practices were eliminated, but it did not censure the News of the World and dropped a plan to interview Andy Coulson when he resigned as editor in January 2007 after the Goodman trial.



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"Without fear and without favour"

Friday July 10 2009

In the gutter, but spying on the stars

British journalism needs to raise its standards

Journalism, largely an activity in the private sector, finds its public purpose in claiming to hold power to account, in providing an accessible record of significant events and decisions and in giving space to diverse opinion.

At least until recent years, a market in information, analysis and revelation could be both profitable and civic. From the 19th century, journalism developed an ethic – that it was a craft which guarded the public interest. Most democratic societies have, in effect, licensed journalism to bend or breach laws others must observe in pursuit of information in that interest.

But there is no such defence available for newspapers on “fishing expeditions” systematically paying for the illegal hacking of mobile phones of high profile figures – as yesterday’s Guardian alleges occurred within Rupert Murdoch’s UK press empire.

Many of these events are alleged to have taken place at the News of the World under the editorship of Andy Coulson, who resigned two years ago after one of his reporters and a private investigator were jailed for hacking. Mr Coulson,

who said he had no knowledge of these activities, is now communications chief to David Cameron, the Conservative leader. Yesterday’s allegations raise serious questions about his suitability to be a close aide to a possible future prime minister.

Richard Thomas, the former information commissioner, who did much to publicise newspapers’ dirty tricks, called for these to carry custodial sentences. The government brought in corresponding amendments to the Data Protection Act last year – then, after lobbying from editors, suspended them. They can, however, be activated on the say-so of the justice secretary. There is evidence that newspaper practices in this area have improved over the past couple of years, and this needs to be sustained to keep the threat of government intervention at bay.

More generally, British journalism needs to raise its standards to ward off the danger of statutory regulation. The self-regulatory Press Complaints Commission should be transformed from a passive fielder of complaints to an authoritative setter of standards, a

forum for debate within and outside of journalism, and an ombudsman for members of the public individually, and the public interest as a whole. Journalism faces many pressures: its survival as a necessary democratic actor depends on confronting its faults. These are many, but not incurable.



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Tory relief as police say no to new phone tap inquiry

ROSS LYDALL
 POLITICAL EDITOR

DAVID Cameron's decision to stand by a controversial spin doctor looked to be vindicated last night, when police refused to reopen an investigation into illegal phone-tapping.

The Tory leader had faced the prospect of a massive blow to his credibility when his director of communications, Andy Coulson, a former editor of the *News of the World*, was linked to claims that the paper had used phone-tapping on a huge scale.

This was said to have involved accessing mobile phone voice-mail messages of up to 3,000 prominent people, such as former deputy prime minister John Prescott, Olympics minister Tessa Jowell, London mayor Boris Johnson, TV cook Nigella Lawson, singer George Michael and actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

But the Metropolitan Police announced yesterday that it was not reopening a case that resulted in the jailing in January 2007 of *News of the World* royal

editor Clive Goodman and a private detective he had employed to obtain confidential information about Prince William.

Mr Coulson quit as editor at that time, saying he had "ultimate responsibility".

Mr Cameron had faced calls in the Commons to sack Mr Coulson, who was appointed his communications chief in June 2007 and is regarded as one of his key aides. Mr Prescott and former home secretary Charles Clarke were among those who demanded he be axed.

This followed revelations yesterday that News Group Newspapers – the owner of the *News of the World* – had paid more than £1 million to prevent cases coming to court that would have revealed the scale of illegal phone tapping at the paper and its sister title, the *Sun*.

The allegations led to an emergency statement in the Commons and a statement by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, in Italy for the G8 summit, who said: "There are questions that have to be answered."

But shortly after 5pm, John

Yates, the Met's assistant commissioner, said the 2007 case was not being reopened.

In a carefully worded statement, he said: "No additional evidence has come to light since this case has concluded. I therefore consider that no further investigation is required."

He said the initial investigation had found a "sophisticated and wide-ranging conspiracy", with hundreds of potential eavesdropping targets, but police had been able to prove "only a few" people had been victims of phone-tapping. There was "no evidence" to suggest Mr Prescott's phone had been tapped.

Mr Yates went on: "However, I do recognise the very real concerns, expressed today by a number of people who believe that their privacy may have been intruded upon.

"I therefore need to ensure that we have been diligent, reasonable and sensible, and taken all proper steps to ensure that where we have evidence that people have been the subject of any form of phone-tapping, or

that there is any suspicion that they might have been, that they have been informed."

Nevertheless, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) ordered a review of the evidence that had been supplied to it by police.

MPs on the Commons culture committee also announced the reopening of an investigation into phone-tapping, with Mr Coulson's old boss, Les Hinton, due to appear next week. Mr Coulson could also be called.

All day, Mr Cameron had stood by his communications chief, saying he believed in "giving people a second chance".

Mr Coulson has always denied knowledge of the actions of his former reporter Goodman.

Keir Starmer, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said: "In the light of the fresh allegations that have been made, some preliminary inquiries have been undertaken and I have now ordered an urgent examination of the material that was supplied to the CPS by the police three years ago.

"I am taking this action to satisfy myself and assure the public appropriate



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in relation to that material”

There were also calls for the matter to be taken out of the Met’s hands. Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said a full-scale inquiry should be conducted independently of the Met. This was necessary to ensure allegations that the Met and the CPS had not acted in other cases, for fear of upsetting major media organisations, could be disproved.

He said: “An independent inquiry by either the Independent

Police Complaints Commission or another police force would be more appropriate than a further investigation by the Met.

“Why did prosecutions not take place? Why were the victims of tapping not informed? These are matters the Metropolitan Police must answer.”

Mr Cameron said: “It’s wrong for newspapers to breach people’s privacy with no justification. That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the *News of the World* two and a half years ago. Of course, I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance.

“As director of communications for the Conservatives, he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times.”

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) said it would investigate any suggestions of “further transgressions” since its 2007 inquiry into the use of subterfuge by journalists. “The PCC has previously made clear that it finds the practice of phone message tapping deplorable,” it said.

rlydall@scotsman.com

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Trail began with hacking of royal phones

Q & A

What is the basis of the row over phone-tapping?

The story has its roots in a court case that saw a journalist, Clive Goodman, and a private investigator, Glenn Mulcaire, jailed in early 2007 after hacking into the phones of three staff working for the Royal Family.

A series of stories about Prince William had been run in Mr Goodman's paper, the *News of the World*, based on information known only to a tiny number of people. This raised security concerns and prompted a police investigation. The new revelations suggested that the *News of the World* and its stablemate, *The Sun*, had been conducting illegal phone tapping on a massive scale, targeting between 2,000 to 3,000 prominent people.

Who were the alleged victims of the phone-tapping?

They ranged from John Prescott, the former deputy prime minister, to Gwyneth Paltrow, Nigella Lawson, Boris Johnson and Lenny Henry.

However, the Metropolitan Police said last night it had found no evidence that Mr Prescott's phone had been tapped.

Why are the latest revelations judged so controversial?

The new claims were based upon information used in several law suits but which had never previously been made public. The cases included a claim brought by Gordon Taylor, the former chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who sued the *News of the World's* owners after claiming that senior newspaper executives must have known about the behaviour of Goodman and Mulcaire. It was only on Wednesday night that it emerged Mr Taylor had received £700,000 to agree to drop his case and sign a confidentiality

clause. This is because there was thought to be evidence in the case showing that the paper was carrying out phone-tapping on a massive scale.

Does this have political ramifications?

Yes. The politician most at risk is David Cameron, the Tory leader. His current director of communications is Andy Coulson, who was *News of the World* editor at the time of the court case involving Goodman and Mulcaire. Mr Coulson resigned as editor on the same day that Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison, but maintained he had no knowledge of the illegal phone-tapping, which Goodman was said to have hidden from his bosses by falsifying claims to allow money to be paid to Mulcaire for information he used in stories. Mr Coulson merely said that he was resigning as he accepted the buck stopped with the editor.

Yesterday, Mr Cameron stood by Mr Coulson, in the face of

demands from John Prescott and former Home Secretary Charles Clarke for him to be sacked. Mr Coulson is regarded as a key lieutenant in "Team Cameron", a major player able to understand the demands of the media.

Were the alleged victims aware that their phones were being tapped?

Apparently not. John Prescott said he was unaware. Others, such as Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, who gave evidence in Goodman's trial, knew his phone had been tapped.

MPs demanded yesterday that the Metropolitan Police contact people thought to have had their phone tapped. But legal experts said there was no obligation on the police to do this.

The other revelation was that the secrecy deal on the Taylor case prevented the activities of another private investigator hired by other media from coming to light.

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PHONE-TAPPING - HOW IT WORKS

IT IS the stuff of spy thrillers, but technology experts suggest that tapping a mobile phone is not as difficult as it may appear.

For the most uncomplicated approach, two things are required: the number of the phone itself, and the four-digit PIN code used to gain remote access to the phone's voicemail.

The alternatives are to listen in via the mobile phone company that connects the call - which would effectively require enlisting the help of a rogue employee - or seeking to use listening devices to track a conversation as it takes place.

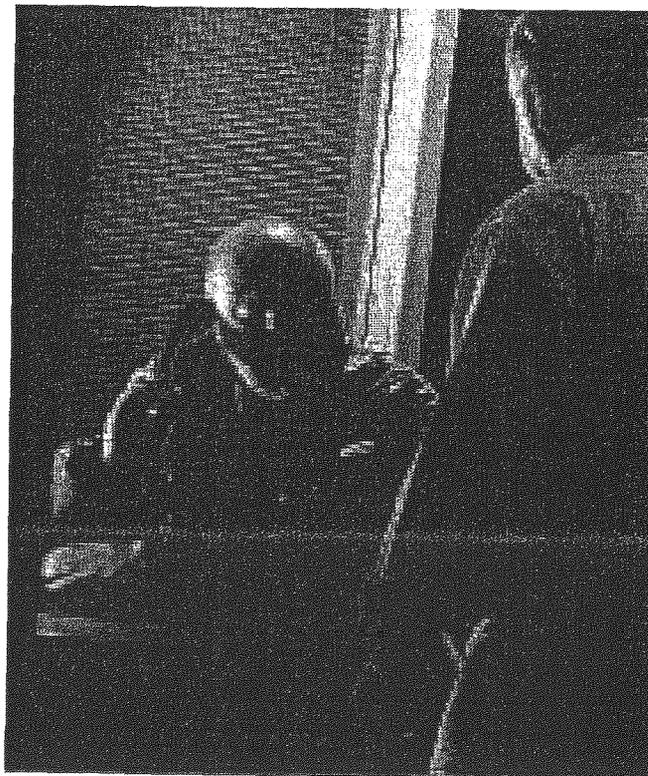
The latter option is said to be the most costly and least likely to succeed as a result of the increasing complexity of mobile phones and the fact that voice messages are now transmitted digitally.

It requires the use of a mini

gadget in the close vicinity of the phone, which fools the phone into thinking it is its "base station" from which signals are transferred.

Mobile users are able to retrieve their messages by dialling a number - normally the number of their phone - and then entering a personal security code. But the vast majority of users fail to protect their messages by neglecting to use a PIN code or by keeping it as an easily guessed number or the default factory setting - something like 1234.

However, as the Metropolitan Police's assistant commissioner, John Yates, suggested yesterday, the results are not guaranteed. While many attempts may have been made to access phone conversations or stored messages, only a few are successful, Mr Yates claimed.



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Royal stories revealed a tale of phones, hacks and celebrities

‘Top names targeted’ in scandal that led to jailing of journalist

Rob Waugh

THE roots of the furore surrounding the use of illegal phone hacking by the *News of the World* can be traced back to two stories filed by former royal editor Clive Goodman in 2005.

They were less than earth shattering – one involved an injury to Prince William’s knee, the other an ITN journalist lending the Prince filming equipment. But what both had in common was that virtually no one outside a very close circle in the royal household could possibly have known about either.

Following complaints by Clarence House, Scotland Yard launched an inquiry and arrested Goodman in August 2006, along with private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

During the court case that followed, it emerged that the newspaper had cast its net wider than Prince William, his brother Prince Harry and their father the Prince of Wales. How wide is now beginning to become clear.

While Goodman was jailed for four months for conspiring with Mulcaire to tap into voicemail messages of the royal household the private investigator was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to five more charges which involved accessing other voicemail messages for publicist

Max Clifford, football agent Sky Andrew, Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) chair-

man Gordon Taylor, MP Simon Hughes and supermodel Elle Macpherson.

The scandal quickly ended Andy Coulson’s reign as editor of the *News of the World*. He announced his resignation shortly after the pair were sentenced in January 2007, saying Goodman’s actions were “entirely wrong” and that he “deeply regretted” what had happened.

Critically, Mr Coulson insisted he knew nothing about the affair and had resigned only because the illegal tapping had happened on his watch. But the sheer scale of

phone-tapping now alleged to have taken place has brought Mr Coulson’s assertion back into the spotlight, along with questions about whether other senior figures at Rupert Murdoch’s News Group, which owns the *News of the World*, knew what was going on.

The full extent is beginning to unravel as a result of legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, who sued News Group after his name emerged as a tapping target in the Goodman case. Mr Taylor refused to accept the illegal activity could not have been known by senior executives and

News International paid him a

total of £700,000 in costs and damages in an out-of-court settlement which also tied the PFA chairman to a secrecy clause.

But details of evidence gathered in that case have found their way into the public domain via *The Guardian* and it is the revelation that allegedly many hundreds of public figures were bugged that threatens to blow a very chill wind through the corridors of Scotland Yard, the Tory Party and the Press Complaints Commission, as well as News Group. Among those named as

being targeted are ex-Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, London Mayor Boris Johnson, actress Gwyneth Paltrow and celebrity cook Nigella Lawson.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson has said he wants to quickly establish the facts amid claims police failed to investigate widescale alleged criminality. Mr Prescott has said the episode reflected badly on the police and he wanted to know why he hadn’t been told his phone was tapped.

The Press Complaints Commission will come under pressure after its earlier probe accepted the *News of the World*’s evidence Goodman was a “rogue element” and no one else knew about phone-tapping.

And the role of Mr Coulson,



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appointed by Tory leader David Cameron as party communications chief in 2007, is already under intense scrutiny. Mr Cameron's initial response was to insist he was "very relaxed" about the revelations. Whether he remains as relaxed if and when further information emerges remains to be seen.

rob.waugh@ypn.co.uk



WRONG CALL: Above from left, actress Gwyneth Paltrow, former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, celebrity cook Nigella Lawson and London Mayor Boris Johnson are named as among those snooped upon. inset, Clive Goodman, former *News of the World* royal editor, jailed for plotting to hack into phone messages.

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Calls grow for Coulson to quit

Cameron aide in 'phone-tap' storm

IT is scandalous that a red-top tabloid newspaper should have, apparently, spent a small fortune on tapping the voice-mails of politicians and celebrities in search, presumably, of personal tittle-tattle as well as snippets of more serious information.

It is hardly less scandalous that the Metropolitan Police chose not to inform the victims of this grubby and illegal activity that their privacy had been compromised, even as a series of quiet legal settlements was being concluded to keep the whole matter secret.

Phone-tapping should be the sole preserve of the police and security services in pursuit of criminals and terrorists. Targets of the News of the World as diverse as John Prescott and Gwyneth Paltrow are rightly furious that the privacy of their telephone conversations has been compromised.

In Mr Prescott's case, the

eavesdropping may have taken place while he was Deputy Prime Minister, which is a grave intrusion with implications for national security.

The announcement, by the Met, that it is not to carry out an investigation,

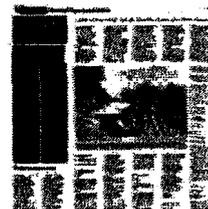
is baffling; it has serious questions to answer about what the police knew and when.

Action is also required by the Press Complaints Commission and the Commons Culture Select Committee to establish the extent of phone-tapping by agents of tabloid newspapers, and subject those who run these publications to the closest scrutiny over their justification for such a practice.

There is one other person who must ask himself searching questions over this affair - David Cameron. It raises uncomfortable questions about his judgment in appointing Andy Coulson

as his media chief.

It was always a risky strategy to employ a man who had resigned in disgrace after the previous phone-tapping scandal. These new disclosures, and the demands for Mr Coulson to be sacked, are an acute embarrassment for the Tory leader, who may find, as Tony Blair found before him, that when the spin doctor becomes the story, the only way to limit the damage is by a swift parting of the ways.



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New probe into paper phone hacking claim

STARS TARGETED: Law chief to re-examine evidence

By Press Association reporters

PROSECUTORS are to look again at claims of alleged phone hacking by the *News of the World*, it was announced last night.

Keir Starmer QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said he had ordered an "urgent examination" of material provided by the police three years ago. The announcement came as police said they would not be mounting a new investigation into claims thousands of public figures had their phones hacked.

Mr Starmer said he wanted to reassure himself and the public that "appropriate actions" were taken over the material. He said he expected to make a further statement in "coming days". He added: "I have no reason to consider that there was anything inappropriate in the prosecutions that were undertaken in this case. In the light of the fresh allegations that have been made, some preliminary inquiries have been undertaken and I have now ordered an urgent examination of the material that was supplied to the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) by the police three years ago."

Earlier, Scotland Yard ruled out a fresh probe into the allegations, after new claims were made in *The Guardian* newspaper yesterday.

Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Yates said police had seen no additional evidence since its last investigation, which ended with the jailing of *News of the World* royal reporter Clive Goodman in 2007. Mr Yates also said detectives had found no evidence that former deputy prime minister John Prescott's phone was tapped. But he said police would now inform any potential victims that their phone may have been hacked where there was any suspicion.

Goodman was jailed for four months and private investigator Glen Mulcaire for six months after they were found guilty of phone hacking. The scandal led to the resignation of then *News of the World* editor Andy Coulson, who is now the Tories' PR chief. Conservative leader David Cameron has defended his director of communications as Labour MPs demanded his sacking.

The cross-party Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee announced yesterday that it

was reopening an inquiry it held after Goodman was jailed. The committee's chairman, Tory MP John Whittingdale, the MP for Maldon and East Chelmsford, said it would be asking former *News International* chief Les Hinton whether he wished to amend his previous assertion that no other journalists knew of Mr Goodman's activities. He said the committee may also call Mr Coulson to give evidence, among several *News International* executives.

Those allegedly targeted by the *News of the World* included former deputy prime minister John Prescott, Mayor of London Boris Johnson

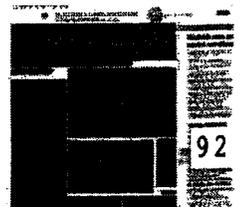
and celebrities including actress Gwyneth Paltrow and celebrity chef Nigella Lawson.

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) said it would investigate any suggestions of "further transgressions" since its 2007 inquiry into the use of subterfuge by journalists. The furore broke after the *Guardian* reported that *News Group Newspapers*, which publishes the *News of the World*, had paid more than £1million to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement in telephone hacking. It quoted sources saying police found evidence of *News Group* staff using private

investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

Last night, the publisher of the *News of the World* defended its journalists and said it would not "shirk from vigorously defending our right and proper role to expose wrongdoing". A *News International* statement stressed its staff have been told that they must operate within the law and the industry's code of conduct, adding however, that the Information Commissioner identified 31 newspapers and magazines said to have used private investigators in 2006.

Editorial Comment: Page 24



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Phone-hacking claims to be re-examined

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ORDERS URGENT REVIEW

PROSECUTORS are to look again at claims of alleged phone hacking by the News of the World, it was announced last night.

Keir Starmer QC, the director of public prosecutions, said he had ordered an "urgent examination" of material provided by the police three years ago.

The announcement came as police said they would not be mounting a new investigation into claims thousands of public figures had their phones hacked.

Mr Starmer said he wanted to reassure himself and the



Keir Starmer: review

public that "appropriate actions" were taken over the material. He said: "In the light of the fresh allegations

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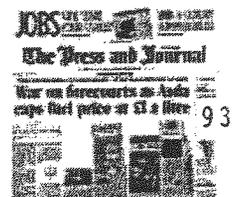
the World royal reporter Clive Goodman in 2007.

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But he said police would now inform any potential victims that their phone may have been hacked where there was any suspicion.

Goodman was jailed for four months and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire for six months after they were found guilty of phone hacking. The scandal led to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Claims prompt 'urgent' review

PHONE-TAPPING PROBE TO REOPEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 resignation of then News of the World editor Andy Coulson, who is now the Tories' PR chief.

Conservative leader David Cameron has defended his director of communications as Labour MPs lined up to demand his sacking.

The cross-party culture, media and sport select committee said yesterday it was reopening an inquiry it held after Goodman was jailed.

The committee's chairman, Tory MP John Whittingdale, said it would ask former News International chief Les Hinton whether he wished to amend his previous assertion that no other journalists knew of Mr Goodman's activities. He said the committee may also call Mr Coulson to give evidence, among several present and former News International executives.

Those allegedly targeted by the News of the World included ex-deputy prime minister John Prescott, London mayor Boris Johnson and celebrities including Gwyneth Paltrow and Nigella Lawson.

Mr Yates said the inquiry had not uncovered any evidence to suggest that Mr Prescott's phone had been tapped.

The Press Complaints Commission said it would investigate any suggestions of "further transgressions" since its 2007 inquiry into the use of subterfuge by journalists.

The furore broke after the Guardian reported that News Group Newspapers, which publishes the News of the World, had paid out more than £1million to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement in telephone hacking.



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Police rule out probe into claims celebrities' phones were tapped

Tory leader backs his spin doctor over allegations

TORCUIL CRICHTON
 CHIEF UK POLITICAL
 CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Cameron was last night sticking doggedly to his senior spin doctor, the former News of the World editor Andy Coulson, against calls for his resignation over allegations of mass phone tapping by the newspaper Mr Coulson once edited.

The Tory leader was given cause to believe he had made the correct judgment when the Metropolitan Police announced they would not be investigating claims by The Guardian newspaper that police had found evidence of News of the World staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones during Mr Coulson's tenure.

The political storm broke around Mr Cameron and his spin doctor when the Guardian reported that News Group Newspapers, which publishes the News of the World, had paid out more than £1m to settle cases before evidence revealed its journalists' alleged involvement in hacking the phones of politicians, sports stars and celebrities. Those allegedly targeted included former deputy prime minister John Prescott, Mayor of London Boris Johnson and celebrities including actress Gwyneth

Paltrow, celebrity chef Nigella Lawson and supermodel Elle Macpherson.

Mr Coulson resigned as News of the World editor in 2007 after its royal editor, Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides. Several months later he was appointed by Mr Cameron and is credited with giving the Tory leader a sharper media image.

Although Conservative Central Office will breathe a sigh of relief that he will not be swept up in a police investigation, Mr Coulson, who issued narrowly-defined denials of knowing about phone tapping, will feel the heat of a renewed Commons inquiry.

There will also be a Press Complaints Commission investigation and the promise of further revelations by The Guardian, which claims the use of phone taps was systemic at the News of the World. The Crown Prosecution Service said it was reviewing its evidence from royal phone tapping case. But one of the central planks of The Guardian's allegations was dealt a blow when Assistant Commissioner John Yates of Scotland Yard, who led the politically-charged cash-for-honours investigation, said no new evi-

dence had come to light to reopen the royal phone tapping investigation and he stated there was evidence to support only a handful of individuals having their phone voicemail messages hacked by private investigators.

Mr Yates blew the most politically sensational claims of The Guardian – that former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott had his phone tapped – clean out of the water. There was no evidence pointing to that happening, said Mr Yates, although he did admit that obtaining evidence of tapping was technically challenging.

But with police facing questions over why they took no action, the mix of criminal allegations, tabloid tactics and a whiff of political scandal mean the story will not disappear quickly and Mr Coulson may still be forced to resign, if only for breaking the golden spin doctor rule of becoming the centre of the story.

Labour, which has expressed private glee and public caution on the issue, see the affair as a perfect mirror for vengeance on the Tories over the embarrassing demise of Gordon Brown's special adviser, Damian McBride, who had to resign after creating fictitious email allegations about leading Tories.

Mr Cameron last night dug

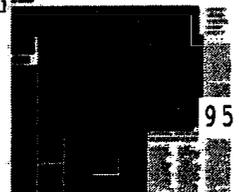
his heels in to defend Mr Coulson. "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification," the Tory

leader said. "That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World. Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance. As director of communications for the Conservatives, he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

The Prime Minister, attending the G8 conference in Italy, said serious questions had to be answered but left the issue for the police. In the Commons, Home Office Minister David Hanson faced a barrage of sometimes synthetic fury from Labour and LibDem MPs demanding the Conservatives sack Mr Coulson. Labour, while trying to maintain decorum, is reveling in the Coulson furore.

Dennis McShane MP said it was a question of David Cameron's judgment and Labour's Ann Clwyd said Mr Coulson ought to have his Westminster pass taken from him.

John Whittingdale MP, the Tory chair of the Commons culture select committee, said it was "likely" to call Mr Coulson to give evidence as part of an investigation into how journalists obtain



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obtained information
and
whether executives knew about
the methods they employed.
The Press Complaints Com-
mission (PCC) said it would
investigate any suggestions of

Leader comment Page 16

**'Mr Coulson will
feel the heat of
a renewed
Commons inquiry'**



**ANDY COULSON: Editor during
the period of the allegations.**



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Publisher insists staff are properly trained

THE publisher of the News of the World yesterday defended its journalists, saying: "we will not shirk from vigorously defending our right and proper role to expose wrongdoing".

The newspaper is embroiled in allegations that thousands of public figures had their phones tapped.

In a statement, News International said it was prevented by "confidentiality obligations" from discussing allegations that appeared in The Guardian yesterday.

But the statement stressed that News of the World staff had been told clearly that they must operate within the law and the industry's code of conduct.

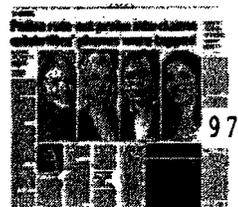
In 2007, News of the World journalist Clive Goodman and private investigator Glen

Mulcaire were jailed for phone tapping.

The following month Les Hinton, then executive chairman of News International, testified to a committee of MPs that Mr Goodman had been acting alone.

The statement added: "Since February 2007, News International has continued to work with its journalists and its industry partners to ensure that its journalists fully comply with both the relevant legislation and the rigorous requirements of the PCC's Code of Conduct."

The Information Commissioner identified 31 publications said to have used private investigators in 2006, said the company, which reaffirmed its right to expose confidential information in the public interest.



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The Herald

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Journalists accused

Allegations raise serious questions

HACK: common epithet for a workaday journalist or the practice of gaining unauthorised access to computer files or information. Among the word's many dictionary definitions, those two caught the eye yesterday, following revelations in The Guardian that Rupert Murdoch's News Group newspapers paid out more than £1m to settle cases that threatened to reveal News of the World journalists' involvement in criminal methods to get stories. If true, the hacks had been hacking, or paying others to do their dirty work. It is alleged that private investigators were paid to hack into the mobile phones of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of politicians, film stars and other public figures, and gained unlawful access to confidential private data such as tax records and bank statements. Stories then appeared with no reference to the illegal source. If substantiated, the scale of this practice was shocking and the backlash could threaten genuine investigative journalism.

When the Commons Culture Committee considered this matter two years ago, it was assured by News International

executives that the jailing of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking phone messages of the Prince of Wales's household represented a single rotten apple in the barrel. Similar statements were made to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), which subsequently issued an anodyne warning to editors about ensuring that staff and contributors complied with data protection legislation. Hacking is illegal under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and there is no public interest defence. Blagging – accessing confidential databases by deception – is illegal under the 1998 Data Protection Act, though such actions can be justified by legitimate public interest.

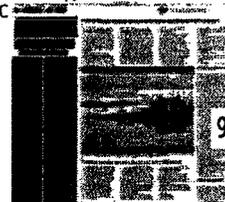
As demonstrated by the Daily Telegraph's revelations on MPs' expenses and allowances, undercover investigative work can play an important role in exposing wrongdoing and is part of an honourable tradition in an open society. However, that tradition is devalued and could be put at risk if journalists ignore legal requirements and embark on large-scale "fishing expeditions" in the hope of

harvesting salacious celebrity tittle-tattle.

The government rejected a call from the Information Commissioner for a two-year maximum prison sentence for breaching data protection legislation, largely because it did not seem to square with notions of press freedom. However, if this freedom is abused, pressure for harsher sentences will be renewed and genuine investigative reporting could be put at risk.

This story also plays into the hands of those who depict the PCC as a toothless tiger. Why did it not interview Andy Coulson, now the Tory director of communications, who resigned as News of the World editor over this issue? Now the commission has undertaken to re-examine the phone-hacking allegations in what must be regarded as a final test of press self-regulation.

The Culture Committee will also re-open its investigation into this issue. In particular, members need to know, if Goodman was a lone rogue operator, why did the paper pay huge out-of-court settlements? And if Mr Coulson did not authorise these c



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who did? If the scale of hacking and blagging on his watch was on the scale described by The Guardian, one would expect any editor worth his salt to ask where these stories were coming from. The fact that senior politicians, including Tessa Jowell and then Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, are among those alleged to have had their privacy violated, raises questions over Mr Coulson's current job at the heart of the Tory party.

Finally, both the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service still have some explaining to do. A truncated Met investigation yesterday dealt only with the Goodman case, while, according to the Information Commission, 27 News of the World journalists were involved in obtaining information potentially illegally.

News International titles publish some good stories and British journalism would be less colourful without them, but no company is above the law.



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Stars 'may sue' over phone claims

Public figures who believe they were victims of alleged phone hacking by investigators hired by the News of the World are considering suing the paper.

One lawyer told the BBC he has had two enquiries and that more celebrities and politicians were seeking advice.

It follows claims in the Guardian that the tabloid paid £1m to settle legal cases which threatened to expose the use of illegal methods to get stories.

Scotland Yard has said it will not investigate the fresh allegations.

In its latest revelations, the Guardian names Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and former England captain Alan Shearer among those whose messages were allegedly intercepted.

Three inquiries have been launched by the director of public prosecutions, the [Press Complaints Commission](#) and a Commons select committee.

'Insufficient evidence'

The Met has already conducted an investigation into phone hacking by journalists at the News of the World.

It resulted in royal editor Clive Goodman and private investigator Glen Mulcaire being jailed for four and six months respectively in January 2007.

The scandal led to the resignation of then editor Andy Coulson, who is now the Conservatives' PR chief.

On Thursday, Met Assistant Commissioner John Yates said Scotland Yard would not reopen its files on the case because no new evidence had come to light.

He said Goodman and Mulcaire had undertaken a "sophisticated and wide-ranging conspiracy to gather private and personal data".

He added the inquiry had focused solely on phone hacking, and in the vast majority of cases, there was "insufficient evidence" that interception had happened.

Mark Stephens, of law firm Finers Stephens Innocent, said Mr Yates' statement seemed "not to address the possibility that there had been a criminal attempt or criminal conspiracy".

He said the director of public prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC, could force police to reopen the investigation or order the release of documents "sealed" by civil courts under case confidentiality agreements.

This could shed light on whether other high-profile figures had been phone hacking victims, he added.

Seeking reassurance

Mr Starmer has said he wants to reassure himself and the public that "appropriate actions" were taken by the police three years ago.

"Given the nature of the offences, the amount of material is, of course, extensive and complex, but it has all been located and a small team is



Sir Alex Ferguson's phone messages were allegedly recorded

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now rapidly working through it," he said.

The Commons culture, media and sport select committee has announced it will reopen an inquiry held after Goodman was jailed and may call Mr Coulson to give evidence.

During the Goodman trial, it emerged Mulcaire had hacked into the phones of model Elle Macpherson, publicist Max Clifford, Simon Hughes MP and the Professional Footballers' Association's Gordon Taylor.

But the Guardian claims they were among "two or three thousand" figures targeted.

News International, the parent company of News Group, said it would be "inappropriate" to comment on the Guardian's allegations.

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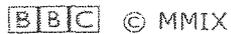
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[Guardian exclusive: News of the World phone-hacking](#)

**Murdoch papers paid £1m to gag
phone-hacking victims**

News of the World bugging led to £700,000 payout to PFA chief
 executive Gordon Taylor
 former editor Rebekah Wade and Conservative communications
 chief Andy Coulson - both ex-NowW editors - involved
 News International chairman Les Hinton told MPs reporter
 killed for phone-hacking was one-off case

Nick Davies
 guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 8 July 2009 17:33 BST
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News International responds to allegations made in the Guardian newspaper

Posted: **09/07/09** By: **Judith Townend**

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News International has reacted to **allegations made in the Guardian newspaper** that Rupert Murdoch's group of newspapers had 'paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of [NI] journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories'.

In a statement issued this evening, the corporation said: "News International is prevented by confidentiality obligations from discussing certain allegations made in the Guardian newspaper today."

However, 'in light of the assertions about activities of News of the World journalists', the company said it wished to set out its version of a '**chronology of events** and the Company's response to them.'

"Since February 2007, News International has continued to work with its journalists and its industry partners to ensure that its journalists fully comply with both the relevant legislation and the rigorous requirements of the PCC's Code of Conduct. At the same time, we will not shirk from vigorously defending our right and proper role to expose wrongdoing in the public interest," the statement said.

The Guardian reported yesterday that there had been out-of-court settlements in three cases "that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data, including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills".

It alleged that the 'suppressed legal cases' could be linked back to the imprisonment in January 2007 of a News of the World reporter, Clive Goodman, who was sentenced under the Regulation of

Investigatory Powers Act for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff.

Following the Guardian's revelations, the House of Commons select committee for culture, media and sport today **announced that it would open an inquiry into phone hacking at the News of the World newspaper.**

In a hearing in April 2009, however, **committee chairman, John Whittingdale, told the journalist Nick Davies:** "We did do an investigation both into Motorman [investigation undertaken by the Information Commissioner's Office into alleged offences under data protection legislation] and into Goodman so I do not want to revisit old ground too much."

Nick Davies, who exclusively reported the allegations for the Guardian newspaper yesterday afternoon, had told the committee in April that he believed there was 'a real will on the part of the PCC [Press Complaints Commission] to avoid uncovering the truth about phone hacking' and that newspapers still used private investigators:

"It is wrong but they are not doing anything about it and that continues despite Motorman. All that has happened is that they have got a little bit more careful about it. I actually got to know that network of private investigators who were exposed in Motorman. Years after that I was in the office of one of them and he was taking phone calls from newspapers while I was there," Davies told the committee.

Today, the Press Complaints Commission, which previously published **its findings two years ago**, said that 'any suggestion that further transgressions have occurred since its report was published in 2007 will be investigated without delay'. In addition, the body said it would begin to investigate 'the older cases, which suggest the Commission has been misled at any stage of its inquiries into these matters'.

Update: Responding to News International's statement, Nick Davies told Journalism.co.uk that it 'is very striking that they make no denial' of the allegations. "For example, of the estimate we have from two sources on the Scotland Yard inquiry that News of the World journalists **hacked thousands of phones**; nor that there is evidence of other News of the World journalists being involved - no denial of a single line in our stories."

"There's not much in there," Davies said. "The most interesting line is the opening one where the reference to confidentiality implicitly

confirms the fact that they made a **confidential deal** with Gordon Taylor [chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association] and two others."

Davies added that John Yates, Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner, who announced on Thursday that there is no need for further police investigation, **had not denied the 'thousands' of phones claim either**: "He speaks only of 'hundreds' of potential targets but he is limiting his comments to the activities of Clive Goodman as a lone reporter, he doesn't talk about the activities of the other News of the World journalists who were involved."

- **Additional coverage over on the Journalism.co.uk Editors' Blog at this link.**
- **The Guardian has produced a background timeline at this link.**
- **The Guardian has printed a response to John Yates' statement here.**

The chronology, as claimed by News International, in its statement:

- **May 2006:** "The Information Commissioner published a report entitled 'What Price Privacy?' This outlined the use of private investigators by the media, insurance companies, solicitors and local authorities in order to obtain personal information during the period from early 2001 to early 2003."
- **December 2006:** "The Information Commissioner published a follow-up to his report of May 2006. This contained a list of 31 newspapers and magazines said to have used private investigators to obtain confidential information, which included titles from Associated Newspapers, Trinity Mirror, News International, Guardian Media Group and others. The Information Commissioner reaffirmed the right to obtain confidential information to prevent or detect crime or in the course of genuine investigatory journalism that can be justified in the public interest. These reports were examined in depth and attracted significant press coverage following their publication."
- **August 2006:** "News of the World journalist Clive Goodman and Glen Mulcaire, a private investigator, were arrested and charged with illegal interception of communications under the **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000**. This followed a police investigation with which News International fully cooperated."
- **January 2007:** "Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison and Glen Mulcaire received a sentence of six months in prison. Andy Coulson, the Editor of the News of the

World, resigned taking ultimate responsibility. Colin Myler was subsequently appointed the new editor of the News of the World."

- **February 2007:** "Colin Myler wrote to every member of staff on the newspaper clearly setting out the conduct expected of journalists as employees and subsequently implemented a sustained compliance programme along the following principles: all journalists must operate within the law; all journalists must adhere to the PCC Code of Conduct as set out in their contracts of employment; every member of staff has a duty to represent the News of the World in a professional manner; all journalists attended regular training seminars on legal and PCC issues."
- **March 2007:** "Les Hinton, then executive chairman of News International, appeared before the culture media and sport select Committee. Mr Hinton testified that, to the best of his knowledge, following internal investigations, Goodman was acting alone".

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2. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS - THURSDAY

guardian.co.uk

News of the World phone-hacking: Press watchdog reopens investigations

Press Complaints Commission to probe allegations of phone hacking by Murdoch journalists in light of Guardian revelations

James Robinson

guardian.co.uk, Thursday 9 July 2009 11.49 BST

The Press Complaints Commission is to investigate allegations of phone hacking by News of the World journalists in the light of new evidence uncovered by the Guardian about the extent of the practice "without delay".

In a statement on its website, the PCC also said it would contact the Guardian and the Information Commissioner to obtain examples of specific incidents where phone hacking was used by journalists at the paper.

"The PCC has previously made clear that it finds the practice of phone message tapping deplorable," the watchdog said. "Any suggestion that further transgressions have occurred since its report was published in 2007 will be investigated without delay."

The commission conducted an investigation into phone-hacking and other methods of obtaining information by "subterfuge" in 2007 after Clive Goodman, the former royal editor of the News of the World, was jailed for obtaining information illegally. Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who was on the News of the World payroll and was used by Goodman, was also jailed.

The commission could now reopen its investigation, which sought to establish whether such techniques were widespread in Fleet Street.

In its statement, the PCC said it had held the 2007 enquiry because it believed the Goodman case "threatened to undermine public confidence in investigative journalism". Goodman's activities breached the PCC Code of Conduct, which includes strict instructions on how information can be obtained. Clause 10 of the code bans the practice of intercepting phone calls and messages unless there is a strong public interest.

The PCC issued six "specific recommendations to publishers to ensure that phone message tapping – where it had taken place – was eliminated". It did not censure the News of the World, however, and also dropped a plan to interview Andy Coulson after he resigned as the paper's editor in January 2007 in the wake of the Goodman case, choosing instead to question his successor, Colin Myler.

"The PCC is contacting the Guardian newspaper and the Information Commissioner for any further specific information in relation to the claims published today about the older cases," the regulator said.

It added it would seek to establish whether it had "been misled at any stage of its inquiries into these matters".

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Met police body calls for meeting to discuss phone-hacking revelations

Some members of Metropolitan Police Authority dismayed at Boris Johnson's hands-off stance

Hélène Mulholland

guardian.co.uk, Thursday 9 July 2009 10.59 BST



Boris Johnson, the mayor of London. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/PA

Members of the Metropolitan Police Authority today called for a meeting to probe the "breathtaking" revelations in today's Guardian that Scotland Yard failed to tell public figures and senior politicians that their phones were being hacked by journalists working for Rupert Murdoch's News Group.

Some members of the London assembly who sit on the authority were dismayed that Boris Johnson, who is its chairman, said it was not his job to get involved with the policing implications outlined in today's report.

Johnson said he had not read the coverage but had "no doubt" the police would do the right thing, as the people of London would expect.

Johnson, the mayor of London, was among the individuals believed to have been targeted by investigators working on behalf of News Group newspapers when he was still shadow higher education minister for the Conservatives.

Evidence was suppressed involving journalists at the News of the World who used private investigators to illegally hack into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures, including the then-deputy prime minister, John Prescott, and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data, the Guardian revealed today.

The Metropolitan police took the controversial decision not to inform public figures whose phones had been targeted, and the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to take News Group executives to court.

One of the former News Group journalists in the spotlight is Andy Coulson, the former editor of the News of the World who is now David Cameron's communications chief.

Johnson insisted it would "not be right" for him to intervene in the affair.

"Obviously as chair of the MPA it would not be right for me to intervene at all in any operational decision they might make," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

The MPA's main role is to hold the Met commissioner to account and ensure an effective and efficient police service. Pressed on whether he would call on the commissioner to

investigate the failure to inform targets, Johnson said: "I'm sure the Met commissioner will take account of whatever allegations have been made in the Guardian, but I am sure he will go ahead and take the proper procedures and decide on whether he needs to take action."

In an interview with Five Live, Johnson said most great stories involved someone acting illegally. The issue was whether they were in the public interest.

He made a distinction between the Daily Telegraph's series on MPs' expenses and revelations about celebrities' personal lives. In the expenses scandal, a disk was passed to the Telegraph via intermediaries from the Commons, and Johnson said most people would agree the paper had been right to use the information.

Jenny Jones, a Green party member of the London assembly who also sits on the MPA, criticised Johnson's "rabbit in the headlights" stance.

"Even if he is involved [as one of the public figures whose phone was hacked] it would be appropriate to invite the commissioner and to say why he did not pass it on," Jones said. "In some ways he has to defend the commissioner and the police service if there is going to be criticism, so he needs to know."

Jones called on the mayor to reinstate a full authority meeting scheduled in two weeks' time that she said was "arbitrarily cancelled" by his deputy, Kit Malthouse.

She added: "The disturbing thing is if there was proof that phones had been hacked, why did [the police] not get in touch with people themselves? That is the worrying aspect."

John Biggs, a fellow MPA member who is deputy leader of the Labour group, echoed Jones's call for a meeting to be held this month in light of today's report.

The police authority has a duty to "discretely ensure" the police investigate all matters of reasonable interest to the general public, said Biggs.

"If ultimately we feel the police service had not properly investigated this, we would want to delve further and investigate it further as necessary. For the police authority to get involved there needs to be a perceived failure of policing."

James Cleverly, a Tory member of the MPA who is Johnson's youth ambassador, backed the mayor and insisted it was not the authority's job to investigate what he described as "live cases".

"If the mayor started to get involved in deciding the case-by-case decisions of the Met then it would become part of the executive," said Cleverly.

But he conceded that the MPA could retrospectively look at why the police did not inform individuals at the time that their phones had been hacked so that it could inform policy in the future.

Dee Doocey, a Liberal Democrat assembly member on the MPA, said the revelations in today's Guardian were "breathtaking".

"It is disturbing in the extreme if for any reason the Metropolitan police made a decision not to inform everyone who has been a victim of such serious crimes, and we need to hear from the Met whether or not this is the case," she said.

"We also need to know why there is so much secrecy surrounding the civil actions that have taken place since a reporter for the News of the World was jailed for committing this crime.

"Questions need to be answered by the Met as to who knew what and when, whether any further prosecutions are likely, and what steps the police are taking to ensure that no one individual or organisation is above the law."

The MPA said the full meeting scheduled for this month had been cancelled because the main item on the agenda, the report from the MPA Race and Faith inquiry, would not be

ready in time. However, this report is still in the process of being completed and will now not be ready for the July meeting.

A spokeswoman was unable to say at this point whether the meeting would be reconvened in light of the matters arising from the Guardian's coverage.

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News of the World phone-hacking affair 'very serious', says Gordon Brown

Speaking from G8 in Italy, prime minister says Guardian story raises questions that need to be considered

Hélène Mulholland
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 9 July 2009 15.20 BST

Gordon Brown said today the questions raised by the phone-hacking affair were "very serious".

The prime minister told a press conference at the G8 in L'Aquila, Italy: "This raises questions that are very serious, that will have to be considered. And I understand the police are considering an inquiry and so I have nothing more to say."

In the Commons, David Hanson, the police minister, claimed today that neither the government nor Scotland Yard were aware of allegations that Rupert Murdoch's News Group had hacked the answerphone messages of thousands of public figures until the Guardian published its report today.

"My understanding is that both the Metropolitan police, and indeed myself and my right honourable friend the home secretary, discovered these allegations on the production of the newspapers overnight and this morning," Hanson told the Commons today.

The minister's claim that the police were unaware of the phone-hacking was made in response to a question from Keith Vaz, the home affairs select committee chairman, who pointed out that his committee had been told by senior officers in its recent inquiry into the arrest of shadow immigration spokesman Damian Green that the home secretary and other politicians on the Metropolitan Police Authority were routinely informed of any investigation involving a high-profile politician.

Hanson stood in for Alan Johnson, the home secretary, to field a series of questions by MPs following the Guardian's report highlighting widespread phone-hacking in 2006 by the News of the World, whose editor at the time was Andy Coulson, now David Cameron's head of communications.

Johnson was attending the Association of Chief Police Officers' conference in Manchester as Hanson struggled to answer most of the queries raised this morning on the grounds that the Guardian allegations were news to both the government and to the police.

The minister told MPs that the Met was "urgently considering" the allegations and would make a statement later, though not necessarily today. "These are serious allegations that have been made. They deserve an examination."

Evan Harris, the Lib Dem MP for Oxford West and Abingdon who had demanded the emergency statement from Hanson, said the Guardian's story had raised fears that surveillance was now undertaken not just by the government, but also the media. "We all want to see healthy, responsible investigative journalism," he said, "especially of public figures who wield power – but that must be within the law ..."

"It will be extremely toxic for our democracy if vested interests are seen to be able to buy their way out, in some way, of the criminal justice system."

John Whittingdale, the Tory chair of the culture committee, said that while it was well known at the time that a private investigator had intercepted calls by a wide number of people, the chair of News International had given a "categorical assurance" that no other

journalist beyond Clive Goodman had any involvement or knowledge in that matter.

The committee took evidence from Les Hinton, who ran Rupert Murdoch's stable of British newspapers at the time, about phone hacking at the News of the World during an earlier 2007 inquiry into self-regulation of the press.

That was prompted, in part, by the arrest of Goodman, the former News of the World royal editor, in August 2006 on charges of obtaining information illegally. Goodman was jailed in January 2007, prompting Coulson's resignation.

The matters that came to light have prompted the Commons committee to launch an urgent investigation. Whittingdale asked Hanson whether he was aware of any evidence to contradict Hinton's previous statement.

"And when my select committee reopens its inquiry as we have decided to do, will he ask the Metropolitan police to provide us with any information that they have relevant to this case?"

Hanson said he would take care of what Whittingdale had suggested but that the allegations were still being examined at this stage.

Hanson was similarly unable to answer David Davis, the former shadow home secretary, when he raised his concerns about the fact that none of the public figures targeted for surveillance had been notified that they were the victims of a crime. "Now that is a matter for the home secretary. Can he give an answer to that?"

But Hanson reiterated that it was too early for him to comment.

The Commons heard calls for Coulson to be sacked by the Tories following allegations of his possible involvement in criminal activity.

Chris Huhne, the Lib Dems' home affairs spokesman, said: "It is extraordinary that the leader of the opposition, who wants to be a prime minister, employs Andy Coulson, who at best was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and at worst was personally [involved] with criminal activity. The exact parallel is surely with Damian McBride. If the prime minister was right to sack Damian McBride, should the leader of the opposition not sack Andy Coulson?"

Hanson told MPs that phone-hacking without authority was a criminal offence punishable with a fine or a prison sentence of up to two years.

Chris Grayling, the shadow home secretary, prompted laughter as he urged everyone in the house to give a "measured response" to the issues raised and leave it to the police to decide whether there was "any new information that warrants further action".

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**GREENSLADE
BLOG**

Reading between the lines of Coulson's phone-hacking denial

*You didn't know about that one,
well then what else don't you know - Arlo Guthrie, **Presidential Rag***

Andy Coulson, the former **News of the World** editor who is now communications chief for Tory leader **David Cameron**, issued a statement last night following **The Guardian's phone hacking revelations**.

His statement, as carried in the **Financial Times** - and repeated in BBC news bulletins this morning - ran as follows:

"This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

It seems so carefully and, to my mind, narrowly worded that I think it merits deconstruction. The first paragraph is fair enough. I think we can assume that he is completely honest about having not been told about the Gordon Taylor payment.

He is outside the **News International** organisation. The settlement was supposed to be confidential. In such circumstances, there is no reason why anyone beyond a restricted circle within Wapping and the company's lawyers would have been informed.

But the second paragraph is altogether different. Note first how he calls it "the Mulcaire case", mentioning only the private investigator **Glenn Mulcaire** and thereby neatly omitting to mention the name of his own culpable royal editor, **Clive Goodman**.

Second, he claims it was "investigated thoroughly by the police and the Press Complaints Commission". It was not. By its own admission, the PCC did not carry out any investigation, thorough or otherwise. Indeed, the commission said at the time, and has maintained ever since, that it could not do so because of Coulson's timely resignation.

As for the police inquiry, as **Nick Davies's** revelations make abundantly clear, it was far from thorough. Was Coulson interviewed? Were any News of the World executives interviewed? Victims of the phone hacking were not even informed, let alone interviewed.

Now let's consider that final Coulson sentence: "I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge. and resigned."

It is, when you know how popular newspapers operate, an extraordinary admission. Let's accept that Coulson is telling the unvarnished truth. It means that he fell on his sword for the sins of others.

That's very noble, of course. But before we ask why he played the martyr, let's accept

Coulson's claim that he did not know what was happening on his watch. It is an admission of extraordinary editorial incompetence, is it not?

Here was an editor who was entirely ignorant of how exclusive stories arrived. Yet, as I observed at the time, someone – some executive – had to know the provenance of such stories. Even experienced reporters would be asked by their news editor how they can be sure of their stories' veracity.

Moreover, someone had to be answerable for paying the equivalent of £2,000 a week to Mulcaire and explaining why he was worth so much.

So it beggars belief that the internal inquiry supposed carried out by Goodman's and Coulson's bosses – which was overseen by the newsroom-savvy **Les Hinton**, the then News Int chief – did not discover exactly who in the NoW office was aware of how stories were obtained and what Mulcaire was doing in order to merit his rewards.

Of course, an inquiry may have been held. Perhaps someone, an executive, was found to be responsible. Were they quietly fired or demoted (or even promoted)? These are questions that should now be answered when News Int finds it "appropriate" to issue a public statement on the affair.

But let us not overlook that Coulson's resignation was hugely beneficial to News International. It sealed off further scrutiny. And the circumstances of that resignation therefore raise questions too.

It is fair, in the light of these new revelations, to revisit the details of that resignation. Was there a severance deal? Did Coulson receive a pay-off? If so, how much? It has become very clear in the years since his resignation that Coulson and News Int executives have remained on very good terms. Why should that be?

After all, he departed after one of the most disgraceful episodes in newspaper history, admitting he didn't know what was happening in his own paper. Why is an editor who left under a dark cloud still feted by his former bosses?

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**GREENSLADE
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New PCC chair must investigate the News of the World hacking scandal

Was the **Press Complaints Commission** responsible for bringing about **Andy Coulson's** resignation from the **News of the World**? That's the belief – or claim – of some commissioners, some of its officials and the PCC's former chairman, **Christopher Meyer**.

Here is the logic of their argument. Immediately after the arrest in August 2006 of the NoW's royal editor, **Clive Goodman**, and the private investigator, **Glenn Mulcaire**, the PCC realised it must act or risk public condemnation for sitting on its hands.

There was no formal complaint, the normal starting point for a PCC inquiry (though a press release at the time did mention that the PCC had "received a number of inquiries" without specifying what that meant). None of the victims of the hacking complained and there was not even a third-party complaint. But Meyer, understanding the likely public clamour, saw the necessity of being pro-active.

In that announcement, he said that the editor's code of practice prohibited the intercepting of mobile phone messages, calling it "completely unacceptable" and warned that the commission reserved the right to investigate the News of the World's conduct "if, at the end of the legal process, it appears that there are unresolved questions about its application of the code."

The Guardian commented at the time in a stinging editorial that it was all very well for Meyer to remind journalists of their obligations under the code but thought the PCC "remarkably incurious and unwilling to instigate an inquiry of its own, despite the prima facie evidence against hundreds of journalists."

Meyer did not respond that kind of criticism in public, but it is suggested that in between his August 2006 statement and the trial in January 2007 - at which Goodman and Mulcaire were jailed - Meyer let it be known to **News International** executives, such as its then chief executive **Les Hinton**, that he would be pursuing an inquiry following the court case.

Therefore, according to this scenario, Hinton and Coulson decided that the best course of action was for Coulson to resign the instant the verdicts were delivered. No inquiry was subsequently held and Meyer considered that his actions were, to use a phrase that he has repeated ever since, "determinant in the editor resigning."

Following Coulson's departure, Meyer announced at the beginning of February 2007 that he was seeking answers about the News of the World's *future* (rather than *past*) conduct from the newly-appointed editor, **Colin Myler** "to ensure that the situation involving MyGoodman and Mr Mulcaire does not recur."

All thoughts of an investigation of any kind – into the NoW specifically or the wider allegations about voicemail hacking in other papers – were forgotten. So what are we to make of this claim? Well, it could be true (though I imagine Coulson – and, possibly, Hinton – would dispute it).

Certainly, as Daily Mail, did amend its journalists' contracts of employment to demand that staff were obliged to abide by the Data Protection Act.

For many critics, it appeared that the PCC had done the minimum, and I still have my doubts about whether Meyer's pressure on News International was as conclusive as we are being led to believe.

Anyway, as I have often pointed out in persistent arguments about the need for greater transparency, these kinds of behind-the-scenes "deals" do not give the public confidence in self-regulation. Indeed, they have the effect of undermining its standing because people are excluded from knowing what has been done.

So the absence of a proper investigation into hacking was a mistake. That said, before people damn the PCC out of hand, we must understand the limits of its remit and, most importantly, of its resources.

It is not a statutory body. It has no legal or investigatory powers. It cannot compel anyone within the industry that it is supposed to "police" to be interviewed. It has a small secretariat who, I'm bound to say, do wonders in the circumstances.

Due to its remit, which specifically states that it is complaints body (it says it on the tin), it is in its nature to be reactive rather than pro-active. This can make it slow to take up important concerns, like the asylum-seekers' prejudice of some years ago, but once it gets to grips with such matters it generally comes up with sensible and sensitive cures (as it did also with the reporting of suicides).

But the re-emergence of the hacking scandal happens to have occurred soon after the arrival of a new chairman, **Baroness Buscombe**. I'd like to think that she can make her mark at this point by holding a proper investigation into this can of worms.

She should be contacting News International plus all the relevant authorities – the Metropolitan Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Information Commissioner – and, of course, Nick Davies. She should make a public call for all journalists who know about hacking, and there have been several commenters to Guardian websites who clearly have information, to come forward.

Former employees of the News of the World should be encouraged to come forward and offered a form of immunity so that they can speak on a confidential basis.

Most importantly, she should demand of News International the right to interview senior NoW staff who were around in the era when this kind of hacking was happening. (I am convinced on the basis of the NoW's current content that Myler has changed the paper's agenda and its culture, so he has nothing to fear).

Buscombe has a unique opportunity to remake the PCC's profile. She should not shirk it.

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Cameron had better be sure he's right

Cameron has made a big call coming out so quickly in support of Andy Coulson, but he hasn't answered the key questions



Alastair Campbell
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 9 July 2009 13:38 BST

So David Cameron has pronounced that Andy Coulson is safe in his job.

Assuming Cameron does the basics of leadership, that means he has satisfied himself that his communications director did nothing improper or illegal, nor condoned, used or benefited from anything improper or illegal, in his time as editor of the News of the World. He has also satisfied himself that nothing is likely to emerge to cast doubt on that judgement. That is a big call to have made.

We have to assume he has asked Coulson some tough questions, and got some convincing answers. If not, he has made a big mistake in coming out so soon, and so forcefully, in support of his right-hand man.

But their comments so far have sought to focus very narrowly on the jailing of former royal reporter Clive Goodman, over which Coulson resigned but for which he denied any knowledge or responsibility, and on an out-of-court settlement with footballers' leader Gordon Taylor, of which Coulson also denies knowledge.

I always thought at the time that it was unlikely that Goodman and a private detective who received large sums of money for his illegal activities were the only people in the paper who knew about the royal tapping. The [Guardian story](#) reveals something far more systemic and organised, targeted at all manner of newsworthy people.

Whatever anyone says about Coulson, his colleagues always spoke of him as a highly professional editor and journalist. But as [Andrew Neil](#) pointed out rather well last night, good, professional editors know what is happening in their papers. When they don't know, they ask questions. They ask a lot of questions about where stories come from because that will often indicate the real strength of the story, and alert them to any possible legal problems.

People might just be able to accept the Goodman incident was a one-off, and that therefore senior executives did not know about it. But if the central allegations in the Guardian are true – and there seems precious little pushing back on them – then it becomes impossible to believe that editors and others were not aware of what was going on. And if they weren't, they were incompetent and negligent on the job, not qualities associated with Coulson or other Murdoch editors.

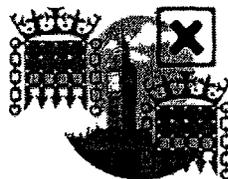
The statements from Cameron and Coulson go nowhere near answering the questions they have to answer. To his credit, John Whittingdale, the Tory chair of the relevant select committee, looks like he will want to ask those questions.

There are questions too for the [Press Complaints Commission](#). Do not hold any of your breath in expecting them to be answered. It is a body for the media, by the media, a disgrace to the concept of meaningful self-regulation.

And [John Prescott](#) is right to demand that serious questions of the police are answered too. If there is a list of people known to have had their calls intercepted by the News of the World, all the people on that list have a right to know.

So, as I said last night, questions for the press, the cops and for Cameron. Those questions have not gone away. They are only just beginning.

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**POLITICS
BLOG**

David Cameron and Andy Coulson – what the blogs are saying

Consensus emerging among bloggers that this may be the end of
Tory press chief

Alastair Campbell, on his blog, says that David Cameron needs to decide what to do about Andy Coulson very quickly.

It is not my place to advise Cameron, or Coulson. But if it were, I would be saying to Cameron to find out very quickly whether Coulson did act in any way improperly, and to act accordingly if he thinks he did. And if I were Coulson, I would be totally honest with Cameron to help him make that decision. When the Damian McBride emails first surfaced, it was obvious where it was going to end. If Cameron thinks that this situation might also end in him having to lose his right-hand man, better to do it quickly.

Tim Montgomerie at ConservativeHome says Campbell's advice is sound.

[Coulson] stands at the heart of David Cameron's "West Wing". Losing him because of this would be a grave setback and I hope it will be unnecessary. I hope he will be able to tell David Cameron that he was not in any way involved in the illegal phone-tapping of John Prescott and others.

John Prescott, on his blog, says that, although Cameron claims to be "relaxed" about the affair, that might change.

The systematic illegal hacking of up to 3,000 people is in a different league all together [from the McBride affair]. Allowing the man who allowed that to happen into No 10 would be deplorable. So the question Cameron must answer is: "Do you back him or sack him?" By the fact his people are tonight briefing that he's "very relaxed" about the episode, we sadly have our answer. I've got a feeling that "very relaxed" attitude is going to change.

Nick Robinson, on his blog, says that Cameron will be "anything but relaxed" about the story this morning.

It is now clear that phone-hacking at the News of the World was much more widespread than previously thought, that it targeted senior ministers not just celebrities and that, if the Guardian is correct, at least one of the paper's executives knew about it. This is leading to calls – not just from Labour politicians – for Andy Coulson to answer questions about what he knew and to questions about whether he should be at David Cameron's side.

Sunny Hundal at Liberal Conspiracy says that this is Cameron's "McBride moment".

The Conservatives milked the Damian McBride affair for all its worth – turning up on television almost everyday in faux-outrage at how someone could be so nasty in politics. Every day a succession of outraged rightwing bloggers and backbench politicians said they expected better standards from parliament. If that is the case, what will they now say about the allegations levelled at Andy Coulson, David Cameron's director of communications?

But Paul Staines, aka [Guido Fawkes](#), says that it's wrong to compare Andy Coulson with Damian McBride.

When the News of the World's royal reporter was caught at it, Coulson resigned, saying he took "ultimate responsibility" for the hacking affair. He also avoided having to explain himself to the [PCC](#) in so doing. This was before he went to Millbank – that is the key difference between this situation and the situation with McBride – it happened years ago in a former job, not yesterday.

[Sunder Katwala at Next Left](#) says that Cameron appears to be motivated by convenience, not principle.

Keeping Coulson may prove too difficult. But the attempt to do so suggests that the only ethic that matters is one of convenience – and that different rules apply to the inner circle.

[Iain Dale, on his blog](#), says Coulson has been a good adviser, and that Cameron may be "relaxed" because he did "due diligence" on Coulson before hiring him.

He's not a showy adviser. For someone who came into the job with a high media profile, he has done well to stay out of the limelight. He will be cringing at "becoming the story" because he knows that there are sometimes dangerous consequences when that happens. Ask Alastair Campbell.

[Mike Smithson at PoliticalBetting](#) says the affair is very dangerous for Cameron.

There's little doubt that this could be highly dangerous for the Tory leader – just at a time when he was seeking to make "character" and "honesty" into campaign issues.

[Conor Ryan on his blog](#) says Cameron should sack Coulson.

David Cameron was at his sanctimonious best a few weeks ago when he saw an opportunity to get rid of troublesome backwoodsmen over their duck islands and moats ... Coulson must go. Otherwise, we must conclude that there was nothing more to Dave's recent righteous indignation than sham PR bluster.

[Mark Thompson, on his Mark Reckons blog](#), says Coulson will go soon.

If Mr Cameron is smart (and we all know he is) he will be lining up a potential replacement as I write. He may claim to be "relaxed" about the situation but not so relaxed as to not have a Plan B, I am sure.

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David Cameron faces calls to sack media aide at centre of phone tapping scandal

By Niall Firth

Last updated at 11:40 AM on 09th July 2009

- Scotland Yard 'failed to alert targets in hacking scandal'
- Celebrities and politicians 'had phones tapped by journalists'
- John Prescott 'staggered' at Cameron's 'relaxed' reaction
- News of the World 'covered up' legal cases involving tapping
- MPs and Met Police to launch probes into claims

David Cameron was today dragged into a row over claims that journalists at Rupert Murdoch's newspapers routinely hacked into the phones of celebrities and politicians.

The Tory leader came under huge pressure to sack his chief media advisor Andy Coulson who edited the News of the World when private investigators were allegedly hired to hack into people's phones.

The Guardian today revealed that the paper had secretly paid more than £1million to cover up legal cases involving celebrities, sportsmen and politicians.

Targets allegedly included MPs from all three parties, Cabinet ministers and celebrities such as George Michael, Gwyneth Paltrow, Nigella Lawson and Patsy Kensit.

The scandal raises questions about Mr Cameron's judgment in hiring the former News of the World editor as his communications chief.

Scroll down to see video report



Pressure: Tory leader David Cameron said his communications director Andy Coulson deserved a 'second chance' over the phone tap allegations

And today former John Prescott attacked the Tory leader for failing to take action against his director of communications over the allegations.

But Mr Cameron insisted that Mr Coulson would remain in his job and that he was 'relaxed' about the claims.

Today Scotland Yard announced that it was to launch a probe into the case.

Met Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson told Sky News that Assistant Commissioner John Yates was to 'establish the facts of this case and look into the detail.'

The Commons culture, media and sport select committee is also expected to investigate the claims and could haul Mr Coulson in to speak about his role.

Mr Coulson resigned from the newspaper after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison in January 2007 for plotting to tap telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

Mr Prescott, who says he wants answers from police over claims they knew his phone was tapped, said he was 'staggered' the Tory leader was 'relaxed' about the role played by Mr Coulson.

The former Deputy Prime Minister accused Mr Cameron of double standards after the Tory leader had demanded the Government sack Damian McBride, the Downing Street aide who resigned amid the Tory email-slur saga.

The former deputy Prime Minister told BBC Breakfast: 'If these allegations are to be believed, the enormity of it is unbelievable.'





Tapped up: Gwyneth Paltrow and Patsy Kensit were said to have been targeted

Mr Prescott said: 'I am actually staggered that Mr Cameron, who employed Mr Coulson, who was the editor at the time through all these allegations, says he's quite relaxed about these allegations.

'I find that staggering particularly when he demanded that Mr McBride (was sacked). To say he's relaxed about this is just unbelievable.'

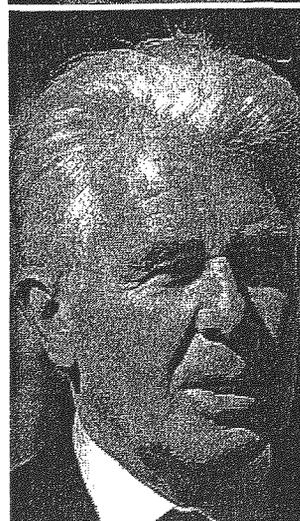
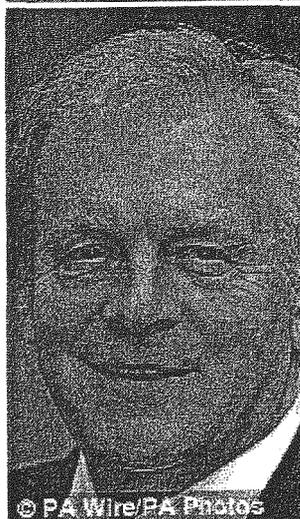
One of the newspaper's settlements, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, the newspaper said.

In the Goodman trial, Mr Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Mr Coulson said last night he had 'no knowledge whatsoever' of any settlement with Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

But Mr Prescott added: 'He (Mr Coulson) should come before the committee and explain what he did know.

'It's time for him to speak out and it's time for Mr Cameron to ask the essential questions that he can certainly find out if he reads the Guardian.'



Nigella Lawson, PFA chief Gordon Taylor and PR guru Max Clifford are all believed to have had their phones tapped by private investigators

Mr Cameron, speaking outside his home in west London this morning, said: 'It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification.'

'That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago.'

'Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance.'

'As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times.'

Mr Coulson's role with the Tories is to advise on media strategy and how to handle stories. He is believed to earn at least £450,000 - twice as much as Mr Cameron.

A Metropolitan Police source told the Guardian an inquiry into Goodman's activities showed that thousands of public figures' phone had been tapped.



Jailed: Former News of the World royal editor Clive Goodman

PR agent Max Clifford is another whose phone was allegedly hacked into, according to the Guardian.

He said the claims raised 'lots of serious questions'.

Mr Clifford - who works with some of Britain's best known celebrities - told the BBC: 'If these allegations prove to be true, then it's something that an awful lot of people are going to very unhappy about.'

He added: 'Why has this just come out? According to the Guardian, it's come from police sources.

'If the police had this information, why didn't they act on it? There are lots of questions that need to be answered, serious questions.'

Senior Tories last night dismissed the revelations as a Labour smear campaign designed to damage Mr Coulson.

However, the chairman of an influential Commons committee is poised to summon newspaper chiefs to answer 'serious' questions over the affair.

Tory MP John Whittingdale also indicated he would recommend the culture, media and sport committee reopen an inquiry into the issue when it held urgent discussions today.

Mr Whittingdale said: 'My view is that this has raised very serious questions about the evidence given to us.

'There are a number of questions I would like to put to News International on the basis of what The Guardian has reported.'

The committee would examine the matter 'as a matter of urgency' at a scheduled meeting later today, he said.

'It may well be that we decide we wish to have somebody from News International to appear before us.'

He said he had seen no 'direct evidence' that assurances previously given to the committee by the publisher on the matter had been untrue.

But he added: 'If that is the case it does beg the question why News International have apparently paid huge sums of money in settlement of actions in the courts.'

'That is a question I would wish to put to News International.'

Former Cabinet minister Geoff Hoon said: 'It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation.'



John Prescott has said he wants answers from police over claims they knew his phone was tapped

'David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter.'

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: "At the very least Andy Coulson was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and at worst he was personally implicated.

'Either way, a future prime minister cannot have someone who is involved in these sort of underhand tactics. The exact parallel is with Damian McBride.

'If it is more than a thousand (phone taps) it seems most unlikely to me to have been just one journalist. There needs to be a full investigation.'

Former home secretary Charles Clarke said that the allegations raised serious questions for News International, the Conservatives and the police.

'I think it is outrageous. I think we do need action immediately,' he told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme.

'News International has to publish the full list of those that they have bugged, I think that David Cameron has to sack Andy Coulson because his denial is very narrow in the extreme. I think David Cameron himself has to be much clearer about the situation.

'I think that the Home Secretary should be asking the Chief Inspector of Constabulary for a full report about the police behaviour in this whole incident.'

A spokesman for Murdoch's News International said a comment on the matter was not appropriate at this time.

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Only in Brown's once Great so-called Britain.

- Ken Jones, Cwmbran, Wales, 09/7/2009 09:16

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this is obviously some sort of smear campaign by the labour party, hoping it will grow legs and also deter some from the main issues of our country. the guardian have been sitting on this story until the "right time". nick robinson is as usual the mouth piece for this labour government.

- ade young, london, 09/7/2009 09:03

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This could be a scandal worse than Watergate if the motives were to obtain information to undermine particular politicians.

- I. Littler, Midlands, 09/7/2009 08:55

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As a useless politician it was quite fruitless to bug Prescotts phone other than to learn where he buys his pork pies and sausage rolls, the culprits for this bugging are quite recognisable they have all become grossly over weight.

- Royston Amphlett, Bournemouth England., 09/7/2009 08:48

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Of course he demands action from the police when it affect him but he would not say a word if it was anybody else.

- martin Cross, slough, 09/7/2009 08:42

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Perhaps now our civil liberties will stop being eroded by council spies.

- Mabalsa Richie, cardiff wales, 09/7/2009 08:40

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Thursday, 9th July 2009

HALF PRICE TAPAS *La Tasca* Commons
with SCOTLAND *in* SUNDAY this weekend to summon
newspaper chiefs over phone tap claims



John Prescott wants answers from the police

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Published Date: 09 July 2009

THE chairman of an influential Commons committee is poised to summon newspaper chiefs to answer "serious" questions following fresh claims about the use of phone taps. Tory MP John Whittingdale also indicated he would recommend the culture, media and sport committee reopen an inquiry into the issue when it held urgent discussions today.

He spoke out after The Guardian claimed News Group Newspapers, which publishes titles including the News of the World, had paid out more than £1 million to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement in telephone hacking.

MPs from all three parties including former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps, The Guardian said.

It quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who had hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

Mr Whittingdale said: "My view is that this has raised very serious questions about the evidence given to us.

"There are a number of questions I would like to put to News International on the basis of what The Guardian has reported."

The committee would examine the matter "as a matter of urgency" at a scheduled meeting later today, he said.

"It may well be that we decide we wish to have somebody from News International to appear before us."

He said he had seen no "direct evidence" that assurances previously given to the committee by the publisher on the matter had been untrue.

But he added: "If that is the case it does beg the question why News International have apparently paid huge sums of money in settlement of actions in the courts.

"That is a question I would wish to put to News International."

Mr Prescott said he wanted answers from the police over the claims they knew his phone was tapped by private investigators working for journalists.

"I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people who had their phone tapped.

"I'm named as one of them, for such a criminal act not to be reported to me, and for action not to be taken against the people who have done it, reflects very badly on the police, and I want to know their answer."

The Guardian said Andy Coulson, Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World when journalists were using the private investigators.

Mr Coulson resigned from the News of the World after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison in January 2007 for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

The Guardian said the £1 million paid out by News Group to secure secrecy concerned three out-of-court settlements in cases that would have shown the alleged methods being used.

One of the settlements, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, the newspaper said.

In the Goodman trial, Mr Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Mr Coulson said last night: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and half years ago.

"I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

Labour sought to use the allegations to question Mr Coulson's role with the Conservatives.

Former Cabinet minister Geoff Hoon said: "It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation.

"David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter."

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: "At the very least Andy Coulson was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and at worst he was personally implicated.

"Either way, a future prime minister cannot have someone who is involved in these sort of underhand tactics. The exact parallel is with Damian McBride.

"If it is more than a thousand (phone taps) it seems most unlikely to me to have been just one journalist. There needs to be a full investigation."

A spokeswoman for News International, the parent company of News Group Newspapers, said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time."

Responding to the claims, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement: "The MPS carried out an investigation into the alleged unlawful interception of telephone calls.

"Officers liaised closely with the Crown Prosecution Service. Two people were charged and subsequently convicted and jailed. We are not prepared to comment further."

PR agent Max Clifford is another whose phone was allegedly hacked into, according to the Guardian.

He said the claims raised "lots of serious questions".

Mr Clifford – who works with some of Britain's best known celebrities – told the BBC: "If these allegations prove to be true, then it's something that an awful lot of people are going to very unhappy about."

He also asked: "Why has this just come out?"

"According to the Guardian, it's come from police sources.

"If the police had this information, why didn't they act on it?"

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Your views

Cameron aide in tabloid phone tapping row

Thursday, July 9, 2009



Andy Coulson is under increasing pressure

David Cameron's director of communications is under increasing pressure today after allegations that thousands of people had their phones tapped by journalists while he was editor of News Of The World.

Andy Coulson, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World when journalists were using the private

investigators.

Mr Coulson resigned from the News of the World after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison in January 2007 for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

Now, former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott wants answers from police over claims they knew his phone was tapped by private investigators working for journalists but was not told about it.

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It quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who had hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

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The chairman of an influential Commons committee said tonight he wanted to summon newspaper chiefs to answer "serious questions" following fresh claims about the use of phone taps.

Tory MP John Whittingdale indicated he would recommend the culture, media and sport committee reopen an inquiry into the issue when it held urgent discussions tomorrow.

MPs from all three parties and Cabinet ministers including Mr Prescott and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell were among the targets, the newspaper said.

I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people who had their phone tapped

Mr Prescott, asked on Channel 4 News if he had been told by police that his phone was tapped, said:
"Absolutely not.

"I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people who had their phone tapped.

"I'm named as one of them, for such a criminal act not to be reported to me, and for action not to be taken against the people who have done it, reflects very badly on the police, and I want to know their answer."

The Guardian said Andy Coulson, Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World when journalists were using the private investigators.

Mr Coulson resigned from the News of the World after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison in January 2007 for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

Mr Prescott said of Mr Coulson's current role: "I hope Mr Cameron will clear him out." And he added: "Seeing some of the stories in the press that are always printed about me, and the family, I couldn't help but feel that they had more access to private information.

"The secretaries in my own office complained that the journalists had their private telephone numbers and mobile numbers, and couldn't understand why."

The Guardian said payments of more than £1 million have secured secrecy over three out-of-court settlements which would have shown the alleged methods being used.

One of the settlements, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, the newspaper said.

In the Goodman trial, Mr Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

A spokeswoman for News International, the parent company of News Group Newspapers, said tonight: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time."

Referring to the alleged Gordon Taylor settlement, Mr Coulson said: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and half years ago. "I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

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Thursday, July 9, 2009

Murdoch papers paid over £1m to silence phone-tap victims



Rupert

Murdoch: cases involve News of the World and the Sun

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NICK DAVIES in London

RUPERT MURDOCH'S News Group newspapers in Britain have paid out more than £1 million (€1.16 million) to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of his journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The payments secured secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of public figures and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills.

Cabinet ministers, members of parliament, actors and sports stars were all targets of the private investigators.

The suppressed evidence may open the door to hundreds more legal actions by victims of News Group, the Murdoch company that publishes the *News of the World* and the *Sun*, as well as provoking police inquiries into reporters who were involved and the senior executives responsible for them. The evidence also poses difficult questions for:

- opposition Conservative party leader David Cameron's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was deputy editor and then editor of the *News of the World* when journalists for whom he was responsible were engaging in apparently illegal acts;
- Murdoch executives who, albeit in good faith, misled a parliamentary select committee, the UK Press Complaints Commission and the public;
- the London Metropolitan police, who did not alert all those whose phones were targeted, and the crown prosecution service, which did not pursue all possible charges against News Group personnel; and

- the Press Complaints Commission, which claimed to have conducted an investigation but failed to uncover any evidence of illegal activity.

The suppressed legal cases are linked to the jailing in January 2007 of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff, an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. At the time, News International said it knew of no other journalist who was involved in hacking phones and that Goodman had been acting without their knowledge.

However, one senior source at the Met said that during the Goodman inquiry, officers had found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

Another source with direct knowledge of the police findings put the figure at "two or three thousand" mobiles.

They suggest that MPs from all three UK parties and cabinet ministers, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell, were among the targets.

News International has always maintained that it has no knowledge of phone hacking by anybody acting on its behalf.

A private investigator who had been working for News Group, Glenn Mulcaire, was also jailed in January 2007.

He admitted hacking into the phones of five other targets, including Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. Among the phones he hacked into were those of the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew.

News Group denied all knowledge of the hacking, but Mr Taylor last year sued on the basis that it must have known about it.

In documents initially submitted to the UK high court, News Group executives said the company had not been involved in any way in Mulcaire's hacking of Mr Taylor's phone. They specifically denied keeping any recording or notes of intercepted messages and claimed they had not even been aware of the hacking.

But at the request of Mr Taylor's lawyers, the court ordered the production of evidence from Scotland Yard's inquiry in the Goodman case and from a separate inquiry by the UK Information Commissioner into journalists who dishonestly obtain confidential personal records.

The Scotland Yard files included paperwork which revealed that, contrary to News Group's initial denial, Mulcaire had provided a recording of the messages on Mr Taylor's phone to a *News of the World* journalist who had transcribed and e-mailed them to a senior reporter; and a *News of the World* executive had offered Mulcaire a substantial bonus for a story related to the intercepted messages.

Several famous figures in football are among those whose messages were intercepted. Coulson was editing the paper at this time. He said this week he knew nothing about Mr Taylor's action, which began after he left the paper.

The paperwork from the UK Information Commission revealed the names of 31 journalists working for the *News of the World* and *the Sun*, together with the details of government agencies, banks,

Murdoch papers paid over £1m to silence phone-tap victims - The Irish Times - Thu, J... Page 4 of 7

phone companies and others who were conned into handing over confidential information on politicians, actors, sportsmen and women, musicians and television presenters, all of whom are named.

This is an offence under the UK Data Protection Act unless it is justified by public interest.

Senior editors are among those implicated. This activity occurred before the mobile phone hacking, when Coulson was deputy and the editor was Rebekah Wade, now due to become chief executive of News International. The extent of their personal knowledge, if any, is not clear.

Faced with this evidence, News International changed its position, started offering cash payments to settle the case out of court, and paid out £700,000 in legal costs and damages on the condition Mr Taylor signed a gagging clause.

News Group then persuaded the court to seal the file on Mr Taylor's case, even though it contained *prima facie* evidence of criminal activity.

At least two other football figures filed complaints, which were settled earlier this year when News International paid more than £300,000 in damages and costs on condition they signed gagging clauses. – (Guardian service)

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Phone taps: Met to 'establish facts', PCC to investigate

9 July 2009

By Paul McNally, and PA Mediapoint, Press Association

Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner John Yates is to "establish the facts" about claims that the News of the World hacked into mobile phones and will report back later today.

Met commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson told Sky News: "I have asked him to establish the facts of this case and look into the detail."

He added: "I think we have got a track record of doing exactly what we are supposed to do. If we need to investigate, we will investigate.

"We will do the right thing and do what we have to do to investigate crime wherever it exists."

He was speaking following claims by The Guardian that News Group Newspapers, which publishes titles including the News of the World, has paid out more than £1m to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement in telephone hacking.

MPs from all three parties including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps, The Guardian said.

It quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

Ministers will face questions about the allegations in the Commons this morning.

Liberal Democrat MP Evan Harris has tabled an urgent question asking Home Secretary Alan Johnson about the response of police and prosecutors to alleged "illegal surveillance" by newspapers.

Harris, a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, said: "While we are rightly worried about Government surveillance getting out of hand, the public also have the right to be protected from illegal actions by newspapers and their agents.

"I want to see effective investigative journalism - especially of public figures who wield power - but such journalism must be within the law.

"The law must be seen to take its full course when wrongdoing is found to avoid suggestions that wealthy interests are able to buy their way out of the criminal justice system."

The Press Complaints Commission conducted an inquiry in 2007 into the use of subterfuge by journalists and came up with a number of recommendations to ensure that phone tapping was eliminated.

"The PCC has previously made clear that it finds the practice of phone message tapping deplorable," the Commission said in a statement today.

"Any suggestion that further transgressions have occurred since its report was published in 2007 will be investigated without delay.

"In the meantime, the PCC is contacting the Guardian newspaper and the Information Commissioner for any further specific information in relation to the claims, published today about the older cases, which suggest the Commission has been misled at any stage of its inquiries into these matters."



MPs to reopen investigation into tabloid phone tap claims

9 July 2009

By Press Gazette reporters, and PA Mediapoint

The Commons culture, media and sport select committee is poised to reopen an inquiry into tabloid phone tapping following fresh claims by the Guardian newspaper.

Conservative MP John Whittingdale, who chairs the committee, will convene an urgent meeting today to discuss the allegations and will then summon newspaper editors to answer "serious" questions.

He spoke out after the Guardian claimed News Group Newspapers, which publishes the News of the World and The Sun, had paid out more than £1m to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement in telephone hacking.

MPs from all three parties including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps, The Guardian said.

The Guardian piece, by investigative journalist and Flat Earth News author Nick Davies, quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who had hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones.

Whittingdale told the Press Association: "My view is that this has raised very serious questions about the evidence given to us.

"There are a number of questions I would like to put to News International on the basis of what The Guardian has reported."

'Matter of urgency'

The committee would examine the matter "as a matter of urgency" at a scheduled meeting later today, he said.

"It may well be that we decide we wish to have somebody from News International to appear before us."

He said he had seen no "direct evidence" that assurances previously given to the committee by the publisher on the matter had been untrue.

But he added: "If that is the case it does beg the question why News International have apparently paid huge sums of money in settlement of actions in the courts.

"That is a question I would wish to put to News International."

Prescott said he wanted answers from the police over the claims they knew his phone was tapped by private investigators working for journalists.

"I find it staggering that there could be a list known to the police of people who had their phone tapped," he said.

"I'm named as one of them, for such a criminal act not to be reported to me, and for action not to be taken against the people who have done it, reflects very badly on the police, and I want to know their answer."

The Guardian said Andy Coulson, Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World when journalists were using the private investigators.

Coulson resigned from the News of the World after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison in January 2007 for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

Settlements

The Guardian said the £1m paid out by News Group to secure secrecy concerned three out-of-court settlements in cases that would have shown the alleged methods being used.

One of the settlements, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved legal action brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, the newspaper said.

In the Goodman trial, Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Coulson said last night: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and half years ago.

"I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission. I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."

Labour sought to use the allegations to question Coulson's role with the Conservatives.

Former cabinet minister Geoff Hoon said: "It is hard to see how in these circumstances Andy Coulson can continue as David Cameron's communications chief while such a cloud hangs over his reputation.

"David Cameron must make clear what action he intends to take on this matter."

'Out of control'

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: "At the very least Andy Coulson was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and at worst he was personally implicated.

"Either way, a future prime minister cannot have someone who is involved in these sort of underhand tactics. The exact parallel is with Damian McBride.

"If it is more than a thousand (phone taps) it seems most unlikely to me to have been just one journalist. There needs to be a full investigation."

A spokeswoman for News International, the parent company of News Group Newspapers, said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time."

Responding to the claims, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement: "The MPS carried out an investigation into the alleged unlawful interception of telephone calls.

"Officers liaised closely with the Crown Prosecution Service. Two people were charged and subsequently convicted and jailed. We are not prepared to comment further."

PR agent Max Clifford is another whose phone was allegedly hacked into, according to the Guardian. He said the claims raised "lots of serious questions".

Clifford - who works with some of Britain's best known celebrities - told the BBC: "If these allegations prove to be true, then it's something that an awful lot of people are going to very unhappy about."

He also asked: "Why has this just come out? According to the Guardian, it's come from police sources.

"If the police had this information, why didn't they act on it? There are lots of questions that need to be answered, serious questions."

Serious questions

Former home secretary Charles Clarke said that the allegations in The Guardian raised serious questions for News International, the Conservatives, and the police.

"I think it is outrageous. I think we do need action immediately," he told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme.

"News International has to publish the full list of those that they have bugged, I think that David Cameron has to sack Andy Coulson because his denial is very narrow in the extreme. I think David Cameron himself has to be much clearer about the situation.

"I think that the Home Secretary should be asking the Chief Inspector of Constabulary for a full report about the police behaviour in this whole incident."

Cameron, speaking outside his home in west London this morning, said: "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification.

"That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance.

"As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."



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Reaction to phone hack claims

The newspaper publisher News International paid £1m in three court cases after News of the World journalists were accused of involvement in phone hacking, it has been claimed.

The Guardian alleges journalists hired private investigators who obtained information illegally on thousands of people and that the police knew about it and did not act.



Thousands of politicians and celebrities were allegedly targeted

The allegations have sparked outrage both from those allegedly targeted, and from media insiders. Here are some of their responses.

ANDREW NEIL

Mr Neil is a former editor of the Sunday Times which is published by News International.

"I'm shocked by the scale of it and by the allegations and evidence that they have presented of widespread criminal activity.

"I'm also shocked by the inability of either the police or the courts or the Press Complaints Commission or anybody else basically to do anything about it, basically to collude in sweeping it under the carpet.

"Those who have been on the receiving end of this criminal activity so far have not had recourse to justice.

"Someone has yet to explain to me why getting into the voicemail of [the actress] Gwyneth Paltrow after she's had a baby is in the public interest.

"They were investigating celebrities, they were looking for scandal, they were looking for sexual impropriety and so on. They weren't operating in the public interest and I think that would be an impossible defence."

DAVID CAMERON

The Conservative leader has defended his director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was editor at the News of the World at the time the alleged hacking took place.

"It is wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy without justification. I mean that is why after all Andy Coulson resigned from the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation when I gave him a job.

"But I believe in giving people a second chance and as the director of communications he does an excellent job for the Conservative Party and behaves properly and in an upright way in everything he does."

JOHN PRESCOTT

The former deputy prime minister was one of the alleged targets of the phone hacking.

"If these allegations are to be believed, the enormity of it is unbelievable.

"I am actually staggered that Mr Cameron, who employed Mr Coulson, who was the editor at the time through all these allegations, says he's quite relaxed about these allegations.

"I find that staggering... To say he's relaxed about this is just unbelievable.

"He (Mr Coulson) should come before the [Commons culture]

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committee and explain what he did know. It's time for him to speak out and it's time for Mr Cameron to ask the essential questions that he can certainly find out if he reads the Guardian."

MAX CLIFFORD

The publicist is another person allegedly targeted by the News of the World.

"If these allegations turn out to be true, then it's something an awful lot of people are going to be very unhappy about, and justifiably so, just as I was.

"Why has it just come out? Because according to the Guardian it's come from police sources, so if the police had this stuff, why didn't they act on it?"

"What I am considering doing is let's see what evidence there is, let's make absolutely sure that what is in the Guardian is 100% true, what proof there is, and then obviously I've got to consider my options.

"You need to make sure that it never happens again because it totally exceeds the power of the media. A free press is vitally important in a democracy, but this is far too much."

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Q&A: Phone hacking row**As police prepare to examine claims of widespread mobile phone hacking by the News of the World, we look at some of the key questions surrounding the story.****What is the row all about?**

The Guardian newspaper's front page is claiming journalists on the tabloid News of the World were involved in widespread phone-hacking of several thousand celebrities, sports stars and politicians.

The paper says it has evidence that News Group Newspapers - owner of The News of the World, the Sun, the Times and the Sunday Times - paid £1m to settle legal cases that might have revealed evidence of the journalists' illegal activities.

If that evidence had been made available, then victims of phone hacking may have been able to take action against the News of the World.

The Guardian says the News of the World made a £700,000 payout to Gordon Taylor, head of the Professional Footballers' Association - but only on condition that details of his case were not made public, the paper said.

News Group's lawyers are then accused by the paper of persuading the court to "seal the file" on Mr Taylor's case to prevent all public access.

The allegations have not only caused deep concern for those who were apparently targeted but also raised questions over who knew the extent of the illegal activity and why more was not done to tackle it.

As well as the News of the World, those in the spotlight include the Crown Prosecution Service which allegedly agreed to seal the file, and the Metropolitan Police who failed to alert the alleged victims.

Fingers are also being pointed at Andy Coulson, News of the World editor when the allegations were made, and now a key figure in the Conservative party.

Former deputy PM John Prescott, one of the alleged targets, has called for police to investigate. Other including Lord Mandelson and former Home Secretary Charles Clarke have also waded into the row.

Why has it now come to light?

The story stems from the jailing of News of the World royal reporter Clive Goodman in 2007 for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff. At the time, News International said Goodman had been acting without their knowledge.

During that case it emerged private investigator Glenn Mulcaire tapped into the phones of Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and four other prominent figures.

A year later Gordon Taylor sued News Group, which owns the News of the World, on the basis that its senior executives must have known about the alleged operation.

An out-of-court settlement was reached on condition that details of the case were not made public.

The Guardian claims the information from the case - which would have exposed allegations of widespread phone hacking by News of the World journalists - was then suppressed by the police and the High Court.

And it is some of that information that they disclosed in their newspaper on Thursday.

Whose phone was hacked into?

Cabinet ministers, MPs, actors and sports stars are all said to have been bugged.

On the Guardian's list are former deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, former culture secretary Tessa Jowell, celebrity cook Nigella Lawson,

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actress Gwyneth Paltrow, London Mayor Boris Johnson, comedian Lenny Henry, singer George Michael and the late Jade Goody.

The Guardian quotes one source as saying between "2,000 and 3,000" public figures had been bugged.

Who is Andy Coulson?

Andy Coulson was editor of the News of the World at the time when his journalists were allegedly involved in phone hacking into thousands of mobiles. Now he is director of communications for the Conservative party.

He started his journalism career on regional papers, before rising rapidly through the ranks to become News of the World editor by his mid 30s.

He oversaw a string of tabloid exclusives on the private lives of David Beckham, David Blunkett and Sven Goran Eriksson.

But he resigned in January 2007 on the day Clive Goodman was jailed for four months for illegal phone hacking.

He denied knowledge of events, but said he would take the ultimate responsibility for them. A Press Complaints Commission investigation found no evidence that he or anyone else at the paper was aware of Goodman's illegal activities.

Less than six months later though he was back in a job, hired by David Cameron to be his director of communications and planning.

What have the Tories said?

Conservative leader David Cameron is standing by his communications director, insisting his job is safe.

"He does an excellent job for the Conservatives, in a proper, upright way at all times," he said.

"It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification.

"That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two-and-a-half years ago. Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance."

Why didn't the police investigate?

It is unclear yet how far any police investigation has gone. What is known is that the alleged targets of the phone hacking were not informed when the information about the hack operation first came to light.

On Thursday, Met Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson announced a senior officer had been ordered to "establish the facts" on the case.

Legal experts say even if the police had been aware of other phone hacking targets, unless there were complainants, they would not necessarily have investigated further.

However, John Prescott has said that if the victims were kept in the dark in the first place, they were unlikely to be able to complain.

Legal analyst Joshua Rozenberg said there was no obligation on the police to inform the alleged targets of the phone tapping.

"I think the police would say they don't go around publishing information like this," he said.

"It's their job to investigate crimes and pass information onto the Crown Prosecution Service. And if the CPS chose not to prosecute, or even to tell the people involved, that's their decision."

How can a mobile phone be hacked?

Security expert Mark Cooper says there are three methods by which a mobile telephone calls can be intercepted.

This can be done either at the handset, or during the conversation - which is illegal and very expensive - or through the mobile phone company which connects the device.

Are there laws preventing people from hacking into phones?

It is illegal to gain access to another person's telephone under Section 1 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Legal affairs analyst Jon Silverman said the only exception is if the hacking is being done by the authorities, who will have gained legal clearance.

He said: "The RIPA act was a controversial one. The government wanted to put on a statutory footing the activities of bodies like the police, MI5 and security agencies generally.

"It raises the question of the very buoyant market for confidential information in this country and the biggest buyers are the media."

What are the penalties for breaking the law in this way?

The maximum sentence is two years in prison, or a fine, or possibly both.

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SKY NEWS

PM: Phone Hacks Raise Serious Questions

4:52pm UK, Thursday July 09, 2009

Gordon Brown has said the reported phone hacking by a Sunday newspaper raises "serious questions" - as David Cameron comes under pressure to sack his top media aide.



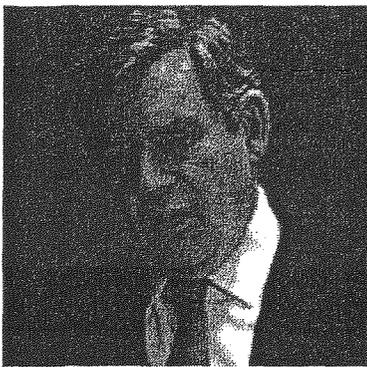
Andy Coulson joined David Cameron's team in July 2007

Speaking at the G8 summit in Italy, the Prime Minister said: "I am not aware of the details of what is being talked about, other than that there is an issue on this in London.

He added: "I think this raises questions that are serious and will obviously have to be considered."

Mr Brown spoke as calls came for the Tory leader to sack his head of communications, Andy Coulson, over the affair.

The Guardian claimed News Group Newspapers paid out more than £1m to settle cases that threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists involvement in illegal hacking.



Gordon Brown wants answers

The affair has led to questions being asked about Andy Coulson, the former News of the World editor and current communications chief for the Tory leader.

He was in charge of the Sunday paper when its royal editor Clive Goodman was sent to jail for trying to hack into the voicemail of royal aides.

Mr Coulson later resigned over the affair.

Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Ben Bradshaw said Mr Cameron has questions to answer.

On his **Twitter feed**, he wrote: "David Cameron, the police and the Press Complaints Commission all have questions to answer in relation to today's Guardian revelations."

And Lib Dem home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne also weighed in.

He said if it was right for the Prime Minister to sack adviser Damian McBride over emails containing allegations about senior Conservatives, it was right that Mr Cameron should sack Mr Coulson.

However, the Tory leader defended his man.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance," Mr Cameron said.

"As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

Meanwhile, the police have got involved.

Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, John Yates, will "establish the facts" about the story and will report back later today.

"We will do the right thing and do what we have to do to investigate crime wherever it exists," Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson told Sky News.

Whittingdale: News Int Has Questions To Answer



Home Office minister David Hanson said the allegations were serious and deserved investigation.

Meanwhile, Tory MP John Whittingdale, who chairs the culture, media and sport committee, told Sky News he will reopen an inquiry, held after the revelations in 2007, into the issue.

"At that time, we took evidence from News International who gave us absolute assurance that this was a one-off," he told Sky News.

"I haven't seen any evidence to disprove that but on the other hand if these payments have been made, as the Guardian suggests, it does raise the question: why?"

Senior Labour figures say they question their judgement of Mr Cameron in hiring Mr Coulson.

Former deputy Prime Minister **John Prescott** told Sky News he had written a letter to the Tory leader asking him if he had questioned Mr Coulson about his involvement.

"How is it that all these other authorities are inquiring into the affair and he is the only one not prepared to conduct a proper investigation?" he asked.

Mr Prescott's was one of the phones apparently hacked into by private investigators working for the News of the World.

"So the question Cameron must answer is 'do you back him or sack him?'"

Charles Clarke: Hacking Scandal Taints Cameron



Former home secretary Charles Clarke told Sky News: "For David Cameron to leave Andy Coulson there shows very serious misjudgement.

"In fact, I would say, it disqualifies him from being leader of this country."

Tony Blair's former aide Alastair Campbell told Sky News Mr Cameron still had questions to answer, "not least about his judgement".

"He came out this morning, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and said there is no problem and there will not be a sacking.

"He may be right but we have to know that he has at least asked the right questions...There are too many unanswered questions."

Mr Coulson released a statement on Wednesday night.

It said: "This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World two and half years ago.

"I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor.

"The Mulcaire [royal] case was investigated thoroughly by the police and by the Press Complaints Commission.

"I took full responsibility at the time for what happened on my watch but without my knowledge and resigned."



Prescott wants police involvement

Sky's political correspondent Joey Jones said: "It needs to be recognised that this is very much being ramped up politically.

"Labour Party figures know how important Andy Coulson is to David Cameron and they seem to see this as an opportunity to put pressure on the Tory leader.

"They know that by making links between this case and the case of Damien McBride, as John Prescott has been doing, they will make things uncomfortable for the Conservative Party."

News International is part of the group which has a controlling stake in Sky News owner BskyB.

COMMENTS TO THE STORY

Surely Mr Cameron has got it wrong, he said newspapers should not be allowed to tap phones without justification. There is no justification whatsoever for newspapers to tap phones.

Posted By :Expat Report This



Police Looking Into Phone Hacking Claims

BREAKING NEWS

12:31pm UK, Thursday July 09, 2009

A senior police officer will "establish the facts" about claims a newspaper hacked into the mobile phones of thousands of people including celebrities and politicians.



Clockwise from top left: McPherson, Prescott, Jowell and Paltrow

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson told Sky News he has asked Assistant Commissioner John Yates to report back today.

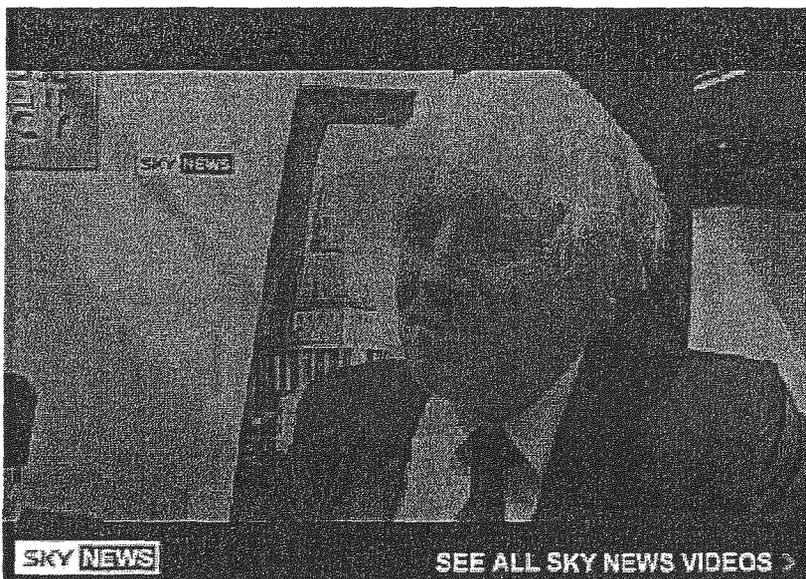
The investigation follows claims that police officers found evidence of News International staff using private investigators to illegally intercept voicemail messages.

The company, which publishes the News Of The World and The Sun, paid out more than £1m to settle cases which threatened to reveal evidence of its journalists' alleged involvement, according to The Guardian.

Sir Paul said: "I think we have got a track record of doing exactly what we are supposed to do. If we need to investigate, we will investigate.

"We will do the right thing and do what we have to do to investigate crime wherever it exists."

Boris: I'm Not Bothered



MPs from all three parties, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell, were among the targets, The Guardian said.

Model Elle McPherson, Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow and singer George Michael were also among those whose phones were hacked into, the newspaper alleged.

Mr Prescott said he wanted answers from the police over the claims they knew his phone was hacked into by private investigators working for journalists.

PR agent Max Clifford, another whose phone was allegedly hacked into, added: "If the police had this information, why didn't they act on it?"

"There are lots of questions that need to be answered, serious questions."

A spokeswoman for News International said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time."

The Guardian said Andy Coulson, Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, was deputy editor and then editor of the News of the World at the time.



Clifford unhappy about claims

He resigned after royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to four months in prison for plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to royal aides.

Mr Cameron has insisted Mr Coulson will not lose his job over the claims in The Guardian.

The newspaper said one of the settlements made, totalling £700,000 in legal costs and damages, involved a case brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

In the Goodman trial, Mr Taylor was revealed as one of the public figures whose phone messages were illegally intercepted by private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, who was also jailed in 2007.

News International is part of the group which also owns Sky News.

COMMENTS TO THE STORY

Outrageous red top behaviour. Still the PCA will be toothless to do anything about it

Posted By :Dave Report This

I wonder where this story got leaked from Anyone like to guess?

Posted By :William Report This

Did Coulson arrive with a dossier of dirt? Is that why he got the Tory gig? The more you look, the more you see - same old Tories, same old stench. It's incumbent upon proper journalists, Sky included, to start asking real question and stop sucking up to Cameron's clique.

Posted By :mackenzie evans Report This

If it's true, News International should be shut down. This is blatantly criminal behavior (which they will no doubt try to deny and blame on individuals.)

Posted By :Tim H Report This

Labour backing paper wonder why this news is out,smears all over again.

Posted By :spoton Report This

It didn't take long for The Police to be called in did it?. But, when it comes to MP's fiddling their expenses, The Police are nowhere to be seen!

Posted By :Peter Report This

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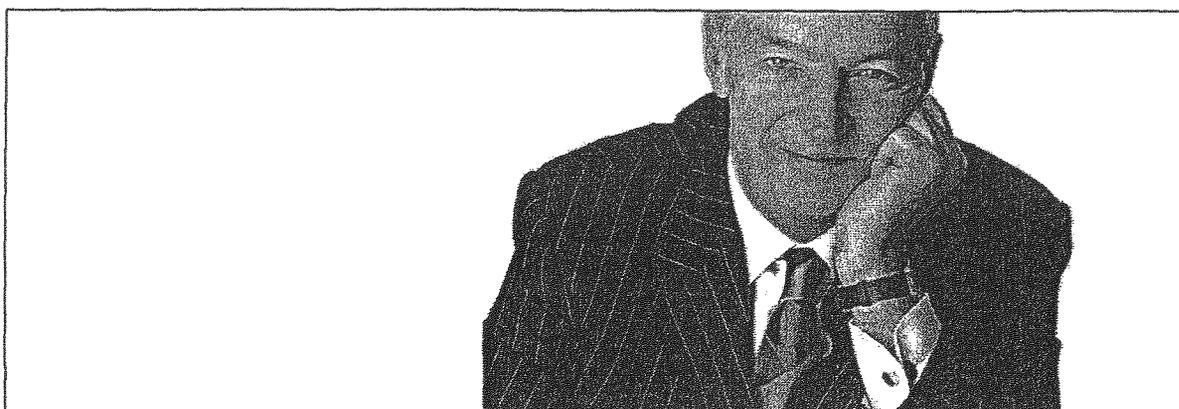
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Snowblog

Article

Time for whistle-blowing in the tabloids

Author: [Jon Snow](#) | Posted: 10:44 am on 09/07/09Category: [Snowblog](#) | Tags: [bbc trust/](#) [Jon Snow/](#) [mobile phone/](#) [News of the World/](#) [ofcom/](#) [Phone Tapping/](#) [press complaints commission](#)

"I've always assumed my phone was tapped", John Prescott told me last night on Channel 4 News. I guess I hadn't. But now that I read the Guardian revelations about the goings on inside News International, I suppose I should.

Any rational assessment recognises that email is unsafe. It is clearly hackable by anyone from friends, relatives and work colleagues to more malign forces - from the corporate to the criminal and even the state.

But somehow when it comes to the little thing that burps and rings at inopportune moments in my pocket, I don't give a thought to the idea that someone somewhere is listening to my doings.

A couple of years ago my privacy was violated by a tabloid that decided to have me in a six-year relationship with a woman I had never heard of or met in a city I had not visited in nearly quarter of a century. Then as now, despite these revelations about the Murdoch papers' activities' I do not believe my phone was tapped, merely that I was a victim of sensationalist fabrication.

But the serious point from both my experience and that of the vast number of people whose privacy seems to have been violated in the present matter, is the complete absence of accountable regulation in the newspaper end of the media. The broadcasting industry is regulated by Ofcom and the BBC Trust. Whatever the shortcomings of these regulators (and in the BBC Trust look no further than their handling of complaints against the BBC's middle east correspondent Jeremy Bowen), doing what the Murdoch group is accused of doing would quite simply bring the regulatory fist down on all concerned.

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<http://blogs.channel4.com/snowblog/2009/07/09/time-for-whistle-blowing-in-the-tabl...> 09/07/2009

MOD100046390

When the News of the World scandal first broke, and their royal correspondent Clive Goodman was jailed for tapping into the phones of the royal household, the self regulating press complaints commission (PCC) talked but its actions resulted in all but no action. Indeed editors of these papers actually sit on the PCC - including the editor of the very organ that published the stuff in which my own identity was traduced.

Fear of media regulation centres on a natural fear of censorship. In 30 years of broadcasting I have never been seriously compromised in my work by censorship in the UK other than at the hand of D-notices issued by government on the pretext that material might prejudice national security.

The time may have dawned when the whistle is blown on practices revealed inside one of the biggest media groups in the world. I believe the whistle must now be blown on the PCC too.

It is a fig leaf behind which all sorts of pernicious and unacceptable practice is tolerated in the media that it supposedly regulates. There needs to be a wholly independent regulator through whom the aggrieved, the wronged and the offended can win redress.

The tabloid press have done much to run down our sense ourselves and our society and the worth of others in a manner unsurpassed anywhere else in western Europe. If anyone is to blame for the urgent necessity for their better regulation, they are.

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[UK banking needs more than hard self-regulation](#) [Carla Bruni sidesteps G8](#)

Comments **Showing oldest first**

1. At 1:40 pm on July 9, 2009 Ross Burton wrote:

Hear hear. The PCC are worse than useless and need to be replaced.

I was curious to see what had been written about Jon and googled "jon snow daily mail". <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/article-459497/Jon-Snow-No-truth-allegations.html> was the first hit, and very telling it is to.

[Permalink](#) [Report](#) [Reply](#)

2. At 2:03 pm on July 9, 2009 Anthony Martin wrote:

All the regulating bodies are a corrupt load of insiders looking after each others interests. From the FSA & IPCC to The GMC. Corruption is their name, serving their elite clique is their aim.

[Permalink](#) [Report](#) [Reply](#)

3. At 3:29 pm on July 9, 2009 Kris Jones wrote:

Some years ago I worked for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the area of media regulation. It was clear some ministers had serious concerns about the activities, and reputation, of the British press. However, I never sensed that even the most worried of them had any appetite for introducing statutory regulation. The last official review, by the Calcutt Committee (set up by David Mellor, who warned the press were drinking where drinking in the "last chance saloon", before he caught with his trousers down), recommended strengthening the role of self-regulation. I can't imagine, despite the current concerns, that any minister would want to be known as the person who ended freedom of the press.

[Permalink](#) [Report](#) [Reply](#)

4. At 3:33 pm on July 9, 2009 Michael Donnelly wrote:

You know that if someone as close to the Murdoch Empire for as long as Andrew Neill has been is shocked by these practices... then this really is like a moment of clarity for the press.

I must applaud the Channel4 team for spending so much of its broadcast on this story... it is refreshing to see the hawks within journalism being held to account by members of their own. Applause also to the Guardian for publishing these revelations.

I cannot wait for more of these revelations to come out of the woodwork, so we can get back to the business of news being about information and knowledge for the people.

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BBC
TWO

Talk about Newsnight A collection of blogs from the Newsnight team

newsnight

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Thursday 9 July 2009

Verity Murphy | 18:03 PM, Thursday, 9 July 2009

Here's Gavin Esler with what is coming up on tonight's programme:

Hello,

Heard the one about the leader of the Conservative Party and the former editor of the newspaper affectionately known as "The News of the Screws"?

Well, as of writing this e-mail David Cameron is standing by his press adviser Andy Coulson, the former News of the World editor linked today with allegations that reporters on his former newspaper may have been involved in a pattern of telephone bugging and "blagging" - in effect, lying - to obtain stories.

We'll be devoting most of the programme tonight to this bizarre tale.

Why did the police not alert all those whose phones were bugged? What was the [Press Complaints Commission](#) up to? And - whatever he is supposed to have done or not done - how exactly does the former editor of the News of the World fit into David Cameron's new Tory party?

And there was much made of the US-Russia talks this week aimed at reducing the two countries' nuclear stockpiles.

But despite all the hoopla in Moscow doesn't the real nuclear threat to world peace come from Iran?

We'll be speaking to the man President Obama calls his "nuclear guy", non-proliferation adviser Dr Gary Samore, about the harsh reality of post-cold war nuclear security.

Join us at 10.30pm on BBC Two.

Gavin

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1. At 6:16pm on 09 Jul 2009, JadedJean wrote:

"But despite all the hoopla in Moscow doesn't the real nuclear threat to world peace come from Iran?"

No, that's probably Israel you're thinking of. They let others believe that they have lots of nuclear weapons and they're not signed up to the Non Proliferation Treaty or the ICC either. She's a bit of a rogue state is Israel. This seems to upset her neighbours quite a bit, inspiring a few to defend themselves from pre-emptive strikes by starting up nuclear programmes all of their own, whilst looking for allies in the SCO.

Perhaps you could have a quiet word with Israel about this?

[Complain about this comment](#)

2. At 7:06pm on 09 Jul 2009, Murray wrote:

You Beeb guys are getting really desperate with your hysterical attacks on the Tories about this NOTW story. It is about time you realised that your beloved Labour party is doomed and there is nothing more you can do to help them.

[Complain about this comment](#)

3. At 7:33pm on 09 Jul 2009, bookhimdano wrote:

doesn't the real nuclear threat to world peace come from Iran? ...

About this blog

This is the domain of the Newsnight web team. We'll keep you up to date with what's happening on the show, talking points, and more or less anything else that takes our fancy.

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Original URL: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/07/09/phone_hack_probe/

UK tabloid in phone hacking probe Wapping breaks out the brown trousers

By **John Leyden**

Posted in Mobile, 9th July 2009 12:25 GMT

£50 cash back & £50 off selected Toshiba laptops

Newspapers owned by media mogul Rupert Murdoch have been accused of secretly paying over £1m to settle three cases involving the alleged use of illegal phone tapping against celebrities.

News Group reporters allegedly hired unscrupulous private investigators to gain access to mobile messages, as well as bank statements and tax returns. The settled cases provide evidence that former *News of the World* royal editor, Clive Goodman, jailed for hacking into the voicemail messages of royal aides in January 2007, was caught using an unscrupulous practice in much wider use among tabloid reporters in Wapping.

The Guardian, which broke the story, quotes unnamed Met police detectives who said that during the Goodman inquiry, officers found evidence that News Group reporters used PIs to hack into "thousands" of mobile phones. The paper also claimed court documents showed that reporters for the Murdoch papers had used private investigators to obtain personal information on public figures from government agencies, financial institutions and other organisations.

Gordon Taylor, head of the Professional Footballers Association, sued the *News of the World* over allegations that he was targeted in an illegal wiretapping operation, and received £700K in damages and legal costs in exchange for dropping the case and agreeing to comply with a gagging order, according to *The Guardian*. Other targets of the celebrity muck-raking operation included model Elle MacPherson, former deputy prime minister John Prescott and celebrity PR Max Clifford, *The Guardian* reports (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/jul/08/murdoch-papers-phone-hacking>).

Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator convicted of bugging mobile phones and jailed alongside Goodman in January 2007, admitted hacking into the phones of Taylor, Clifford and MacPherson as well as Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes and football agent Sky Andrew.

Allegations of widespread criminal breaches of the UK's wiretapping laws raise awkward questions for Andy Coulson, who resigned as *News of the World* editor over the Goodman case, before landing a job as head of communications for the Conservatives. Coulson denies any impropriety.

"This story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the *News of the World* two and half years ago," he said in a statement. "I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor."

The House of Commons' culture committee were given assurances that Goodman had acted alone and without the knowledge of other journalists in paying to tap into the voicemail messages of royal aides, reassurances that the latest revelations put into serious doubt. John Whittingdale, chair of the Commons committee, has promised to raise the issue with his colleagues in a move that may lead to a further (more detailed) inquiry.

The Guardian said News Group may well have acted in good faith but still faces tough questions. The paper also raises questions about why the police failed to notify targets of alleged wiretapping about alleged breaches to their privacy, and why the Press Complaints Commission failed to uncover evidence of wrongdoing during an inquiry.

Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner John Yates told

([http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Politics/Phone-Hacking-Metropolitan-Police-Investigating-Claims-In-Guardian-About-News-International/Article/200907215332909?](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Politics/Phone-Hacking-Metropolitan-Police-Investigating-Claims-In-Guardian-About-News-International/Article/200907215332909?lpos=Politics_Carousel_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15332909_Phone_Hacking%3A_Metropolitan_Police_Investigating_Claims_In_Guardian_About_News_International)

[lpos=Politics_Carousel_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15332909_Phone_Hacking%](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Politics/Phone-Hacking-Metropolitan-Police-Investigating-Claims-In-Guardian-About-News-International/Article/200907215332909?lpos=Politics_Carousel_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15332909_Phone_Hacking%3A_Metropolitan_Police_Investigating_Claims_In_Guardian_About_News_International)

[3A_Metropolitan_Police_Investigating_Claims_In_Guardian_About_News_International](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Politics/Phone-Hacking-Metropolitan-Police-Investigating-Claims-In-Guardian-About-News-International/Article/200907215332909?lpos=Politics_Carousel_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15332909_Phone_Hacking%3A_Metropolitan_Police_Investigating_Claims_In_Guardian_About_News_International)) Sky News that it would "establish the facts" about claims over mobile phone hacking by *News of the World* staff.

Nobody from New International was available for immediate comment at the time of going to press but we'll update this story as and when we hear more. ®

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Blind phone phreaker coughs to harassment charges (2 February 2009)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/02/02/phone_phreaker_plea/

Press code bans snooping in wake of royal eavesdrop case (28 June 2007)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/06/28/press_code_changed/

Tories appoint former tabloid editor as chief spin doctor (31 May 2007)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/05/31/tory_spin_doctor/

Duo jailed over Royal phone tap scandal (29 January 2007)

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Royal editor pleads guilty (29 November 2006)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/11/29/goodman_intercepts_voicemail/

Two charged in Royal phone tap probe (10 August 2006)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/08/10/royal_phone_tap_charges/

Three quizzed in Royal phone tap probe (9 August 2006)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/08/09/royal_phone_tap_probe/

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July 9th, 2009

“Coulson, Coulson, Coulson”



An excited Labour spin-doctor called Guido yesterday evening and said “we're going to do to Coulson what you did to McBride”... “it's going to be Coulson, Coulson, Coulson all day”. Guido isn't convinced that comparison being made by Alstair Campbell with McBride is a good one in this situation. *The comparison with Alastair Campbell himself is a better one.*

Before spinning for Blair, Campbell had been a loyal servant of Robert Maxwell when everyone knew the pension stealing crook was a rogue. Before dining at Maxwell's *Mirror* boardroom table Campbell had knocked out a few porno fantasy stories to make ends meet. *This was before he went to Downing Street.*

Before spinning for Cameron, Coulson dined at Murdoch's boardroom table and oversaw an aggressive “get the story by any means necessary” culture at the *News of the Screws*. The hacking of mobile phones was a simple trick known to many a tabloid reporter. (Call the mobile number, when it went to voicemail tap in the network default pin code. If the phone owner hadn't set a pin code you were in and could listen to voicemails.) When the *News of the World's* royal reporter was caught at it, Coulson resigned saying he took “ultimate responsibility” for the hacking affair. He also avoided having to explain himself to the PCC in so doing. *This was before he went to Millbank - that is the key difference between this situation and the situation with McBride - it happened years ago in a former job, not yesterday.*

Coulson won't be in any danger of having to resign unless evidence emerges linking him directly to phone hacking – and you can safely bet there won't be a smoking gun memo or email. When Coulson won the *Press Gazette Newspaper of the Year* award in 2005 he said “*The News of the World doesn't pretend to do anything other than reveal big stories and titillate and entertain the public, while exposing crime and hypocrisy*”. Guido suspects that the newspapers that will be wringing their hands over illegal hacking won't include the *Telegraph*, *Mirror* or the *Mail*. *Now that would be hypocritical...*

Incidentally, despite dark hints to the contrary from the likes of Kevin Maguire, Guido has never met or spoken to Andy Coulson. Not even an email. *Now Kevin, he met McBride and got emails from him, didn't he...*

Tags: [CCHQ](#), [Dead Tree Press](#)

at July 9, 2009 at 7:08 am



463 Comments

1.1
 Seth the pig farmer says:
 July 9, 2009 at 7:19 am

Coulson accepted his responsibility and resigned. Unless new evidence comes out showing his direct involvement, then this is not going to affect him.

Far more embarrassing would be the revelation that decision had been made to bury much of the evidence, in which case I imagine that there will be more squirming in the PCS and MET.

Reply
 o 4
 Seth the pig farmer says:
 July 9, 2009 at 7:21 am

oops – should be CPS not PCS. It's early (daughter decides on reveille times these days).

Reply

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MARTIN MOORE BLOG

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2009

Phone tapping revelations shows lack of press accountability

The latest allegations in the News Group phone tapping scandal highlight the chronic lack of accountability in the press.

This is a guest post by Matthew Cain, who is leading the second stage of the Media Standards Trust's review of self-regulation of the press.

Not accountable to editors

The editors in the case were keen to assert that they knew nothing of the activities of the individuals involved in phone tapping. Paul Dacre, the editor of the Daily Mail (which submitted 952 transactions from 58 journalists through Operation Motorman) told the select committee: "I will be very honest with you, I had not been aware they had been that extensive".

He went on to say that the practice of paying for data of this sort had stopped and both newspapers and the PCC had ensured proper training so that journalists complied with the law. "I cannot think of more rigorous things we could have done to ensure that all abuses were completely [stopped]".

The current system of press self-regulation is built on the premise that editors are responsible for the activities of their newspaper. As Peter Hill told the select committee 'I reprimanded myself because I was responsible' (for the coverage of the McCann case). However, as Paul Dacre told the committee, "I read the features and the commentary and a lot of the news stories" and "I read more words of my paper than most editors" but it is not possible to read all of the coverage produced by a newspaper.

Not accountable to the PCC

The Press Complaints Commission is not constituted to undertake investigations of this kind. Its constitution establishes it only as a body to resolve and adjudicate on complaints about the code:

"The primary function of the Commission shall be to consider, and adjudicate, conciliate and resolve or settle by reference to the Press Code of Practice . . . complaints from the

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public of unjust or unfair treatment by newspapers . . .

“It shall also be the function of Commission to consider and pronounce on issues relating to the Code of Practice which the Commission, in its absolute discretion considers to be in the public interests.”

It has a small staff, with no special powers to do this sort of investigation, a small budget (£1.8m) and its purpose is to resolve and adjudicate on complaints against newspapers regarding possible breaches of the code. The PCC was simply unable to investigate this affair with the same rigour as other regulators, even though its investigation was more comprehensive than most of its activities.

Should not be accountable to government

It would be too great a limitation on freedom of expression if government were to regulate the press. The thought of a government regulator being able to fine and jail journalists for investigative reporting is undemocratic. Yet the failings identified in this case give ammunition to those who support more government regulation.

Limited accountability to the law

Everyone is accountable to the law but it is preferable that journalists have as much freedom as possible. The Data Protection Act makes it an offence to gain unauthorised access to confidential databases but carries a public interest defence. However, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (which relates to phone tapping) carries no such defence.

Newspapers are already fearful of the growth of media lawyers and the emerging case law around privacy. Any judicial oversight or investigations of newspaper practices could be deeply damaging to fundamental freedoms. The investigation by the Metropolitan Police may be necessary as the law takes its course. However, it is not appropriate for the police to get involved in the business of how newspapers are produced and self-regulation ought to act as a barrier to this sort of action.

As the Media Standards Trust has warned:

“Given the success of recent cases, the legal challenges and precedents will increase, unless the system of regulation is improved to give complainants more effective remedy against invasions of privacy.”

Not accountable to readers

Only two newspapers have independent readers ombudsman, the Guardian and the Observer. No other national newspaper thinks it necessary to appoint someone to represent the interests of the reader to the newspaper. A YouGov poll commissioned by the Media

Martin Stabe
Neil McIntosh
Nigel Barlow
Paul Bradshaw
Richard Sambrook
Robert Peston
Roy Greenslade
Shane Richmond

CONTRIBUTORS

Martin Moore
Matthew Cain

Standards Trust at the end of last year found that 70% of the public believe there are "far too many instances of people's privacy being invaded by newspaper journalists". The same poll revealed that 75% of the public now believe 'newspapers frequently publish stories they know are inaccurate'. Fewer people are buying newspapers each year and few people trust journalists. That would not appear to be sufficient incentive for newspapers to change their behaviour.

Accountable to the profession?

Cases like these are a compelling reason for self-regulation. The difficult balances between privacy and the public interest can be discussed internally, amongst experts and independent representatives. Those in the industry who want to ensure high standards can ensure that all adhere to a clear code of practice. And those that break the rules can be embarrassed in front of their peers. Yet it hasn't happened in this case. The failure of the industry to hold a newspaper to account weakens the position of supporters of self-regulation.

The importance of reform

The press can continue on the current path of low trust in newspapers with the widespread opinion that journalists do not seek to tell the truth, declining readership, economic crisis and growing intervention from the courts.

Alternatively they can use the opportunity to demonstrate why journalism matters; why the skills of journalism make it more valuable than a opinionated blog; why it's vital to democracy and why high standards in journalism are essential to being able to entertain, inform and investigate on behalf of their readers.

Self-regulation remains preferable for the press. But it must be made to work or else it will be by-passed by those whose interests are better served by the courts and those who would gladly see a less free press.

POSTED BY MATTHEW CAIN AT 2:13 PM 0 COMMENTS
LABELS: PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION, SELF-REGULATION

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2009

The Case of the Missing Journalists

What's the similarity between these 7 Telegraph sports journalists?

- Oliver Clive (44 articles since November 2007, most recent on 30th June)
- Austin Peters (109 articles since October 2007,

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09.07.09 - Business questions: BBC pay and pensions

House of Commons - Commons Oral Answers - House of Commons

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Harry Cohen

May we have a full-scale debate about the media in this country — not just about the Coulson illegal phone-tapping affair, but about BBC pay and pensions, which far exceed those of Members, the vile bile that is written about Members and, paradoxically, the need to save local journalists' jobs? May I put this question to the Government and ask the Leader of the House about Government policy? Self-regulation seems to have failed in the financial sector and in Parliament; why, then, is it all right for self-regulation to persist in the media?

Ms Harman

I shall bring my hon. Friend's comments to the attention of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Welcome Catherine Speller

[Collapse](#)

A full listing of the week's business in the UK's parliaments and assemblies is [online](#).

Dods Monitoring Daily, the early-morning list of today's events, can be viewed online [here](#).

1. [Appointment of chairs to the North West Regional Development Agency and South East of England Regional Development Agency \(BIS\)](#).

2. [Economic and Financial Affairs Council \(Budget ECOFIN\): 10 July 2009 \(HMT\)](#).

3. [School Teachers' Review Body 18th Report, Part 2: recommendations and response from the Secretary of State \(DCSF\)](#).

4. [Migration Impacts Fund \(CLG\)](#).

5. [RAF Force Protection Wing \(MoD\)](#).

6. [Campaign for the farmed environment \(Defra\)](#).

7. [Outcome of the Agriculture Council 22 to 23 June 2009 \(Defra\)](#).

8. [2008 to 09 Annual Report and Accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science \(Defra\)](#).

9. [Bletchley Park Commemorative Badge \(FCO\)](#).

10. [Publication of information on the swine flu pandemic \(DH\)](#).

11. [Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts 2008 to 09 \(NIO\)](#).

12. [Consultation on smokefree provisions on ships \(DfT\)](#).

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Parliamentary Monitoring
Newspapers (Surveillance Methods)
Thursday 9 July 2009: 11.31 am

Dr. Evan Harris (Oxford, West and Abingdon) (LD) (*Urgent Question*): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the steps he is taking to look into the actions of the police, the prosecutors and the Information Commissioner in respect of the use by newspapers of illegal surveillance methods.

The Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson): I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to the hon. Gentleman's question. I should first of all inform the House that my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today in Manchester at the Association of Chief Police Officers conference and is therefore unable to respond to the question himself.

The original allegations date back to 2006, following which, as the House will be aware, there were convictions. However, serious allegations have appeared in the newspapers this morning, which clearly go much wider than the original case. That is why I have spoken this morning to the assistant commissioner, specialist operations, John Yates, and why my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has spoken to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner within the last hour. The Metropolitan police are urgently considering these allegations and will be making a statement this afternoon.

It would be wrong for me in any way to pre-empt that statement as this is first and foremost an operational matter for the Metropolitan police. However, I give an undertaking to the House that I will report back following the considerations by the Metropolitan police, when I can do so.

Dr. Harris: I thank the Minister for that answer. Does he accept that I am not relaxed, that I do not think the House is relaxed, and that neither are the public relaxed in any way about fears not only of surveillance by the Government, but now of surveillance by newspapers and their agents? Will he further accept that we all want to see healthy, responsible investigative journalism, especially in respect of public figures who wield power, but that it must be within the law and seen to be within the law, and it would be extremely toxic for our democracy if vested interests were seen to be able to in some way buy their way out of the criminal justice system? I would be grateful if the Minister could keep the House informed of the actions he is taking.

Mr. Hanson: As I have said, the allegations that have been made are serious and deserve examination, and the Metropolitan police will this afternoon be examining them. I will report back to the House in due course. The hon. Gentleman will be aware of the law itself: unlawful interception is an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Where an individual intentionally intercepts a communication without lawful authority, that is punishable with a fine or a prison sentence of up to two years. He will also know that in the case considered two years ago, punishments were given. I will have to reflect on what the Metropolitan police are looking at this afternoon, and as I have said, I will report back to the House in due course.

Chris Grayling (Epsom and Ewell) (Con): There is no doubt that the story that appeared in this morning's newspaper raised questions. We rightly cherish the freedom of the press in this country, but it is vital that that freedom is not abused. Journalists do, of course, need to be able to pursue stories that are in the public interest and to do their job free from interference, but they are also obliged both to obey the law and to conform to the **Press Complaints Commission** code, which sets the standards for their industry.

I am grateful to the Minister for his explanation about the Metropolitan police statement that is due later today, and for assuring the House he will bring back further reports in due course. Does he agree that it is important that everyone in this House gives a measured response on these issues and that we leave it to the police to decide whether there is any new information that warrants further action?

Mr. Hanson: With due respect to the hon. Gentleman, it is not for me to give the reflections of the House as a whole; individual Members will make their judgments and give their views in due course. I have simply said to the House that these are serious allegations that need examining, and the Metropolitan police will examine them. I have spoken to the Metropolitan police this morning, as has my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State. We await their investigation and examination, which is ongoing as we speak. They will be making a statement shortly—this afternoon—and I shall report back in due course on its implications. I can do no more, because investigating these issues is an operational matter for the police.

Chris Huhne (Eastleigh) (LD): Of course everyone in this House will want to see investigations in the public interest, but investigations should not be undertaken merely to titillate the interests of the public. The public have a right to protection against illegal intrusion into their privacy, whether by the state or by private bodies such as newspapers. If, as is reported, more than 1,000 phone taps took place, it beggars belief that this involved just one journalist or that senior executives did not know what was happening—indeed, the allegation is clearly that senior executives on this newspaper did know. I welcome what the Minister has said, but does he not agree that it is extraordinary that the Leader of the Opposition, who wants to be a Prime Minister, employs Andy Coulson who, at best, was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control and, at worst, was personally implicated in criminal activity? The exact parallel is surely with Damian McBride. If the Prime Minister was right to sack him, should not the Leader of the Opposition sack Andy Coulson?

Mr. Hanson: As I have said, the allegations relate to criminal offences and the police are examining those matters as we speak. The hon. Gentleman will know that there is legislation providing for a criminal offence to cover the allegations that have been made. I hope that he will accept that I can only respond in that way at this moment.

Keith Vaz (Leicester, East) (Lab): The Minister will recall that in evidence to my Select Committee's inquiry into what happened to the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green), senior officers of the Metropolitan police told us that as a matter of practice whenever an investigation involved a high-profile person, politicians, including the Home Secretary and other politicians, and the Metropolitan Police Authority, were informed. Will the Minister confirm that no Minister has ever been informed of any of these allegations until last night?

Mr. Hanson: My understanding is that the Metropolitan police and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, like me, discovered these allegations on the production of the newspapers overnight and this morning.

Mr. John Whittingdale (Maldon and East Chelmsford) (Con): The Minister will be aware that the fact that a private investigator had intercepted the telephone calls of a large number of people was well known at the time. He will also be aware that the chairman of News International gave a categorical assurance to my Select Committee that no other journalist, beyond Clive Goodman, had any involvement in or knowledge of that matter. Can the Minister say whether or not he is aware of any evidence to contradict that statement? When my Select Committee reopens its inquiry, as it has decided to do, will he ask the Metropolitan police to provide us with any information that they have that is relevant to this case?

Mr. Hanson: The allegations came to light today, we are examining them with the Metropolitan police and I obviously concur with what the hon. Gentleman has said.

Mr. Tom Watson (West Bromwich, East) (Lab): Should elected leaders be relaxed about a spin doctor responsible for bugging the heir to the throne?

Mr. Hanson: I hope that, again, my hon. Friend will recognise that those are allegations, the Metropolitan police will examine them and I will report back following their investigation.

David Davis (Haltemprice and Howden) (Con): The Minister cannot brush aside as an operational responsibility something for which the Home Secretary has responsibility. The allegation in *The Guardian* is that none of the many hundreds of people whose communications appear to have been intercepted were notified by the police that they were the victim of a crime. That is a matter for the Home Secretary, so can the Minister give an answer on that point?

Mr. Hanson: Again, the right hon. Gentleman will be aware that these allegations have come to light this morning. We are examining them, as are the Metropolitan police, and I will report back to the House on the outcome of those examinations when I have an opportunity to do so. I cannot give him any comment today on the allegations, given where we are on the time scale since they became public.

Emily Thornberry (Islington, South and Finsbury) (Lab): Given the existence of the Wilson doctrine, may we have an assurance that no one involved in the surveillance of politicians has been given a parliamentary pass?

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has confirmed the Wilson doctrine. We will have to look at the issues and the investigations. I cannot give my hon. Friend an answer on the point now, but it will be a matter for the police investigation, and if there are responsibilities for my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, we will examine that.

Sir Menzies Campbell (North-East Fife) (LD): Since the Leader of the House is on the Treasury Bench, and since she has a responsibility to the House as a whole, may

we have an undertaking that consideration will be given as to whether any question of breach of privilege arises on this occasion?

Mr. Hanson: The right hon. and learned Gentleman will be aware that business questions follow these proceedings. My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House has indicated that she will consider those representations and will respond shortly.

Andrew Miller (Ellesmere Port and Neston) (Lab): The hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris) is right that this issue raises profound questions that go to the heart of our democracy. Even though Statutory Instrument No. 1677 gives greater resources to the Information Commissioner, may we be assured that he will have sufficient resources to undertake his part of what will be a difficult investigation?

Mr. Hanson: As of this morning, my colleagues and I have not had an opportunity to speak to the Information Commissioner or the Crown Prosecution Service, which was mentioned in the original question from the hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Dr. Harris). We will examine those issues shortly.

Mr. Ben Wallace (Lancaster and Wyre) (Con): It was my understanding that the inquiry into the bugging of the members of the royal family hinged on an inside employee of British Telecom giving out the numbers for celebrities and members of the royal household. Could the Minister give us some assurance that he is taking steps to ensure that telephone providers adhere to their data protection obligations so that we are all protected, as are other people?

Mr. Hanson: Again, as with the serious allegations that have been made today, any such activity would constitute a potential criminal offence and would be investigated accordingly.

Martin Salter (Reading, West) (Lab): I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister will agree that this is an extremely serious matter and there are many avenues that the House and its Committees may wish to explore. For example, do Mr. Coulson and his employer, the Leader of the Opposition, stand by the comments that the former made to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee in March 2003 that it is acceptable to make cash payments to police officers for private information? Why on earth did the Metropolitan police not properly investigate and prosecute those who were working for Mr. Coulson who tapped the phones of Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and other public figures?

Mr. Hanson: I am afraid that I will sound repetitive, but the allegations that my hon. Friend makes are ones that the Metropolitan police are examining as we speak, as part of their efforts to uncover the truth of the matter. It is not for me to comment on those operational matters.

Mr. Nigel Dodds (Belfast, North) (DUP): Many serious issues are raised by the allegations, and in Northern Ireland we are familiar with questions about phone tapping. However, in every case—unless, obviously, it was a police operation—the target of such surveillance was notified. May we have an assurance from the Minister

that the issue of why people were not notified that they were being surveyed in this way will come before the House and that a full explanation will be given?

Mr. Hanson: I am confident that that is precisely the sort of issue on which we will reflect once we have discussed this matter further.

Geraldine Smith (Morecambe and Lunesdale) (Lab): These allegations have serious implications for national security. If Cabinet members and the Deputy Prime Minister had their phones tapped, what did the Metropolitan police know? Were they aware of this, and if so, why did they not tell the Deputy Prime Minister and other senior Cabinet Ministers?

Mr. Hanson: Again, the Metropolitan police commissioner and assistant commissioner are examining the issue at the moment to try to get to the truth of what occurred and the impact of those allegations. I await this afternoon's statement with interest.

Stephen Hammond (Wimbledon) (Con): Can the Minister tell the House whether the Government are satisfied with the measures that are in place to prevent illegal access to the police national computer? If, in the light of these allegations, they are not satisfied, what will they do about that?

Mr. Hanson: I am confident that we have security of the police national computer. As with intercept information, there are offences that would involve potential criminal action in the event of activity being undertaken in that field.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) (Lab): Has the Minister noticed the relaxed attitude of Opposition Front Benchers in relation to this matter, which contrasts with the indignation that they showed when the police interfered and intervened in the office of the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green)? Is it because they have something to hide, and is it because they are trying to hide Mr. Andy Coulson, who should be getting the sack?

Mr. Hanson: My hon. Friend makes his points in his usual inimitable style, and I am sure the House will have noted them.

Mr. Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley) (Con): The allegations are that the phone tapping and hacking were widespread and that the people who were on the receiving end were not notified. Will the Minister now assure the House that those people who have been the subject of hacking or tapping will now be notified of the fact that they have been a victim?

Mr. Hanson: Again, I think that the first duty of the Metropolitan police is to examine the issue. That is going on at the moment. There will be opportunities to look at some of the other consequences in due course and, as I have said, I will report back to the House on the matters outflowing from this allegation today.

Rob Marris (Wolverhampton, South-West) (Lab): Can my right hon. Friend assure the House that he will remind the Metropolitan police and the Information Commissioner that the defence of "in the public interest" relates to something that is

in the interest of the public body and not something that satisfies the curiosity of the public?

Mr. Hanson: My hon. Friend has made a valid point. I am trying, given that we might have cases of criminal activity as a result of the investigation into these allegations, not to comment too much on these issues.

Adam Price (Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr) (PC): Whatever the operational decisions made by the Metropolitan police, will the Minister tell us what the Government's policy is on informing people that they have been the subject of illegal surveillance? Is it the Government's view that the principle should always be that those people should be notified? As a first step, will he tell us in his statement later this evening how many Members of Parliament and Ministers, according to the information held by the Met, were targeted as a result of the operation?

Mr. Hanson: Again, I will report back to the House on these matters at an appropriate time. It might not be today, but we will look back on those issues in due course and I shall respond when the opportunity arises.

Mr. Denis MacShane (Rotherham) (Lab): My right hon. Friend should be playing for England, so straight is his bat this morning. At 7 o'clock this morning, I saw a hunched figure with a suit-bag and a mobile phone crossing Speaker's Yard. It was Mr. Andy Coulson. I thought that he was on the way out, having been fired. This is not now about him; it is about the judgment of the Leader of the Opposition in keeping him with a Commons pass. For the House of Commons—

Mr. Speaker: Order. A number of other Members are standing whom I would like to try to get in. I must ask the right hon. Gentleman for a question.

Mr. MacShane: Does my right hon. Friend agree that this is not a matter for a Metropolitan police statement this afternoon, and that the House of Commons must decide to set up its own inquiry to hear evidence under oath from all concerned—from the employees of this foreign national, who so instructed them, and from the police officers—to get to the bottom of this matter?

Mr. Hanson: If the House of Commons wishes to look at those matters, that will be a matter for you, Mr. Speaker, and for the Leader of the House.

Mr. Andrew Robathan (Blaby) (Con): It seemed that the Minister was saying earlier that the Metropolitan police only heard about these allegations in the newspaper today. However, the Metropolitan police were the people who decided not to proceed. Who in the Metropolitan police decided not to take this matter further? Was it the last commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, or the deputy commissioner, or was the decision made lower down the food chain?

Mr. Hanson: Again, the purpose of the Metropolitan police's examination of this issue following my discussions with Mr. John Yates and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's discussions with the commissioner is to establish the facts of this case. These allegations appeared overnight and this morning and they are now being investigated.

Clive Efford (Eltham) (Lab): It is quite clear from the revelations in the newspapers this morning that there are also questions about the role of the **Press Complaints Commission**, which seems to have failed completely in its duty to protect the public and properly investigate this matter. Criminal activity was clearly involved in what it was investigating, but it failed to ask questions of the appropriate people to get the right answers. Will my right hon. Friend continue to investigate that issue, too?

Mr. Hanson: I will draw those comments to the notice of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, who has responsibility for these issues.

Mr. John Baron (Billericay) (Con): May I return to the very serious allegation about illicit accessing of the police national computer? It is one of the more serious aspects of the matter. Will the Minister use this opportunity to re-examine the measures in place to make sure that the integrity of the PNC is maintained?

Mr. Hanson: Self-evidently, the integrity of the PNC is a matter of high importance for the Government. We will take all steps to ensure that it remains secure. In the light of the allegations, I shall be looking at whether further steps need to be taken.

Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley) (Lab): Given Mr. Coulson's dubious reputation, none of us on this side of the House can feel comfortable while he is around to wander the corridors here. While he is under suspicion, can we not at least take his pass away from him?

Mr. Hanson: Those issues are not for the Government. They are for the House authorities.

Richard Younger-Ross (Teignbridge) (LD): In response to an earlier question, the Minister said that the offence could be punishable by a fine or imprisonment. Some cases of hacking are not punishable by imprisonment. I believe that, in 2007, the Prime Minister was considering expanding the application of imprisonment for offences such as hacking into the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, but dropped the proposal after receiving a delegation from News International. Will the Minister look at the matter again to make sure that such hacking is an imprisonable offence?

Mr. Hanson: I am not aware of the circumstances that the hon. Gentleman has outlined. As he knows, offences without lawful authority under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 are punishable with a fine or a prison sentence of up to two years. That penalty was delivered in the case of two years ago.

House of Lords
Newspapers: Surveillance Methods
9 July 2009

Statement

6.25 pm

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord West of Spithead): My Lords, with the leave of the House, I shall repeat a Statement made by my right honourable friend the Minister for Policing, Crime and Counter-Terrorism (Mr. David Hanson), entitled, "Newspapers: Surveillance Methods".

"I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to the honourable Gentleman's question. I should first of all inform the House that my right honourable friend the Home Secretary is today in Manchester at the Association of Chief Police Officers conference and is therefore unable to respond to the question himself.

The original allegations date back to 2006, following which, as the House will be aware, there were convictions. However, serious allegations have appeared in the newspapers this morning, which clearly go much wider than the original case. That is why I have spoken this morning to the assistant commissioner, specialist operations, John Yates, and why my right honourable friend the Home Secretary has spoken to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner within the past hour. The Metropolitan Police are urgently considering these allegations and will be making a statement this afternoon. It would be wrong for me in any way to pre-empt that statement as this is first and foremost an operational

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matter for the Metropolitan Police. However, I give an undertaking to the House that I will report back following the considerations by the Metropolitan Police, when I can do so".

My Lords, that concludes the Statement.

6.27 pm

Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, I thank the Minister for repeating the Statement. The story that appeared in the *Guardian* this morning raises a number of important questions about the individual's right to privacy and how that right is protected.

All sides of your Lordships' House undoubtedly cherish and want to safeguard freedom of the press, but this freedom and the right of members of the press not to have their work interfered with and to pursue stories that are in the public interest also entails obligations and responsibilities. Journalists are obliged to obey the law and conform to the **Press Complaints Commission's** code of practice, which sets the standards expected of journalists in conducting their work.

There can be no justification for the use of illegal methods to secure a story. Understandably, there have been calls from those who might have been the victims of the reported illegal interception of mobile phones for an explanation of why they were not informed of the investigation and possible criminal wrongdoing—indeed, with a view to prosecution. As the Minister said, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police took prompt action and directed Assistant Commissioner John Yates to, as he put it, “establish the facts” about the allegations.

Since the Statement was made in the other place, the assistant commissioner has reported, about an hour ago. He said that contrary to the impression created by reports, hundreds, not thousands, of people had been potential victims of phone tapping. He also took the view that there was insufficient evidence in the majority of cases to prosecute. He made the important statement that no additional evidence was found to warrant further investigation. That is the police side. Mr John Yates emphasised that the Metropolitan Police was looking only at the interception of phones.

It would be wrong to think that the issues raised by the *Guardian*'s story or the report by the Metropolitan Police are particularly new, or indeed that they cover only the area that the police have just looked at. These issues have been going on for several years and extend more widely than the police's investigation. In 2006, an investigation was conducted by the Information Commissioner. He found and exposed,

“an extensive illegal trade in confidential personal information”,

and,

“evidence of a widespread and organised undercover market in confidential personal information”,

that contravened the Data Protection Act and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.

This is about the right to privacy. In his report, entitled, *What Price Privacy?*, the Information Commissioner discovered that at least 305 journalists, to his personal knowledge—as a result of his investigation—had been involved in the illegal trade in

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confidential or personal information. He also established that the illegal activities were not limited to one newspaper or newspaper group but were happening across a large number of titles and newspaper groups. Even that is not the full story. The Information Commissioner noted that although,

“among the ultimate ‘buyers’ there are many journalists looking for a story”,

other cases have involved finance companies and local authorities wanting to trace debtors, estranged couples with one party seeking the details of another partner's whereabouts, or criminals intent on fraud, witness or juror intimidation. He states that

the industry of discovering information that should be personal and private extends into many walks of life for other purposes.

The reports today are obviously dominated by the allegations of interception of mobile phones, which constitutes only a portion of the market in illegal activity. The Information Commissioner's report makes clear that government databases are also being sourced illegally. They include the DVLA database and the police national database. The private sector has also been targeted, with people accessing records of ex-directory numbers from phone companies to convert phone numbers into private addresses. It would be helpful to know whether the Minister is satisfied that the DVLA database and the police national database are now secure from such misuse.

The Information Commissioner did a thorough job in his report, but there are questions today about his role, because of reports that he has not made public all the extensive documentation relevant to his investigation. It would be helpful to know if the Minister is aware of whether the Information Commissioner will make any further statement about his inquiries.

There are also some longer-term institutional issues which we on these Benches think need to be addressed. There are questions about the action taken by—or perhaps, the inaction of—the **Press Complaints Commission**, which is a self-regulatory body for the industry. In his 2006 report, the Information Commissioner made a number of recommendations, including that the PCC amend its code of practice and issue warnings about the use of illegal methods. That did not happen. In this context, it is worth citing the view of the Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, which stated in 2007:

“If the industry is not prepared to act unless a breach of the law is shown to have occurred already then the whole justification for self-regulation is seriously undermined”.

Is the Minister aware of any government plans to review the commissioner's role as a result?

We know that information is often sourced through the private investigation industry, members of which work loosely in chains that may include several intermediaries between the ultimate customer and the person who actually obtains the information, as was illustrated earlier. For that reason, the Information Commissioner criticised the laxity of the licensing regime of private investigators and made recommendations on the subject to the Security Industry Authority, the Association of British Investigators and the Office of Fair Trading, recommending that

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the licensing rules be tightened. Given that that was three years ago, can the Minister tell us how much progress has been made and how confident the Government are that those organisations are now on top of those issues?

Finally, there is one issue of a cultural nature. It is fair to say that there will always be attempts to acquire personal information through illegal means for purposes for which

the information should not be spread and was not intended. Essentially, this is a cultural issue. It is imperative that those in possession of our personal information in both the public and private sectors behave as responsible custodians and are circumspect about requests for data.

6.35 pm

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer: My Lords, I thank the Minister for repeating the Statement and I am sorry that it has put him in a rather difficult position. Since the Statement was made, the Met has ruled out the need for any further investigation, which seems astonishing as it has had barely six hours to establish whether there was anything to investigate further. Six hours does not seem anything like an adequate amount of time to do that.

Is the Minister satisfied with the role of the police? The original investigation into the *News of the World* bugging scandal was carried out by the anti-terrorist police because of the security implications around the fact that royal phones had been bugged. Counter Terrorism Command, CO15, took the controversial decision not to inform the other public figures whose phones had been targeted. Why was that? Was that under the guise of counterterrorism and things that need to be kept secret, but that should not have been? What did the police tell the Director of Public Prosecutions at that time? What did he know about the volume of tapping that had been going on? Did he know and decide not to take action, or did they not tell him? The Met still faces a large number of questions about whether senior officers intervened not only in phone tapping but also, as the noble Baroness, Lady Neville-Jones, has pointed out, as regards the amount of illegal buying of data that has been going on. Were the police aware of that?

There could be about an hour's worth of questions on this incident and on the roles of many individuals and institutions, including the role of the PCC. Sir Christopher Meyer was chair at the time of the Coulson debacle. The PCC's subsequent report failed to uncover any substantial evidence. But the Information Commissioner, who was the only person to come out of this with any credibility, asked the PCC to issue a clear public statement warning journalists and editors of the very real risk of committing criminal offences. The PCC resisted doing that and just produced guidance which the Information Commissioner at the time found very disappointing.

Now I turn to the role of Parliament and this House. In 2008, during the passage of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, under Clause 75, we debated whether there should be a prison sentence of two years for people, including journalists, who were caught unlawfully obtaining personal data. But we also debated whether there should be a special defence

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for journalism and, if so, what that defence should be. During the passage of that Act, the legal manager of News International, Alastair Brett, e-mailed me and sought a meeting. News International was most concerned at the idea of the increased tariffs or diminished defences. Now we can see why. It put tremendous pressure on the Government to drop the idea of prison sentences for journalists being included in the

Act. Was it actually the Prime Minister who instructed that that legislation be dropped?

At the end of the debate on that Act, the conclusion was that we would not include it in the Bill, but that it would be brought in by order if necessary. Will that order now be brought in urgently so that when those who have been organising these appalling systematic intrusions into people's private lives have been on trial, they will get the punishment that they deserve, rather than a paltry fine? The fact that we did not pass this to go in the Bill seems a tremendous mistake now. That order needs to be brought in urgently. When the News International chairman, Les Hinton, was giving evidence to the Select Committee, he said that the phone hacking was a one-off case. If the *Guardian* evidence is to be believed, there is a lot of disdain for Parliament, and an immense amount of illegal action has been going on, which should result in a criminal record for a large number of people.

I can completely understand why Members on the Conservative Front Bench do not want to mention Mr Coulson. Undoubtedly, they feel contaminated by their association with him. There is no doubt that some of this custom and practice developed on his watch. No one could seriously believe that it suddenly developed overnight after he had left. For the sake of their credibility on privacy issues and law and order, I hope the Conservatives will join me in calling, at least, for the order to be enacted. I hope the Minister will confirm tonight that it will be enacted, so that when an investigation takes place—as it should and I hope he will press the police on this matter—and, eventually, when this comes to trial, there will be a proper punishment.

6.41 pm

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I apologise for being overdressed but I have just come from a wonderful party, given by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace, for the Fleet Air Arm on its 100th year, which I know the whole House will want to celebrate.

The noble Baroness, Lady Neville-Jones, quite rightly said that this action is quite unacceptable. The judge in the Goodman trial said that is not about press freedom: it has nothing to do with press freedom. We all believe in press freedom but this is a grave and serious invasion of privacy and data belonging to single individuals. That is exactly what it is. Under RIPA, it is against the law to intercept and take data in this way and the penalty can be up to two years' imprisonment or a fine. One can already put people away for two years under RIPA. It has been a fast-moving scene today. I was first aware of this story when I listened to the "Today" programme this morning; that is probably the same for the Home Secretary and my right honourable friend David Hanson in the other place. Since then, this afternoon there was a statement by the
assistant

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commissioner for specialist operations, John Yates, who is a highly experienced police officer. He is very clear in that statement that the original investigation was thorough and that the prosecution decisions, based on the available evidence, were

fully considered by the CPS and leading counsel. I have no reason to second-guess that or the agency or counsel's opinion.

However, he also said at the end of his statement:

"I need to make sure that we have been diligent, reasonable and sensible and informed anyone who may have been a victim of phone tapping".

I did not hear him make the statement but I take that to mean that there is more work going on, and he is still looking at this in more detail. I do not believe that it was his final statement. I assume that that is correct but I will certainly check later to make sure that it is what is happening. There has also been a statement from the DPP. He has said that the CPS will look at this whole issue again. John Whittingdale, the head of the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee is reopening the investigation. A number of people will be looking at this. I want to be very wary of making quick statements because I have learnt from bitter experience that, when something sudden and urgent happens, the worst thing possible is to make snap judgments and statements about it. We need to sit back and get all of this information to see exactly what happened and then take some balanced decisions.

I am afraid that I am not fully au fait with the Information Commissioner's report of 2006. I will certainly make sure that I look at it and I know that the Government will look at it because these are extremely important issues. We would be silly to pretend that, over history, people have not tried to find out information about each other. There are ways of doing it that are probably acceptable and there are ways that are not. We must draw a clear line, realising that when they are not acceptable and allowable, we need to ensure that we are able to protect people. Indeed, for electronic data and so on, the recent cybersecurity strategy that we produced tries to achieve exactly that for the individual as well as for the nation, big industries and so on.

The noble Baroness made a very good point about government databases. I am not sure of the answer as regards the DVLA database but I shall get back to her in writing on that. The police national database is absolutely secure and is very well looked after. A lot of work has been done on that. Indeed, a lot of work has been done to tighten up databases. Let us not kid ourselves: we do not have a good record as regards looking after data. That applies not just to this Government but to our nation, companies and everyone. As I have said previously on the Floor of the House, we all need to get a lot better at this because data are where we are today and we must make sure that we look after them properly. As I say, I am happy as regards the police national database and will get back to the noble Baroness about the DVLA database.

The noble Baronesses, Lady Neville-Jones and Lady Miller, both referred to the **Press Complaints Commission**. Again, I am not exactly sure what was said about that at the time. This is part of what we will have to look at

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because it is all part of the totality of seeing where we go from here. Very serious issues have been raised which we absolutely need to bottom out.

I have touched on the fact that I think the Met will look at this further. That is what I assume from the Statement. I will check that and if I am wrong about it I will get back to the House on that issue. The noble Baroness, Lady Miller, referred to the role of Parliament and imposing sentences on people who invade the privacy of others. I am afraid that I was not privy to the debate about the two-year sentence. As I say, there is a two-year penalty in RIPA.

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer: My Lords, to clarify, the Data Protection Act is the relevant Act, given that lots of data have been bought and sold. The Government are supposed to introduce an order under the Data Protection Act.

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, as I say, I am not up to speed on that. I shall look at it and get back to the noble Baroness because I am not aware that we are intending to move forward rapidly on that. When we have considered the impact of this matter we may change our view on that, but first we need to determine exactly what that impact is. No doubt if anything arises from further investigations of Mr Coulson by the Met, the DPP and the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, something will be done. Other than saying that, I do not wish to comment on that further. I hope that I have answered the questions that were asked.

6.47 pm

Baroness Williams of Crosby: My Lords, the Minister has long been a doughty defender of the liberties of the individual in this country. I thank him for repeating the Statement and for his further comments. However, I wish to take the matter a little further. He pointed out that there is a low level of awareness of the significantly more sophisticated methods now being employed by people in terms of data breaching and breaking into telephone and other communications systems. This is occurring on a scale that we certainly did not see a decade ago. As the Minister well knows, there is an increasing tendency for people to hack into security systems. Only yesterday there was a major hacking incident at the Pentagon and other US government agencies which have the most tightly secured databases. This suggests that we shall have to deal with this factor for a long time to come. A crucial aspect is that it cannot be dealt with simply on the basis of taking administrative decisions about tightening up data systems. At the end of the day a clear criminal sanction must be imposed by the courts to stop people committing these crimes.

Like many others in this House, I did much work in eastern Europe in the 1990s. I was most conscious of the astonishing way in which the Stasi in East Germany had used data that had been leaked to it—in some cases people had been compelled to give it—in order to blackmail and put pressure on people who were attempting to uphold the principles of democracy. At one point something like one in every 70 East Germans

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were recruited by the Stasi to spy on others or to get hold of sensitive, private data.

I do not wish to delay the House but I trust that we will take this matter very seriously. Extremely troubling allegations have been made in the *Guardian* and

elsewhere in the past day or so. Given that there is likely to be no further opportunity for a Statement before the House rises at the end of this month, will the Government make clear what steps they and other institutions such as Parliament propose to take.

This is my final point, because I do not want to delay the House. What emerges so clearly from the information that we have received is the almost total failure of the institutions that we set up, particularly to protect the privacy of individuals and the security of data, to take this issue seriously. Those institutions include the Press Council, which should be ashamed of its failure to investigate some of the allegations that were made to it, and, sadly, our own media committees in another place, which do not seem to have taken these matters as seriously as they should have. Will the Minister agree to put some letter or statement in the Library to enable us to see what the Government intend to do about these very serious issues?

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I can assure the noble Baroness that we take this very seriously. The reason why I am not giving a knee-jerk initial reaction to everything is that I take the issue so seriously. We need to look at the full implications of all of this across the board and then think about how we should act. My right honourable friend Mr David Hanson in the other place gave an undertaking that he would report back following these considerations and presumably I will repeat a Statement here as a result of that. I imagine that that probably will not be before Parliament rises, but I do not know. If it is, clearly I will; if not, my right honourable friend has given an undertaking and it will happen.

As regards clear criminal responsibility, there are already certain criminal punishments for some aspects of these things. The noble Baroness is right to say that we perhaps need to look at this more broadly. Interestingly in the cybersecurity package that I have put in place, we will have people in CSOC looking at ethics and possible legislation, should that be considered necessary. The noble Baroness is absolutely right to say that people do not understand this; they do not understand their vulnerability. Even cards for various stores and so on give away a great deal of data about people. People do not think about or understand what they are doing sometimes when they provide data in that way.

The American situation is far worse, as I have said previously on the Floor of the House. The Americans are spending some \$17 billion to try to get their systems in order. Part of the problem is that they were in this game well before us, so their computer systems were set up earlier and they have a huge number of portals—more than 8,000—into their government systems, which means that, actually, it is not that difficult to hack into them. That is why President Obama is intent on doing something. We are better placed, but—my goodness—we are not complacent. Our gsi.gov.uk is much tighter and much better controlled and gives us

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a lot of protection, but we are by no means complacent. These are all very important issues, which we need to take ahead.

Lord Campbell-Savours: My Lords, my question will be very brief. Will all the victims be informed privately that they were targets of this illegal activity?

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, that is an extremely good question. I think that they should all be told. It will be something that we will certainly pursue to see how the Metropolitan Police takes this forward. It is an operational matter, but instinctively it seems to me that people ought to know if this happened. I would be very unhappy to think that people were not being told, just because they were not quite sure of some of the detail of the information. I will pursue this but, in the final analysis, it is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: My Lords, the point that the noble Lord, Lord Campbell-Savours, has just made is surely the most significant of all. There are victims here—people whose identity must be known to the police. If, as the noble Baroness said, the police say that hundreds, rather than thousands, have been affected, the police must know their identity. It must be right and proper for those people to be told that they have been part of this surveillance state. There must be civil remedies open to them through which they can pursue the matter through the courts if the police decline to.

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, this is not a surveillance state—if I may get that comment in. This has nothing to do with the state. This is to do with private individuals breaking the law. We have very strict rules indeed governing our surveillance. However, I absolutely take the force of the argument. As I have said, I believe that we should inform people. Assistant Commissioner John Yates said that there was insufficient evidence to establish that tapping had been achieved and that, where there was evidence, people were contacted. In a sense, he is saying that if there was insufficient evidence, people were not told. If there is a suspicion that people were being tapped, I think that they should be told. This is an operational matter. I believe that they should be told and I shall be in a dialogue to see exactly how we proceed on this. I would jolly well like to know if some blighter was trying to do that to me. Even though there may not be sufficient evidence to take him to court, I should like to know if someone was trying to tap me. That is how we will go forward on this.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, can my noble friend clarify matters a little further? I am not clear whether the Metropolitan Police has said that it is or is not going to investigate. In the absence of further investigation by the Met, with the best will in the world, it is difficult to see what the CPS can do about it. I am really after an assurance that the matter will not rest here—this is too serious an issue. Either the reports in today's papers were wrong—I do not believe that about the *Guardian*—or there is something seriously amiss. Those

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of us who believe in a healthy tradition of investigative journalism do not want to see that tradition sullied by what has been happening.

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, as I pointed out at the end of the Statement, Assistant Commissioner John Yates said:

“No evidence has come to light since this case concluded so I think no need for more investigation”,

which I found slightly surprising. He then said:

“I need to make sure that we have been diligent, reasonable and sensible and informed anyone who may have been a victim of phone tapping”.

I take that to mean that he is looking into the matter more deeply. I shall ensure that my understanding is correct; if it is not, I will get back to the House. However, I believe that he needs to make sure of that and that the matter needs to be looked into further. I do not believe that that can be done in a matter of a few hours. These issues are too important to be skimmed over quickly; they need to be looked at thoroughly.

Lord Clinton-Davis: My Lords, does my noble friend realise that public concern about this issue will be a wake-up call, and that it is in the wake of what has happened in the House of Commons. Does he not think that there should be a full inquiry into the allegations which have been made and which the noble Baroness has tried to sweep under the carpet? Is it not a fact that the honour of Parliament is seriously involved here and that anything short of a full inquiry into these matters would be quite wrong?

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, as I said, the DPP has the CPS looking at this. The Met is also still looking at it, as was made clear in the last sentence of

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the Statement, and we know that the Culture, Media and Sport Committee is considering it. I believe that we need to sit back and allow those considerations to take place and we can then see how we move forward from there. At the moment, I do not think that it is appropriate to establish something such as a full inquiry.

Lord Lee of Trafford: My Lords, is the Minister aware of whether either the police or the authorities will be making contact with the *Guardian* to ask it to give details of specific cases that it may be prepared to pass over?

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, I am not aware of that but I am beginning to stray into operational matters which the Government should not push into at the moment. I think that we should sit back and let the proper authorities deal with this. We can then ask the right questions and prod where necessary to get the right answers.

Lord Elton: My Lords, I have a small question among all these great issues. Can the Minister tell us whether I am right in concluding, sadly, that the only two ways of knowing whether you have been tapped are, first, if you find the contents of a private conversation in the public domain and, secondly, if you are informed by the Metropolitan Police that it has happened? Is there any other way?

Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, there may be a way of knowing whether you have been tapped but I do not think that I can say anything about it on the Floor of the House.

House adjourned at 6.59 pm.

Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CLAIMS THE NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKED INTO MOBILE PHONES FOR STORIES

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 10:00:00
Presenter: Dermot Murnaghan
Item Start: 10:00:47
Duration: 7:17
Reporter: Ershal Eriington

Amongst the celebrities and politicians allegedly monitored were former Deputy PM John Prescott, actress Gwyneth Paltrow and the Chief Executive of the Profession FA Gordon Taylor. Reporter - The Guardian quotes a police source who claims there are thousands too. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PR CONSULTANT - I know my phone was tapped, it was my mobile phone provider who told me. INTERVIEW: IAN CAPLIN, LEGAL COMMENTATOR - unless you're secret service or Government agent you can't tap into people's phones. Reporter - It's also claimed The News of the World parent company News International paid around a million pounds in out of court settlements to three people. It is suggested on Gordon Taylor. In 2007 the paper's Royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to prison for hacking the phones of three employees of the Royal Family. The private investigator who helped him Glen Mulcaire, who got six months. Andy Coulson was the paper's editor at the time, who resigned because of the case. He is now David Cameron's Communications Director. INTERVIEW: KELVIN MACKENZIE, FORMER EDITOR, THE SUN - for a Labour leaning paper now attacking Coulson is politics by another name. STATEMENT: ANDY COULSON, FORMER EDITOR/NEWS OF THE WORLD, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR TO DAVID CAMERON - the Mulcaire case was investigated by the Police and the Press Complaints Commission. Reporter - former Deputy PM John Prescott is to contact Scotland Yard. The Commons Culture Select Committee is likely to meet to decide if it wants to take the matter further. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOEY JONES, CORRESPONDENT - the Liberal Democrats have lodged an urgent question on these hacking allegations, probably

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Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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by Home Affairs spokesman Chris Hume. It has been accepted by the Speaker. A Home Office spokesman will have to explain what is going on. Alan Johnson the Secretary of State isn't around so someone else will answer.

Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE HACKING ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE NOTW

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 11:30:00
Item Start: 11:32:10
Duration: 10:54

VV: DAVID HANSON, HOME OFFICE MINISTER - the Home Secretary has spoken to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner within the last hour. Unlawful interception is an offence under the REPA Act. VV: EVAN HARRIS MP - the house is not relaxed about the fears of surveillance by the newspapers and their agents. VV: CHRIS GRAYLING, MP - they are obliged to obey the law and to conform to the Press Complaints Commission Code. VV: CHRIS HUHNE MP - the public have a right to protection to illegal intrusion into their privacy. Andy Coulson at worst was personally implicated in criminal activity. The exact parallel is surely with Damian McBride. VV: KEITH VAZ MP - they told the committee politicians, including the Home Secretary were informed. VV: JOHN WHITTINGDALE MP - the chairman of News International gave a categoric assurance that no other journalists beyond Clive Goodman had any involvement. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOEY JONES, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT - Chris Huhne is really putting the boot in. Alan Duncan had a little sheepish smile on. The Conservatives have been completely blind-sided by this affair. STUDIO INTERVIEW: WILL GEDDES, SECURITY EXPERT - on some levels it is relatively easy. GSM phones are very difficult to intercept. It is in complete contravention to data protection.

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Source: BBC 2
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NEWS OF THE WORLD ACCUSED OF PHONE TAPPING

Programme: Daily Politics
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 12:00:00
Presenter: Andrew Neil, Jo Coburn
Item Start: 12:01:37
Duration: 15:51

News International title accused by The Guardian. I used to work for Rupert Murdoch at the Sunday Times. NI also owns The Sun and The Times. Head of PFA Gordon Taylor received out of court settlement alleges The Guardian. John Prescott, Eile Macpherson and Max Clifford allegedly targeted. Royal editor Clive Goodman was jailed. Former editor Andy Coulson now works with David Cameron as Conservatives' Communications Director. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT MP, FORMER LABOUR DEPUTY LEADER - I am staggered that Cameron is relaxed given what he said about Mr McBride. INTERVIEW: DAVID CAMERON MP, CONSERVATIVE LEADER - I knew about the resignation but I believe in second chances. INTERVIEW: JOHN WHITTINGDALE MP, CONSERVATIVE, CHAIR, CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE - it begs a lot of questions. We want to ask The Guardian to give us what information they have and would like to speak to Nick Davies and Les Hinton. Presenter - why did the Press Complaints Commission not investigate? INTERVIEW: WHITTINGDALE - they did and there was a Police investigation. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHARLES CLARKE MP, FORMER HOME SECRETARY - the first question is has the law been breached? Presenter - Police, CPS and the courts were originally involved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CLARKE - I would want the Chief Inspector of Constabulary to produce an urgent report. Presenter - in formation Commissioner has done a report. STUDIO INTERVIEW: FIONA MILLAR, WRITER - stories about Blairs often came from the Police. Once Police take on an institution as in Haringey Council they do not hold back. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NICK ROBINSON, POLITICAL EDITOR - David Cameron's defence for Coulson has changed. Yates of the Yard has been brought in. Metropolitan Police will be involved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CLARKE - Cameron said he

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Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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wanted Coulson at core of operation. VV: CHRIS HUHNE MP, HOME AFFAIRS, LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - it is extraordinary. If the Prime Minister was right to sack Damian McBride should the Opposition leader not sack Coulson? STUDIO INTERVIEW: CLARKE - I thought John Whittingdale was very clear. Maybe the Standards and Privileges Committee will be involved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROBINSON - it goes in all directions. Presenter - Home Office say Met will look again. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROBINSON - Commissioner's words are interesting. John Yates had been asked to look in. I spoke to one individual whose phone was hacked who spoke with disbelief.

Source: Channel 4
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

MET POLICE COMMISSIONER ORDERS REVIEW AMID PHONE NOTW HACKING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: News at Noon
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 12:00:00
Presenter: Krishnan Guru-Murthy
Item Start: 12:01:37
Duration: 8:26
Reporter: Andrew Thomas

Sir Paul Stephenson said he had asked the Assistant Commissioner John Yates to establish the facts over the allegations in the Guardian newspaper. The claims have led to calls for Tory leader David Cameron to sack his communications director Andy Coulson. Reporter - Andy Coulson resigned taking responsibility as the man at the top. VV: LES HINTON, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, NEWS CORP - i believe he was the only person. Reporter - the Guardian says that Gwyneth Paltrow, Jade Goody, Boris Johnson, Tessa Jowell and John Prescott were among its many victims. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, THE GUARDIAN - why did the police investigation start and then appear to stop short of its goal? INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - you could get a class action lawsuit and have a massive lawsuit against the newspaper company. VV: CHRIS HUHNE MP, HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, LIB DEMS - at worst he was personally implicated in criminal activity. INTERVIEW: DAVID CAMERON, LEADER, TORIES - he behaves properly and in an upright way in everything he does. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PUBLICIST - my mobile phone provider brought it to my attention. It gives grave doubts over how the Press Complaints Commission didn't find any evidence. STUDIO INTERVIEW: GARY GIBBON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT - the demands in parliament were fairly predictable. Not one MP mentioned the name Rupert Murdoch of News International.

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Source: BBC Radio Kent
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

THE WORLD ACCUSED OF INTERCEPTING PHONE MESSAGES

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:59:44
Presenter: John Warnett, Julia George
Item Start: 08:07:00
Duration: 7:02

The Guardian newspaper alleges the NOTW paid over £1m in out of court settlements. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TIM LUCKHURST, PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM, KENT UNIVERSITY - I'm not entirely shocked that any commercial newspaper group is accused of using these tactics. A journalist or anyone working on behalf of a journalist to hack into telephone records is a breach of Regulation of Regulatory Powers Act and is illegal. It's not like Data Protection Law. Presenter - Oborn has written The triumph of the Political Class. Can a single person ask for this action to be taken? STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER OBORN [PHONETIC], POLITICAL PUNDIT - Nick Davies [PHONETIC] has written the report and it seems to be endemic in the NOTW news room. The position taken by this creature Coulson, Director of Communications for Conservative Party. When he was editor for NOTW, he says he didn't know about this going on. Clive Goodman the Royal Correspondent went to jail for what he did while working for Coulson. The Press Complaints Commission pathetically failed to ask questions. The toothless committee in the House of Commons have been knobbed by Rupert Murdoch failed also to ask correct questions. STUDIO INTERVIEW: LUCKHURST - the Guardian is a great leftist paper and Nick Davies, wrote Flat Earth News is a good journalist. There is an agenda against Andy Coulson.

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Source: BBC News 24
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

GUARDIAN ALLEGES NEWS OF THE WORLD TAPPED INTO 3000 PHONES

Programme: BBC News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 09:00:00
Item Start: 09:04:16
Duration: 3:46

STUDIO INTERVIEW: ASHA TANNA, CORRESPONDENT - Newsgroup are saying it's inappropriate to comment. John Whittingdale, chairman of the Common's Media Select Committee has said it will consider these alleged revelations on Thursday. John Prescott is very concerned and he'd like to see Andy Coulson called to give evidence and is also calling on David Cameron to sack him. STUDIO INTERVIEW: GARY O'DONOHUE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT - David Cameron's said he knew about Andy Coulson's resignation from the News of the World and believed in second chances. The Culture Committee will reopen its inquiry and want to speak to News International. Presenter - what about the other questions that have been raised for the Metropolitan police, for the Crown Prosecution Service for the Press Complaints Commission? STUDIO INTERVIEW: O'DONOHUE - the Met issued a statement saying these matters were investigated and two people went to jail. Presenter - Charles Clark said we have an organisation setting itself above the law but saying he wants the current Home Secretary to find out what's going on.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

TWITTER PAGE OF MP BRED BRADSHAW

Programme: Live Desk
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 09:30:00
Presenter: Colin Brazier
Item Start: 09:37:13
Duration: 0:40

David Cameron he says the Police and the Press Complaints Commission all have questions to answer in relation to today's Guardian newspaper revelations. The Tory leader has been speaking about the allegations that The News of the World hacked into phone messages of leading politicians and celebrities, when the paper was edited by Andy Coulson. He is now the Conservative's leader Director of Communications.

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Source: ITV Carlton
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

ALLEGATIONS OF PHONE HACKING BY NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: GMTV
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Emma Crosby, Andrew Castle
Item Start: 08:07:28
Duration: 5:55

Let's get more now on that phone hacking story, allegations have been made in the Guardian newspaper. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - if these allegations are correct and there's a great deal of substance I see in them then I think they mislead the House of Commons Committee and the Press Complaints Commission. I shall write to the Metropolitan Police Authority and ask if they knew our phones had been tapped. It's quite staggering that Mr Cameron is relaxed about these allegations. Presenter - Andy Clawson, the Communications Director for the Tories, resigned at the time.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CLAIMS NEWS OF THE WORLD TAPPED PHONES OF THOUSANDS

Programme: Sunrise
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Eamonn Holmes, Charlotte Hawkins
Item Start: 07:33:35
Duration: 4:08

This includes politicians, celebrities and business people. The Guardian reports that those whose calls were reportedly monitored include the former deputy prime minister John Prescott, London mayor Boris Johnson, actress Gwyneth Paltrow and the model Elle McPherson. Several senior Labour politicians have criticised David Cameron's communications director Andy Coulson because he was the editor of News of the World at the time. Andy Coulson said I have no knowledge of any settlement with Gordon Taylor. The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and Press Complaints Commission. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOSHUA ROSZENBERG, LEGAL EXPERT - we knew Clive Goodman was convicted. Andrew Neil has said this is one of the most serious news stories he can remember. Breaches of the data protection act, when you phone BT or a company and pretend to be the person with the account and you blag. The Commons Culture Committee will want to know from News Group, News International. Questions will be asked about Andy Coulson, whether he can continue as the Conservatives media spokesman. Maybe he would become editor of the Sun, if the Murdoch group thinks that is appropriate.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CLAIMS OF ILLEGAL PHONE TAPPING BY NEWS OF THE WORLD JOURNALISTS BY GUARDIAN

Programme: Good Morning Scotland
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:30:00
Presenter: Aileen Clarke, Gary Robertson
Item Start: 07:33:37
Duration: 7:42

According to the Guardian newspaper up to 3000 people, including former deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, were targeted. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROY GREENSLADE, PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AT CITY UNIVERSITY AND FORMER EDITOR OF THE DAILY MIRROR - I think reporters received information from the police, say from the Criminal Records Office, which was in the grey area of legality. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PAUL GILBERT, MEDIA LAWYER - initially News International, the owners of News of the World, effectively defended the claim. The three people who brought the cases, one of whom is Gordon Taylor, were able to obtain a disclosure order, to the effect that the Metropolitan Police who conducted the investigation into Clive Goodman, disclosed documents relevant to his claim. He should be going to his solicitor as opposed to complaining why the Press Complaints Commission or the Metropolitan Police haven't taken matters any further. STUDIO INTERVIEW: GREENSLADE - Glenn Molcare [PHONETIC] was paid £100,000 in the course of a year by the News of the World. Presenter - Andy Coulson [PHONETIC] was editor at the time the scandal broke. STUDIO INTERVIEW: GREENSLADE - Nick Davis, the investigator at the Guardian, is on the record well before he ever broke this story, as saying journalists should never engage in illegal activity. On Newsnight last night Andrew Neil modified that.

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Source: BBC 1
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL PHONE TAPPING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Susanna Reid, Charlie Stayt
Item Start: 07:11:22
Duration: 4:18

The Guardian claims private investigators hacked into the phone messages of 3,000 people including former PM John Prescott. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - the enormity of the allegations are unbelievable. The questions are for the Murdoch authority themselves. It convinced the House Select Committee on Culture, and the Press Complaints Commission, that royal hacking was a one off by a rogue reporter. I am staggered Cameron, who employed Coulson, is relaxed about these allegations, particularly when he demanded McBride, who worked for Labour, was sacked. Presenter - Andy Coulson said he had no knowledge of phone tapping. News International says it is inappropriate to comment at the time. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PRESCOTT - I was in discussions with the PM. I am writing to the chief of police to ask him at the Met Authority if he knew many phones were being tapped. Did he tell the public prosecutor? Presenter - the chairman of the committee, John Whittingdale, says he's seen no direct evidence that assurance was given to committee on the matter had been untrue.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD ACCUSED OF HACKING INTO MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Morning Reports
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 05:00:00
Presenter: Cory Allen
Item Start: 05:01:00
Duration: 4:05
Reporter: Torin Douglas

The News of The World is being accused of using private detectives to hack into the mobile phones of thousands of people. The Guardian claims Lenny Henry, Gwyneth Paltrow and George Michael are among the people who were spied on in 2006. The paper also apparently targeted John Prescott. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - I had no evidence of this. STATEMENT: NEWS INTERNATIONAL - it is inappropriate to comment at this time. Reporter - today the Guardian is saying that one of the people whose phone messages were tapped into, Gordon Taylor the chief executive of The Professional Footballers Association, say he sued. Presenter - the Metropolitan police have a list of those who were targeted. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, THE GUARDIAN - scotland yard have files and files of stuff they seized in raids. STATEMENT: METROPOLITAN POLICE - the mps carried out an investigation into the alleged unlawful interception of telephone calls. Two people were convicted and jailed. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - this is our criminal justice system in the dock. Why did the police not inform the deputy prime minister of this country that his mobile phone had been compromised? Presenter - The man who carried out a parliamentary inquiry into the way the journalist, Clive Goodman, hacked into mobile phone messages is John Whittingdale. INTERVIEW: JOHN WITTINGDALE, CARRIED OUT INQUIRY - we were given assurance he was the sole person who new about it. INTERVIEW: ANDY COULSON, FORMER EDITOR, NEWS OF THE WORLD - I have no knowledge of any settlement with Gordon Taylor. The case was investigated thoroughly by the police and the Press Complaints Commission.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

Presenter - The culture, media and sports committee is going to decide whether to call people from News International to answer questions.

Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD ACCUSED OF USING PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

Programme: Good Morning Scotland
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Aileen Clarke, Gary Robertson
Item Start: 06:20:36
Duration: 3:10

This is to hack into the mobile phones of people. The Guardian claims Lenny Henry, Gwyneth Paltrow and George Michael were spied on in 2006. They also targeted politicians, including John Prescott. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - I had no evidence but most of the newspapers had information that was highly private. STATEMENT: NEWS INTERNATIONAL - it's inappropriate to comment at this time. Presenter - it's been claimed the Metropolitan Police have a list of those individuals that were targeted. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER - Scotland Yard is sitting on this stuff. They have files they seized from Clive Goodman and the Investigator. STATEMENT: METROPOLITAN POLICE - the MPS carried out an investigation into the interception of phone calls. Officers liaised with the Crown Prosecution Service. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, THE SUNDAY TIMES - this isn't just the News of the World that's in the dock. This is the Police in the dock. INTERVIEW: JOHN WITTINGALE, LEADER, PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO WAY CLIVE GOODMAN HACKED MESSAGES - we were given assurance that he was the sole person who knew about it. The Chairman of News International gave evidence to us. Presenter - someone who didn't appear before John Wittingale's Culture and Media and Sport Committee was Andy Coolson [PHONETIC]. He resigned after Clive Goodman was sent to jail. Now he works as David Cameron's PR man. STATEMENT: ANDY COOLSEN - this story relates to an alleged payment after I left News of the World. I've no knowledge of a settlement to Gordon Taylor. The Malcare [PHONETIC] case was investigated by the Police and the Press Complaints Commission. Presenter - the Culture Media and sport Committee will meet later this morning.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS INTERNATIONAL HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT

Programme: 5 Live Breakfast
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Rachel Burden
Item Start: 06:07:05
Duration: 6:00

They own News of the World. The Guardian claims that Lenny Henry, Gwyneth Paltrow and John Prescott are among the people who were allegedly spied on. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PUBLICITY AGENT - if these allegations prove to be true then it's something that a lot of people will be unhappy about. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - they say a senior metropolitan Police source is one and some comes from court papers, there is a case that Gordon Taylor brought against the CEO of the Professional Football Associations, the Information Commissioner has always said there is behaviour such as this. Nick Davis has pieced together this piece for the Guardian. Clive Goodman the Royal Editor of the News of the World was jailed. Andy Colson [PHONETIC] resigned after his royal editor was jailed at the time. Glen Malcare [PHONETIC] was investigated by the Press Complaints Commission. Chairman of the Culture and Sports Committee, John Whittingdale [PHONETIC] has indicated last night that he wants to see that enquiry reopened.

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Source: BBC 2
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PAPERS PAID HUSH MONEY FOR HACKING PHONES SAYS GUARDIAN

Programme: Newsnight
Programme Start: 08/07/2009 22:30:00
Presenter: Emily Matlis
Item Start: 22:34:13
Duration: 13:00
Reporter: Michael Crick

Tonight the News of the World, the Met Police even the judiciary face serious serious questions over what The Guardian claims were criminal methods used by News International to get stories. The editor, during some of that time was Andy Coulson, now David Cameron's communication director. Reporter - Clive Goodman, the Royal Correspondent, was jailed. Along with an accomplice Glen Mulcaire. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, THE GUARDIAN - the hacking of mobile phones was very common practice by News International journalists. Reporter - The Guardian's story stems, from a law suit, by the footballers' union boss Gordon Taylor. Inquiries by both Scotland Yard and the Information Commissioner showed how others on Rupert Murdoch's papers also knew. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT MP, FORMER CABINET MINISTER - I think John Whittingdale has said his committee's going to look at it. Reporter - there are questions too for Rebekah Wade. STATEMENT: ANDY COULSON - I took full responsibility at the time. INTERVIEW: JOHN WHITTINGDALE MP, CHAIRMAN, CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEE - he did step down as editor. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER SUNDAY TIMES EDITOR - the use of hacking into mobile phones was on a mass scale. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER WILBY, FORMER EDITOR, THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY - the Press Complaints Commission was supposed to have looked into this whole matter.

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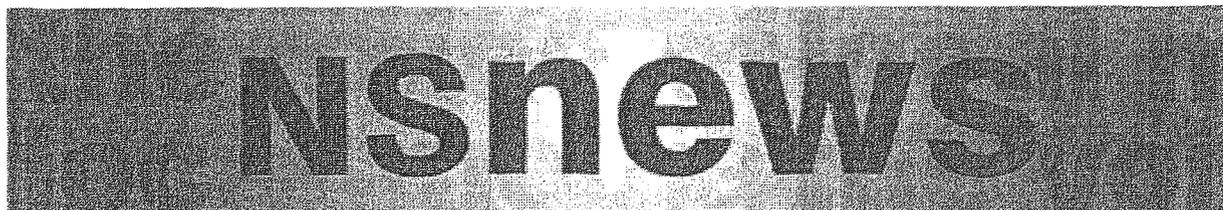
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3. PCC GENERAL

Catherine Speller

From: The Newspaper Society [ns@newspapersoc.org.uk]
Sent: 09 July 2009 13:09
Subject: NS News

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Covering NS and Industry Issues

9 July 2009

News highlights



NS Gives Evidence to Commons Committee on Future for Local Media

The Newspaper Society gave evidence this week to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee chaired by John Whittingdale as part of their inquiry into the Future for Local and Regional Media. NS director David Newell was joined by Michael Pelosi (Northcliffe Media), Geraldine Allinson (Kent Messenger Group) and Ed Curran (*Belfast Telegraph*) for the panel session at Westminster on Tuesday. A Press Association panel also gave evidence.

>> [Full story](#)



Burnham: More Government Ad Spend for News Sources

Health Secretary Andy Burnham believes there is a significant public benefit in government departments putting more ad spend into local media. >> [Full story](#)



New Council Newspaper Costs Barking and Dagenham Post £250,000

The *Barking and Dagenham Post* is bracing itself for a £250,000 fall in annual advertising revenue following the launch of Barking and Dagenham Council's fortnightly freesheet *The News* >> [Full story](#)

NS Focuses on New DCMS Ministerial Team

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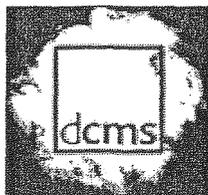
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The NS has been arranging meetings with the Department for Culture Media and Sport ministerial team including new culture secretary Ben Bradshaw. Meetings are also to be held this month with bodies including the [Press Complaints Commission](#), ABC, ASA, and Buckingham Palace officials.

>> [Full activity report](#)



MEN Facebook Exclusives Make National News

The *Manchester Evening News* has revealed that prison inmates are flouting bans on the use of social networking sites and mobile phones in jail through a series of exclusives sparked by an anonymous tip-off and research conducted online.

>> [Full story](#)



Play England Launches Local Media PR Campaign

Play England has launched a local media PR campaign through Featurelink promoting its annual Playday campaign which sees hundreds of events for kids take place across the UK. >> [Full story](#)

In Brief

[Chronicle Shows PM How Oldham is Winning Battle Against Recession](#)

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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS - FRIDAY

Three inquiries into hacking claims as new victims emerge

● **MPs summon Murdoch chiefs over dirty tricks**

● **Targeted public figures consider suing tabloid**

● **Scotland Yard refuses to reopen tapping probe**

James Robinson

News International was last night facing three fresh inquiries into the conduct of its journalists and executives following the Guardian's disclosures that Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire paid £1m to keep secret the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The director of public prosecutions, Keir Starmer, announced he was intending to launch an urgent review of the evidence relating to phone hacking in the case of the News of the World reporter Clive Goodman, who was jailed for obtaining information illegally.

His intervention came after a powerful Commons select committee said it would be calling senior managers from News International to give evidence as early as next week to clarify what they knew about malpractice by journalists at the News of the World. Andy Coulson, the former editor of the paper and now the Conservative party's director of communications, will be asked to appear. He has always denied he knew reporters working for him had hacked into the mobile phones of politicians and celebrities.

The Press Complaints Commission also announced it was conducting an inquiry.

At Westminster, senior Labour figures continued to call for Coulson to resign and the prime minister said that there were "serious questions" to answer.

Gordon Brown was responding after the Guardian revealed that News Group, the publishers of the News of the World, had made the £1m payout to secure secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of journalists using private investigators

to illegally hack into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures. It is also alleged journalists gained unlawful access to confidential personal data, including tax records, social security files, bank statements and phone bills. Targets included John Prescott and Tessa Jowell.

The chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, was one victim and last year he received £700,000 from News International in compensation and legal costs. He agreed not to discuss the case as part of the deal.

However, hundreds of other public figures may also have been targeted. Yesterday,

some of those thought to have been caught up in the affair said they were seeking legal advice. Among them were the celebrity publicist Max Clifford and TV presenter Vanessa Feltz.

Lawyers told the Guardian that News International could face a series of expensive legal actions if it was proved that reporters working for the group were engaged in behaviour that breached privacy.

The Met's assistant commissioner John Yates said yesterday that Scotland Yard would not be reopening its files on the case because no new evidence had come to light and the original inquiry had concluded phone tapping had occurred in only a minority of cases. "I therefore consider no further investigation is required."

Legal experts made it clear that the Yard's decision would not affect the ability of alleged hacking victims to sue the News of the World for breach of privacy.

The parliamentary inquiry will focus on executives at News International, including Rebekah Wade, the outgoing Sun editor who has been promoted to News International chief executive.

The parliamentary inquiry will focus on executives at News International, including Rebekah Wade, the outgoing Sun editor who has been promoted to News International chief executive.

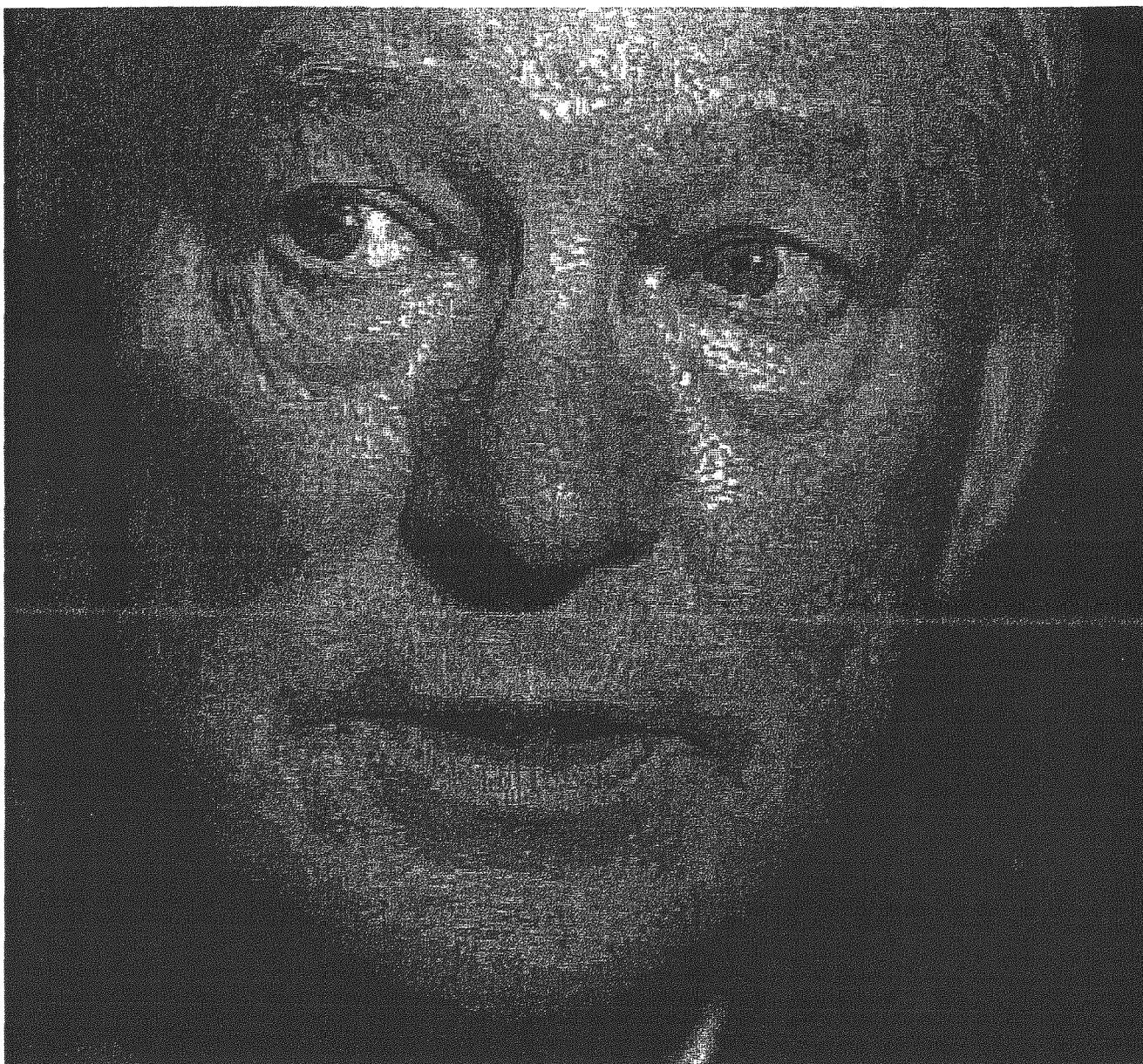


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-executive; Stuart Kuttner,
the News of the World's outgoing manag-

Continued on page 5»



Sir Alex Ferguson's messages were intercepted on PFA chairman Gordon Taylor's phone Photograph: Chris Jackson/Getty

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Three inquiries launched into hacking claims

« continued from page 1

ing editor; Colin Myler, the current News of the World editor; and Les Hinton, the former chairman of News International.

John Whittingdale, the chairman of the committee, said he was particularly keen to question Hinton, who told a previous hearing Goodman had been acting alone.

The Conservative leader, David Cameron, was forced to defend Coulson following calls that he should be sacked.

Cameron told reporters outside his home in London: "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification. That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two and a half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance. As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

The Tories also pointed to Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen its inquiry.

Nevertheless, the DPP said he was setting up a team to review the evidence

and the decision taken over the material discovered during the police inquiry into Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who was also jailed.

"In the light of the fresh allegations ... I have now ordered an urgent examination of the material supplied to the CPS by the police," he said.

He was taking this action "to satisfy myself and assure the public that the appropriate actions were taken in relation to that material". He said the evidence was extensive and complex, "but it has all been located and a small team is rapidly working through it ... It will necessarily take some time. I am only too aware of the need for urgency."

News International broke its silence last night. But the company did not address any of the specific allegations made by the Guardian, saying: "News International is prevented by confidentiality obligations from discussing certain allegations made in the Guardian newspaper today." It said its journalists had complied with relevant legislation and codes of conduct since February 2007, after the Goodman case and Coulson's resignation.

Alan Rusbridger, the editor in chief of the Guardian, said: "We note that News International has not contested any part of the Guardian coverage - including the central assertion that the company had paid a record £1m to ensure secrecy over damages paid to victims of illegal phone-hacking."

TIMESONLINE

From The Times

July 11, 2009

News of the World investigation was no half-hearted affair

Andy Hayman

The allegations about *News of the World* journalists employing private investigators to hack into celebrities' mobile phones have put the spotlight on the original Metropolitan Police investigations into these claims, which I headed.

In the original inquiry, my heart sank when I was told the accusations came from the Palace. This was not the time for a half-hearted investigation — we put our best detectives on the case and left no stone unturned as officials breathed down our neck.

The Guardian has said it understands that the police file shows that between 2,000 and 3,000 individuals had their mobile phones hacked into, far more than was ever officially admitted during the investigation and prosecution of Clive Goodman. Yet, my recollection is different. As I recall the list of those targeted, which was put together from records kept by Glen Mulcaire, ran to several hundred names. Of these, there was a small number — perhaps a handful — where there was evidence that the phones had actually been tampered with.

Had there been evidence of tampering in the other cases, that would have been investigated as would the slightest hint that others were involved.

As is so often the case, in the storm of allegation and denial the facts get lost. Well-known figures such as John Prescott are said to have been victims of the hacking without any clear evidence that their phones were, in fact, hacked.

The promise by the authorities to clarify any ambiguity surrounding the original inquiry should be reasonably straightforward providing the police are allowed to focus on the criminal matters and are not distracted by the plethora of parliamentary and watchdog probes. There is a danger the two could get entwined.

The obvious way of getting to the bottom of whether more could have been done by the police is to conduct a review, as suggested by the CPS. This route will bring closure by either endorsing the original investigation or demanding further work be completed. In retrospect, the speed with which the Met came out and said it would not be reopening its files might have been a mistake. Ultimately, it will be the CPS that decides whether there is a need for a further inquiry or not.

The present clamour for more information and clarity is forcing many other bodies to become involved. On Friday, in the space of a couple of hours, several parliamentary committees and other press watchdogs announced their own inquiries. Undoubtedly, all these interested parties will want to examine the same witnesses and test the same evidence. This could be a recipe for disaster.

The police and CPS objective is to ascertain whether any criminal activity has been left unchecked. That is significantly different from the purposes of the other inquiries. They must not be confused. The police and CPS must be left to conduct their own review and not be prematurely pulled into servicing the other interested parties otherwise the waters could become muddier.

Andy Hayman is a former Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police

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TIMESONLINE

From The Sunday Times

July 12, 2009

Hacked Off: Allegations of phone-hacking unpicked

The allegations of phone-hacking by a tabloid that have shaken both the media and the political world are unpicked

Jon Ungoes-Thomas

Sitting in his office in the home counties last week, a private investigator leant across his desk and spoke about one of his skills: the art of obtaining private information on celebrities and other public figures. From an ex-directory phone number to banking files and health records, they were, he explained, all readily available from the right person at the end of the phone, whether they worked at BT or the NHS. "It's about assessing the psychology of the person you are speaking to and then convincing them to give you the information," he said.

"You have to know the terminology of the organisation you are targeting and know which people might legitimately be able to ask for the information you are after. Then you pose as them. You need to be confident and personable."

The investigator admitted he has sold such information to newspapers, but this business was an increasingly risky trade. He said he had been investigated and subsequently charged by the Information Commissioner for alleged breaches of data protection laws and was no longer willing to work for the media.

His main clients now are insurance companies, for which discovering evidence of a criminal record can be a quick and easy way to reject a claim.

This weekend, the work of such investigators faces scrutiny after The Guardian claimed that the News of the World, which is published by News International, the owner of The Sunday Times, had used private investigators to hack illegally into mobile phone voicemails. The Guardian said there were "thousands" of victims but produced no evidence for its extravagant claims.

Part of this was old news. In January 2007 Clive Goodman, the News of the World's former royal reporter, and Glen Mulcaire, a private investigator, were convicted and jailed for hacking into hundreds of mobile phone messages, including those of aides to the royal family.

The scandal also cost Andy Coulson his job as editor of News of the World. He is now the director of communications for the Conservative party under David Cameron.

The new claims, however, suggested that such practices were not just the province of one rogue reporter, but a systematic operation that had targeted thousands of phones. John Prescott, the former deputy prime minister, Tessa Jowell, the Olympics minister, and Gwyneth Paltrow, the actress, were said to be among the victims. But again no evidence was produced to show that they had been on anything but a wish list.

On Friday evening, News International issued a strong rebuttal. It described some of the most serious allegations as "irresponsible", "unsubstantiated" and "false".

Specifically, it denied that police had uncovered evidence of News of the World staff, or private investigators commissioned by them, hacking into thousands of phones. News of the World executives also deny sanctioning payments for illegal phone intercepts.

John Yates, the assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan police who reviewed the Goodman case files last week, had already announced that he had found nothing that warranted further investigations or charges.

Andy Hayman, the former Met assistant commissioner, who led the original inquiry, said yesterday there was only evidence that a handful of phones had been tampered with and "we put our best detectives on the case and left no stone unturned".

By now, however, a hue and cry was gathering pace across Westminster and the BBC. There were calls for Cameron to sack Coulson, for newspaper executives to be hauled before committees of MPs and for police investigations to be reopened.

For some politicians there was a delicious taste of schadenfreude after Fleet Street exposed their fiddling of parliamentary expenses. Now the biter was being bitten.

On Friday, Tom Watson, the former Labour minister, reflected the mood, bowling up to a journalist from a national newspaper and tugging at the reporter's House of Commons pass. "You won't be needing this much longer," he grinned.

First it was bankers, then MPs and maybe now it is the turn of the press. In a recession we all love someone to blame.

In the late 1990s, the rather dishevelled figure of Benjamin Pell, a former trainee lawyer, could often be spotted around London's Chancery Lane, scooping up bags of rubbish from outside law firms. Inside was pay-dirt for national newspapers.

Pell, it later emerged, was one of the most successful story-getters of those years. He obtained papers relating to the libel case between Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP, and the Harrods owner Mohamed al-Fayed; documents showing how Jonathan Aitken, the former Tory minister, had been involved in setting up arms deals in Saudi Arabia and even Sir Elton John's enormous bill for flowers. Every story came out of the bins.

David Leigh, the investigations editor at The Guardian, is reported to have offered Pell – known as "Benji the Binman" – £100 on one occasion and put him in touch with a freelance journalist who could help Pell find markets for future stories.

At the time none of the journalists, including some from The Sunday Times, appeared unduly concerned about Pell's bin raids.

"The real issue is: should journalists use information from unsavoury sources?" said Leigh in a letter to Press Gazette, the trade magazine, in April 2005, when details of Pell's activities were exposed. "The answer is, 'Yes, if it's true and in the public interest; no, if it's merely tittle-tattle acquired with a chequebook'."

This justification was of scant help to Pell, who was subsequently convicted on five counts of theft from bins.

It was not just rifling through rubbish that was landing the scoops, however. Many reporters would use private detectives, who could obtain a wealth of information on an individual, much of which would be considered confidential. While these private detectives were sometimes being used for legitimate investigations in the public interest, they were also used by the tabloids to trawl for stories on celebrities.

In 2006 Richard Thomas, then the information commissioner, published a report on the unlawful trade in private information, What Price Privacy?. It included a tariff for various categories of information. For example, obtaining an ex-directory telephone number cost £75, while a car number-plate check to match it to an address cost £150.

Six months later Thomas provided more details of one of his team's cases, Operation Motorman, which had targeted the private investigator Stephen Whittamore. In a raid on Whittamore's Hampshire home, details of 305 journalists who had used the investigator's services between April 2001 and March 2003 were found.

According to the report, more than 50 Daily Mail journalists had bought material from Whittamore on 952 occasions. Other newspapers on the list included the Daily Mirror (681 transactions) the News of the World (228), The Observer (103) and The Sunday Times (4).

While Thomas suggested that the evidence bolstered his case that those convicted of trading unlawfully

in personal information should be punished with a two-year jail term, his report was fundamentally flawed.

He did not identify which of the transactions might be considered unlawful and which newspapers had public interest defences or were requesting publicly available information, such as electoral roll checks. Thomas's report ended as a damp squib and he later had to apologise to The Sunday Times for publishing misleading information about the paper.

There was more meat on the Goodman and Mulcaire case the following year. The pair admitted hacking into more than 600 messages on the mobile phones of royal family aides.

Mulcaire, who ran his company from Sutton, south London, also admitted intercepting voicemail messages intended for Max Clifford, the publicist; Sky Andrew, agent of Sol Campbell, the England footballer; Gordon Taylor, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association; Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP; and Elle Macpherson, the model.

Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World. His successor, Colin Myler, conducted an internal inquiry and subsequently told the Press Complaints Commission that Goodman had deceived News International to pay Mulcaire, had concealed the sourcing on royal stories, and that nobody else knew Goodman and Mulcaire were tapping phone messages for stories.

On Thursday, The Guardian contradicted News International's account of the affair but produced scant evidence for its claims.

The story was picked up with glee by the BBC, which led its bulletins with it. It provided a useful diversion from its own woes, since the BBC has faced sustained and heavy criticism from the press since it released the details of the lavish salaries and expenses paid to some of its senior executives. Those disclosures showed that 27 of the BBC's top 50 executives were paid more than the prime minister.

Prescott, who believed he might have been a victim, exploded in a bluster on the BBC news. In a letter to Cameron, he wrote: "The claim that up to 3,000 people, including myself, had their mobile phones 'hacked' on the instruction of the News of the World while being edited by your director of communications, Andy Coulson, must be thoroughly investigated."

Yet the suggestion that there might be thousands of crimes that had never been properly investigated was almost immediately dismissed by John Yates in his review of the Goodman files. Prescott's phone had never in fact been hacked. Yates said that while there may have been hundreds of potential targets, only a small number had had their phone messages compromised. All those people had been contacted.

A senior source with good knowledge of the case said that police had categorised those targeted by Mulcaire into three lists. On the first list, which was fewer than 20 people, were those whose phones had been illegally hacked. This list is thought to include Boris Johnson, now the London mayor, a senior executive at the BBC, and the individuals named in the Goodman court case.

On a second list were 40-50 people. Mulcaire had obtained the mobile numbers of these individuals, but there was no evidence their phones had been unlawfully tapped. Jowell and Sir Ian Blair, the former Met commissioner, are believed to have been on this list.

On the final list were about 400-500 people who were possible targets, but Mulcaire had not even obtained their phone numbers. This list, referred to as the "C" list, is believed to have included Prescott.

This account was backed up by Andy Hayman yesterday; he said the inquiry he headed had uncovered "several hundred names" that had been targeted by Mulcaire. "Of these, there was a small number - perhaps a handful - where there was evidence that the phones had actually been tampered with," he said.

The source of the confusion about the story may lie in a case that Taylor launched after Goodman was convicted to seek damages for breaches of the Data Protection Act.

News International initially resisted the claim, so Taylor's lawyers subpoenaed two collections of files - one relating to the police case against Goodman and Mulcaire; the second relating to journalists in the What Price Privacy? report.

Taylor's claim was settled when new evidence emerged out of the police files that another News of the World reporter knew how Mulcaire was obtaining some of his information. That reporter has since left the paper and there is no evidence he committed any offence.

News International executives are not aware of any other evidence in the police files that show any other News of the World journalist was involved in commissioning Mulcaire to hack phones.

So it appears The Guardian may have conflated the Goodman case files with the alleged misdemeanours from the information commissioner's files, which detailed a huge number of contacts of journalists with private investigators, even if it did not outline any specific offences. Did a tip about 500 names on the Met files become thousands by some extrapolation based on the information commissioner's report? The Guardian has still not provided any documentary evidence for its allegations.

While News of the World executives are angry about what they consider unfair reporting, the disclosures have touched a nerve with the public. As MPs have discovered with their expenses, the defence that activities were within the law or common practice is not always regarded as satisfactory.

Newspapers will have to mount a robust defence if the current system of self-regulation is not overtaken by a privacy law. Those committed to serious investigations will argue that they always act in the public interest when using subterfuge.

Recent cases include the exposure of MPs' expenses - which technically breached their right to have their data protected - and The Sunday Times's exposure of peers accepting cash-for-amendments in which reporters posed as businessmen to gain proof of wrongdoing.

Standing more directly in the firing line is Coulson, even if no proof emerges of further phone hacking by reporters under his editorship. Labour MPs - and some Tories - have a whiff of blood in their nostrils.

When the scandal first broke Cameron's spokesman declared that the Tory leader was "relaxed" about the position of Coulson. But on Thursday an operation was put in place to build a wall around Cameron's communications chief. "In any political scandal the first 24 hours normally determines whether someone survives or has to be thrown to the wolves," said a party insider.

The disaffected right wing of the party is restless. There is a feeling that there is one rule for MPs accused of expenses fiddling whom Cameron regards as "expendable" and another rule for members of the inner circle. "David Cameron talks about giving Coulson a 'second chance'," said one MP. "Where were the second chances for people like Peter Viggers [the MP who tried to claim for the duck island]?"

Labour are, meanwhile, determined to enjoy the Tory discomfort.

"Initially I was disappointed that the police decided not to investigate," said a special adviser to a cabinet minister. "But then I slept on it and thought that if the police had gone in, Coulson would have been out within 24 hours. Now we can drag this out for months. Each day the Tories will be damaged just a little more."

Additional reporting: Jonathan Oliver

How to hack mobile phones and what the law says

Hacking into a mobile phone does not necessarily require any advanced technical knowledge.

Those who do it rely on the fact that many phone users do not bother to change the default pin codes that allow remote access to their voicemail message boxes.

Alternatively, if they do alter the four-digit number they often use a number associated with a family member's birthdate or an anniversary.

Armed with the pin code the hacker then dials the target phone at a time when it is off, or engaged, in order to be diverted to the message box. If the pin number matches, he has access to any new or saved messages.

Listening in on mobile phone messages in this way is an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, legislation which was brought in to give various government agencies the power to carry out surveillance.

Intercepting telephone communications legally requires the consent of a member of the cabinet. Transgressors face up to two years in jail.

However, since the act stipulates that the offence occurs if a communication is intercepted "in the course of its transmission", hacking into someone's old messages may not constitute a crime.

Listening into a mobile phone user's conversations while they take place is a far more complicated undertaking. It would usually necessitate either the cooperation of someone working for the relevant phone company or the placing of some kind of bug in the target's handset.

Confidential details such as phone records, bank details and medical records are obtained by private investigators who con their way into the confidence of the data keepers. This is an offence under the Data Protection Act and punishable by a fine of up to £5,000. However, significantly, such activities may be permissible in serious investigations if there is a public interest defence.

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CULTURE MEDIA AND SPORT COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 7 MILLBANK, LONDON SW1P 3JA

Tel 020 7219 5739 Fax 020 7219 2031

E-mail: recardoj@parliament.uk

BY EMAIL

Tim Toulmin, Director, Press Complaints Commission

Sent to: tim.toulmin@pcc.org.uk

**VISITOR ON COMMITTEE BUSINESS – PLEASE ASSIST WITH FAST
TRACK ACCESS ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2009**

13 July 2009

Oral Evidence: Press standards, privacy and libel

I am writing on behalf of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee to confirm that you are invited to give oral evidence in public on the morning of Tuesday 14 July at 10.45 a.m in connection with the Committee's inquiry into *Press standards, privacy and libel*. Thank you for your willingness to attend.

The session will take place in Committee Room 8, in the Palace of Westminster. Please note that the meeting will be transmitted live via the Internet, and may also be recorded for future use by broadcasters.

Please come to the Cromwell Green Entrance, which is the main visitor entrance for the Palace of Westminster. This is opposite Westminster Abbey and visitors will be directed down a ramp where you will be shown through airport style security checks and directed to the appropriate Committee Room. Please bring this letter/email with you and show it to the security staff and Visitor Assistants. There will be priority access for those with appointments relating to the business of either House (such as select committees).

Committee staff will meet you outside the meeting room. Please note that at busy times it can take up to twenty minutes to pass through the security check. For maps of the Estate and details of how to get to Westminster, please go to this page of the parliamentary website: <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/maps.cfm>

Two panels will be given evidence as follows:

10.45 a.m. Tim Toulmin, Director, Press Complaints Commission

11.30 a.m. Paul Johnson, Deputy Editor, Guardian News & Media, and
Nick Davies, The Guardian

Further guidance can be found in on Parliament's website:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/witness.cfm

Committee staff have been authorised by the Committee to give witnesses an informal, oral, indication of some likely areas of questioning. We will do this in advance of the meeting.

Oral evidence and written evidence already received as part of this inquiry are available on the Committee website:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/culture_media_and_sport.cfm

You should also be aware that we have issued a press notice listing the witnesses for the session.

A transcript of the session will be taken. **An uncorrected version of this will be put on the Committee's website early the following week.** A copy will be sent to you. This provides an opportunity for you to suggest any corrections of inaccuracies in the recording of your words and also serves as a reminder in case, during the course of the meeting, you promised to send the Committee any further written papers. Corrected transcripts should be returned within five working days. If corrections are not received by this date or you do not have any corrections to make, the evidence will be published in its original form. Further information on this process will be sent out with the transcript.

If you would like any further information about the meeting or you have any special requirements, then please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 7219 5739. If you wish to claim for any expenses you should discuss these with the committee secretariat in advance of your appearance before a committee. The secretariat will provide you with a claim form and agree which expenses will be covered by the committee.

If you need to contact me on the actual meeting day - my mobile number is 07775 506346. It would be helpful if you could let me know that you have received this email.

J Recardo

Jackie Recardo
Senior Committee Assistant

**VISITOR ON COMMITTEE BUSINESS – PLEASE ASSIST WITH FAST
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1. ALLEGATIONS OF PHONE TAPPING A) GUARDIAN COVERAGE

Home Office seeks police briefing on phone hacking

**Met chief asked to clarify
 refusal to reopen inquiry**

**Commons committee to
 call in Murdoch executives**

Nicholas Watt
 Chief political correspondent

The Home Office is pressing Scotland Yard for a comprehensive briefing on what it knows about the News of the World phone-hacking allegations, as well as files on any other cases where journalists have been suspected of breaking data protection laws.

The department's most senior civil servant, Sir David Normington, has written to the Met's assistant commissioner John Yates, asking for clarification on a number of points not dealt with when he ruled out reopening the police investigation.

It is understood the Home Office is keen to know what is in the Yard's files on cases other than that involving the News of the World's former royal reporter, Clive Goodman, who was jailed for four months in January 2007 for hacking into the voice-mail messages of Prince Charles's staff.

Alan Johnson, the home secretary, and Normington are expected to be questioned about the allegations when they appear before the Commons home affairs select committee on Tuesday during a general session on the work of the Home Office.

Senior executives within Murdoch's empire, including Rebekah Wade, are also likely to be called, as well as Andy Coulson, the ex-News of the World editor

who is currently the Tory party's director of communications.

Two other key figures at the heart of Rupert Murdoch's media empire will also be questioned as part of the Commons investigation into the hacking of phones on behalf of the News of the World.

Les Hinton, the chief executive of Dow Jones, and Stuart Kuttner, the outgoing managing editor of the News of the World, are to be challenged about News International's relations with private investigators who hack into phones.

Hinton is to be asked whether he misled the Commons culture select committee when he gave a categorical assurance that Goodman was the only person on the paper guilty of such conduct. Kuttner, who in an unconnected move resigned last week, is to be asked about his role in approving payments to private investigators who, it

turned out, had hacked into phones.

A letter from News International to the Commons committee two years ago made clear that Kuttner was ultimately responsible for such payments. News International have always maintained that these were legitimate payments.

The culture select committee has decided to extend its investigation into press standards after the Guardian



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Press Complaints Commission

reported this week that News International has paid out over £1m to settle legal cases where phones were hacked into.

The cases were brought after Goodman was jailed in January 2007 for hacking into the phones of three royal staff. Glen Mulcaire, a private investigator who worked for Murdoch's News Group, was also jailed after hacking into five phones.

Philip Davies, a Conservative member of the culture committee, said: "You could understand the argument that Clive Goodman was doing this stuff and we didn't know about what was going on. The stuff in the Guardian raises doubts about that. Rather than him being a rogue it suggests this was systematic and cultural. The idea that the chap was a one-off is harder to swallow."

Members of the committee want to challenge Hinton, the former News International chairman, over evidence he gave to them in 2007 when he said he was "absolutely convinced" Goodman was the only person who knew about the phone hacking at the paper.

Paul Farrelly, a Labour member of the committee, said: "We have decided to invite Les Hinton back because there is a feeling that parliament may have been misled by News International's evidence in our last inquiry. We want to give him a chance to address that issue."

The committee also believes that Kuttner is a key figure. A letter from News International to the committee in June 2007, which outlined an eight-point "protocol" for approving cash payments to "confidential sources", said Kuttner had responsibility for approving all such payments.

The letter says: "A memo detailing the reason for making the payment to a Confidential Source has to be provided to the Managing Editor's office. Every cash payment request must be signed off by the relevant Department head." The protocol was amended after Goodman, though the procedures authorising contracts with confidential sources remained the same.

The focus on Kuttner may relieve some of the pressure on Andy Coulson, the Tories' director of communications, who resigned as editor of the News of the World after the jailing of Goodman. Coulson, who is to be summoned before the select committee at a later date, insists he has no knowledge that phones were hacked.

Some Tories have argued that Coulson ran a classic Fleet Street operation in which he, as editor, did not ask too many ques-

tions about the provenance of stories.

The News International letter says payments to private investigators were approved by department heads and the managing editor - with no mention of the editor. The decision to call Coulson may raise questions about Sir Christopher Meyer, the former chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, who conducted an inquiry into the phone hacking without summoning him. Meyer told the committee in March his investigation had been conducted "very deeply and very forensically". Asked whether he had made a mistake in not calling Coulson, Meyer said: "It would be pointless at that precise moment, even if we had the authority, to call an ex-editor."

Polly Toynbee, page 29 »

Leader comment, page 30 »

All fine at Fox

A transcript from News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch's interview with Fox Business's Stuart Varney, which aired yesterday:

Varney: The story that is really buzzing all around the country and certainly here in New York, is that the News of the World, a News Corporation newspaper in Britain, used

Murdoch: I'm not talking about that issue at all today. I'm sorry.

Varney: OK. No worries, Mr Chairman. That's fine with me.



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Commons inquiry strikes close to heart of Murdoch empire

Interest focuses on NoW and Dow Jones chiefs

Culture committee to widen investigation

Nicholas Watt
Chief political correspondent

Two key figures at the heart of Rupert Murdoch's media empire are to be the main focus of a House of Commons investigation into the hacking of phones on behalf of the News of the World.

Les Hinton, the chief executive of Dow Jones, and Stuart Kuttner, the outgoing managing editor of the News of the World, are to be challenged about News International's relations with private investigators who hack into phones.

Hinton is to be asked whether he misled the Commons culture select committee when he gave a categorical assurance that Clive Goodman, the News of the World's former royal correspondent who was jailed for phone hacking, was the only person on the paper guilty of such conduct. Kuttner, who announced his resignation on the eve of the Guardian's disclosures this week, is to be asked about his role in approving payments to private investigators who, it turned out, had hacked into phones.

A letter from News International to the Commons committee two years ago made clear that Kuttner was ultimately responsible for such payments.

The culture select committee has

decided to extend its investigation into press standards after the Guardian reported this week that Murdoch's News International has paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases where phones were hacked into.

The cases were brought after Goodman was jailed in January 2007 for hacking into the phones of three royal staff. Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who worked for Murdoch's News Group, was also jailed after hacking into five phones.

Members of the committee want to challenge Hinton, the former News International chairman, over evidence he gave to them in 2007 when he said he was "absolutely convinced" Goodman was the only person who knew about the phone hacking at the paper. Hinton, who is now based in New York, has been invited to appear before the committee on Tuesday.

Paul Farrelly, a Labour member of the committee, said: "We have decided to invite Les Hinton back because there is a feeling that parliament may have been misled by News International's evidence in our last inquiry. We want to give him a chance to address that issue."

The committee also believes that Kuttner is a key figure. A letter from News International to the committee in June 2007, which outlined an eight-point procedure for approving contracts with private inves-



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tigators, said Kuttner approved all such payments. The letter says: "A memo detailing the reason for making the payment to a Confidential Source has to be provided to the Managing Editor's office. Every cash payment request must be signed off by the relevant Department head."

Philip Davies, a Conservative member of the culture committee, said: "Stuart Kuttner has resigned. As someone who does not believe in coincidences it is far-fetched to say his resignation had nothing to do with it [the Guardian revelations]."

"You could understand the argument that Clive Goodman was doing this stuff and we didn't know about what was going on. The stuff in the Guardian raises doubts about that. Rather than him being a rogue it suggests this was systematic and cultural. The idea that the chap was a one-off is harder to swallow."

The focus on Kuttner may relieve some of the pressure on Andy Coulson, the Tories' director of communications, who resigned as editor of the News of the World after the jailing of Goodman. Coulson, who is to be summoned before the select committee at a later date, insists he has no knowledge that phones were hacked.

Some Tories have argued that Coulson ran a classic Fleet Street operation in which he, as editor, did not ask too many questions about the provenance of stories. The News International memo says payments to private investigators were approved by department heads and the managing editor - with no mention of the editor.

The decision to call Coulson may raise questions about Sir Christopher Meyer, the former chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, who conducted an inquiry into the phone hacking without summoning him. Meyer told the committee in March that his investigation had been conducted "very deeply and very forensically". Asked whether he had made a mistake in not calling Coulson, Meyer said: "It would be pointless at that precise moment, even if we had the authority, to call an ex-editor."

Some committee members believe Coulson's resignation meant he avoided questioning. They want to make sure this does not happen with Kuttner.

Polly Toynbee, page 29 »
Leader comment, page 30 »

.....
 Comment is free

g **Mark Stephens: The News of the World now potentially faces a long list of lawsuits**
guardian.co.uk/commentisfree

All fine at Fox

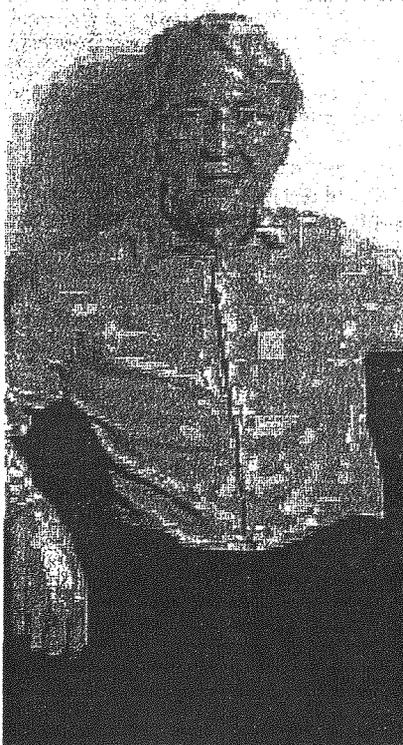
A transcript from News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch's interview with Fox Business's Stuart Varney, which aired yesterday:



Varney: The story that is really buzzing all around the country and certainly here in New York, is that the News of the World, a News Corporation newspaper in Britain, used ...

Murdoch: I'm not talking about that issue at all today. I'm sorry.

Varney: OK. No worries, Mr Chairman. That's fine with me.



Les Hinton is to give evidence to MPs

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The reaction

News International attacks hacking claims as 'selective and misleading'

Stephen Brook

News International last night strongly denied the Guardian's story about widespread phone hacking at the News of the World.

It attacked the Guardian for being "selective and misleading" in its coverage. It also criticised reporting by other news outlets including ITN and the BBC and Sky News, which is part owned by News International's parent company News Corporation.

In a wide-ranging statement, News International denied that police had evidence of widespread hacking into voicemails of celebrities and politicians, including John Prescott, or that News of the World executives knowingly sanctioned payment for illegal phone intercepts.

News International said it could state "with confidence" that there was no phone hacking at the paper apart from the incidents that led to the jailing of private investigator Glenn Mulcaire and its royal reporter Clive Goodman, and the accessing of voicemails that led to litigation involving Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association.

This is the first time News International has publicly acknowledged the Taylor litigation. The Guardian reported earlier this week that the Murdoch company paid more than £1m in costs and damages to settle the case with Taylor and two other associated cases.

News International said "with confidence" there was no other evidence to support allegations that any other News of the World journalists had accessed the voicemails of any individual, or instructed others to do so.

"It goes without saying that had the police uncovered such evidence, charges would have been brought against other News of the World personnel. Not only have there been no such charges, but the police have not considered it necessary to arrest or question any other member

of News of the World staff."

In response, Guardian News & Media said: "We are pleased that News International has, for the first time, confirmed its out-of-court settlement with Gordon Taylor over the illegal interception of his phone messages.

"We note that the company claims to have known about the Taylor phone hacking since April 2008. It is surprising that - having assured parliament, the Press Complaints Commission and the public - that jailed royal reporter Clive Goodman was an "aberration" and a one-off, the company chose to conceal this discovery, which involved other journalists, rather than put the record straight."

News International invited the Guardian to supply the Metropolitan police with any new evidence.

GNM said in reply that News International should release material they requested be sealed in the Taylor case and the two associated legal actions. It called upon News International to ask Scotland Yard to release all the documents and evidence obtained during and after the investigation into Goodman and Mulcaire.

The Guardian also said News International should make available for public

questioning its former chief executive, Les Hinton. News International said that when Hinton gave evidence to the House of Commons select committee in March 2007, he had no knowledge of the evidence that emerged during the Gordon Taylor litigation in April 2008.

It added: "Since February 2007, News International has continued to work with its journalists and its industry partners to ensure that its journalists fully comply with both the relevant legislation and the rigorous requirements of the PCC's Code of Conduct."

Finally, we would like to make it clear that despite the Guardian suggesting otherwise, the departure of managing editor

Stuart Kuttner has no connection whatsoever with the events referred to above. The Guardian was informed of this position from the outset and chose to mislead the British public."



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The law

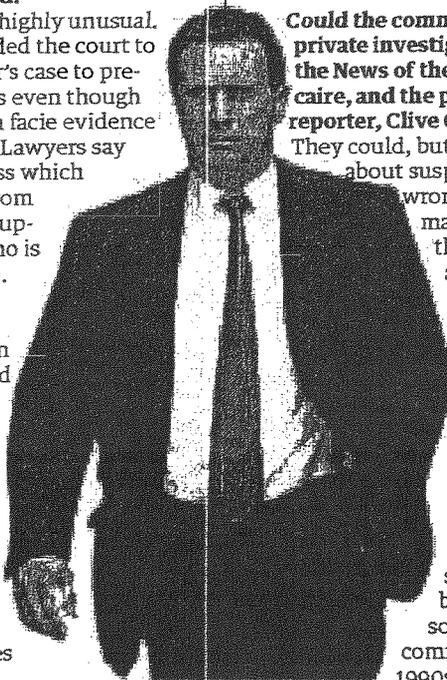
Payouts, privacy and legal obstacles to an inquiry

Could the £700,000 payment to Gordon Taylor by News International set new levels for breach of privacy claims?

Unlikely. The £400,000 damages involved dwarfs the £60,000 paid by the News of the World to Max Mosley for filming the motor-racing boss with prostitutes. But the payment is not really about compensating Taylor for the breach of privacy but the price of buying his silence about the case. Payments for gagging clauses in some recent employment cases have topped the £1m mark. The other £300,000 paid to Taylor was to cover his legal costs.

Can the files at the high court regarding this case be unsealed?

Yes, but it would be highly unusual. News Group persuaded the court to seal the file in Taylor's case to prevent all public access even though it may contain prima facie evidence of criminal activity. Lawyers say there is a civil process which allows documents from court records to be supplied to someone who is not party to the case. However, this only applies to the statement of case - known as the pleadings - and not to any documents filed with or attached to the pleadings. The rules do allow someone not connected to the case to obtain a copy of any other document filed by those involved but only if the court gives its permission.



Can the Commons media select committee compel Scotland Yard to release files on the Goodman case?

No. The MPs do have the power to "summon people and papers" but that does not extend to requiring the police to reveal details of their inquiries in that way. MPs did cross-examine senior police officers on their inquiry into Damian Green, the Conservative immigration spokesman, but that involved a MP and questions over whether parliamentary privilege had been breached. However individuals who believe they were targeted by the News of the World could make data access requests to Scotland Yard.

Could the committee ask to see the private investigator employed by the News of the World, Glen Mulcaire, and the paper's former royal reporter, Clive Goodman?

They could, but if they are asked about suspected serious wrongdoing a conflict may arise between the public interest and their individual privilege not to incriminate themselves. This problem arose when the Maxwell brothers, Kevin and Ian, refused first to attend and then to answer key questions on the Maxwell pension fund scandal before the Commons social security select committee in the early 1990s.

Could the Press Complaints Commission ask for files from Scotland Yard or from the information commissioner?

The PCC is an independent self-regulatory body and has no statutory powers to demand that files be handed over.

Is it against the law to get hold of confidential personal details by deception?

Yes. Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 makes it a criminal offence to obtain, disclose or procure the disclosure of personal information knowingly or recklessly, without the consent of the organisation holding the information. It carries an unlimited fine and there is public interest exemption to protect serious journalism. This offence covers most forms of "blagging" under which private detectives or journalists raid data banks in search of information about well-known people's private lives.

What about the hacking into mobile phone voicemails that is at the centre of this week's allegations?

Intercepting voicemail messages is illegal under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Goodman and Mulcaire were jailed under this law. There is no public interest defence.

So why hasn't the Data Protection Act put a stop to this?

In the first six years of operation from March 2000, the information commissioner received some 1,000 breach of privacy complaints but they only led to 22 convictions with low level fines imposed. The government has since changed the law to bring in prison sentences of up to two years. But after lobbying by News International and the Daily Mail ministers agreed not to bring it into force.



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Press Complaints Commission

Letters and emails

PCC did act over phone-tapping

In the coverage about the phone message tapping allegations, the significant action the PCC has already taken to eliminate this deplorable practice seems to have been overlooked. The 2007 convictions of Clive Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire sparked a wave of activity to help raise standards and repair public confidence in investigative journalism. Our inquiry across the whole of the British press resulted in six recommendations to newspaper managements to help ensure there would be no repetition. The press code of practice was changed in August 2007 to make it more difficult to justify "accessing digitally held information without consent", and further guidance was published in the editors' codebook.

We conducted seven two-hour training seminars at the News of the World, at which attendance was mandatory for all their staff, and two seminars in London and Glasgow with the Information Commissioner's Office for other national newspaper journalists, to train them in the correct use of undercover newsgathering methods. Additionally, the industry as a whole - also in conjunction with the information commissioner - issued practical guidance to journalists on the application of the Data Protection Act.

This record of activity shows that the PCC took the matter extremely seriously, and was determined to ensure that bad practice would not be repeated. We publicised our activity at every stage so there was absolute transparency - and did not act, in Simon Jenkins's random criticism (Comment, 10 July), "behind the scenes".

Your revelations are extremely concerning about the situation as it was before all this action was taken. Clearly there are separate roles for the police and for non-statutory bodies like the PCC, which have a specific and more limited

remit. But if there are any complaints that phone messages have been tapped since 2007 we will deal with them immediately. We are also urgently looking at whether the PCC was deliberately misled at any

point during its inquiries two years ago.

Tim Toulmin

Director, Press Complaints Commission

☛ So, the Press Complaints Commission, the chihuahua of the media regulatory world, is back on the case (Watchdog to examine if News of World executives told the truth, 10 July). The News of the World should be afraid, very afraid.

Geoffrey Rider

Ripon, North Yorkshire

☛ Nick Davies (Report, 9 July) has highlighted the need for police investigations to be handed to complaints organisations so disciplinary sanctions can be considered. After the Crown Prosecution Service decided it had insufficient evidence to

prosecute, the files should have been sent to the Press Complaints Commission. The law should be changed so police files can be disclosed to any member of the British and Irish Ombudsman Association. In this instance, don't blame the PCC.

Richard Offer

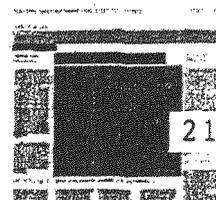
Croydon, Surrey

☛ "Scandal met with silence" says the headline on your leader (10 July). Not quite. Jeremy Hunt, shadow minister for culture, media and sport, was eloquent, on BBC's Question Time, in his defence of Andy Coulson and his admiration for the News of the World. Take this with David Cameron's eager recruitment of Mr Coulson and now his robust defence of him and we begin to see what type of government we can expect if the Conservatives win the next election.

Bill Redmond

Edinburgh

☛ John Yates must be David Cameron's favourite policeman. Yates spent two years and millions of pounds of taxpayers' money in a fruitless attempt to prove criminal activity in the "Cash for honours" fiasco. Yet when allegations emerge about one of the Tory leader's inner circle, Mr Yates dismisses the



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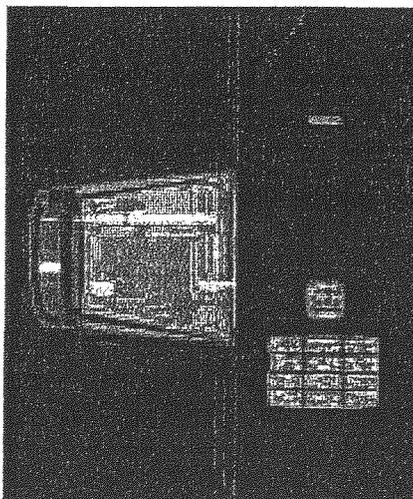
Press Complaints Commission

option of a further criminal investigation in less than 24 hours (Report, 10 July).

Dr Gerard Jones
Fleet, Hampshire

✿ In the light of the Guardian's revelations, the original prosecutions seem to have been a token gesture. One could be forgiven for speculating about what information the News of the World holds on senior figures at the Metropolitan police.

Ray Twigg
Matlock, Derbyshire



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Comment is free ... Hacking scandal

Peter Burden

It looks unlikely that Coulson will cling on

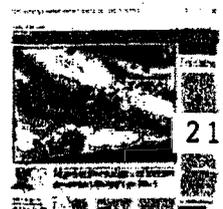
There has been an orgy of speculation over the involvement of the former News of the World editor Andy Coulson - David Cameron's chief spinner - although it is clear to most that no tangible trail will ever emerge about his knowledge of what was going on.

The private investigator Glenn Mulcaire was paid a weekly retainer of £500 in cash for seeking royal stories from the Clarence House voicemails. That the then managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, signed a chit for that cash every week for Goodman (the News of the World royal editor jailed for four months in 2007), without ever asking what it was for, seems at best unlikely, at worst utterly unbelievable - as does Coulson's ignorance of what was going on.

After the event, the culture, media and sport committee held an inquiry into the affair, but it didn't invite Coulson - because, it said, he was no longer in charge, having already resigned. The most obvious, if cynical, explanation for this could simply be fear of Murdoch and fear of reprisal from News International's powerful stable of titles, which makes up nearly 40% of the British national newspaper market.

Now the committee chairman, John Whittingdale, has announced that he will reopen the inquiry, and Coulson is very likely to be called this time - at last a show of teeth, to make up for the soft wet gums of the Press Complaints Commission. It seems unlikely that Coulson will ever be charged in connection with the illegal phone-hacking carried out by his staff, but it's unlikely too that he can stay in Cameron's office, or, as some were predicting, return to Wapping in triumph to edit the Sun.

Peter Burden is the author of News of the World? Fake Sheikhs and Royal Trappings. Read the full blogs and join the debate at guardian.co.uk/commentisfree



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Press freedom

When the spotlight is the story

The newspaper world is not so very different from other professions or bodies. We are bad at seeing ourselves as others see us. We have a tendency to close ranks when attacked or interrogated too intently. We passionately believe in the efficacy of self-regulation. We reject external interventions and regulation. One way or another, we quite like the status quo. So when - as this week - someone arrives bearing bad news about that status quo it is entirely predictable that many would prefer to ignore it; and that the motives of the messenger are questioned.

Some journalists - perhaps more than a few - disapprove of a continued light being shone on the actions of colleagues who systematically, and for many years, intruded on the privacy of others. Such coverage, they warn, will lead to stricter regulation or some form of privacy law. The argument is understandable, but perverse. The threat to press freedoms in this country comes not from the exposure of rogue behaviour. It comes from the rogue behaviour.

Try this scenario: a prominent private company or public agency - say, the police, or security services - has paid a seven-figure sum to hush up evidence of its own criminal activities. It has furthermore persuaded a judge to seal the court papers so that the deal will never see the

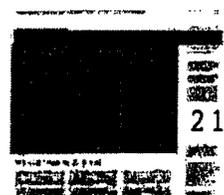
light of day. Is there an editor in Britain who would not seize on that story and pursue it with a righteous vengeance? Of course not. How, as an industry, could we command any public respect if we suppressed such a story when it related to our own trade?

To be clear: this newspaper believes in effective self-regulation. It does not want a privacy law. It does not want further restrictions on our freedom to report on matters of public concern. It does recognise that there are occasions when the public interest pushes editors to commit acts which are deeply questionable, if not illegal. (The recent receipt of, payment for and publication of presumably stolen information relating to MPs' expenses by the Telegraph was such a case.) It believes our libel laws chill freedom of expression. It would like a more workable and open freedom of information regime. It further recognises that all these freedoms are, to some extent, dependent on each other. The libel laws will never be relaxed unless the press can offer some reassurance on privacy, and so on. So there is a direct link between rogue journalists who bring down the threat of greater regulation and the work of decent journalists - some of them on the same newspapers, or in the same companies - who pursue an honourable course in the genuine public interest.

The press cannot expect to be immune from a widespread and growing public concern about access to databases and personal information, whether it be CCTV, medical records, ID cards, emails or mobile phones. In a world in which editors plead total ignorance of industrial-scale data-burglary under their noses it can hardly be surprising that wider questions are being asked about accountability and regulation.

We report on page 13 a suggestion by Sir David Omand, a distinguished former securicrat, as to how intelligence agencies might operate by an ethical code for intrusions into privacy in the public interest. In a recent IPPR paper he suggested that such acts of intrusion should pass a number of tests, including: 1) There must be integrity of motive; 2) The methods used must be in proportion to the seriousness of the business in hand; 3) There must be proper authority; 4) Recourse to such methods of intrusion must be a last, not a first, recourse. They are not bad guidelines for editors.

Decent journalism has never been more necessary, or more threatened by political, economic, technological and legal forces. Finding an effective form of self-regulation is an urgent requirement to enable the press to hold the public confidence it deserves and so badly needs.



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New targets of tabloid phone hacking claimed

Top BBC executive was affected, says newspaper

Police have begun to contact alleged victims

Stephen Brook, James Robinson and Oliver Luft

A top BBC executive and the former Metropolitan police commissioner Sir Ian Blair were targeted by the News of the World's phone hacking operation, it was claimed yesterday.

Blair was named in a report in the Sunday Times, part of Rupert Murdoch's News International, which also owns the News of the World. However, last night police sources denied his name was on the list.

The names emerged as the Met said it had begun to contact people who allegedly had been the subjects of hacking by the tabloid newspaper, but warned that the process could take some time to complete. "We are not discussing who we are contacting at all," a spokeswoman said.

BBC sources said that the corporation did not know which of its executives had been affected by the scam at the paper, which led to Clive Goodman, then News of the World royal correspondent, and the private investigator Glenn Mulcaire, going to jail in 2007.

Andy Coulson, former editor of the tabloid and now director of communications for the Conservative party, subsequently resigned from the paper saying he did not know about the hacking.

Late on Friday the police confirmed they had started to contact people after the Guardian revealed last week that News International had paid £1m to settle privacy actions brought by Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and two others who took action after Mulcaire hacked into their mobile phone messages.

"The process of contacting people is under way and we expect this to take some

time to complete," the police said.

Yesterday the Met refused to divulge how many people it was contacting.

The Sunday Times reported that the police investigation into Goodman and Mulcaire uncovered a list of "fewer than 20 people"; it included Boris Johnson, now the London mayor, and a senior executive at the BBC, whose phones were illegally accessed.

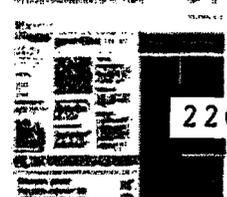
This list includes those named in the 2006 court action against Goodman and Mulcaire - besides Taylor, the model Elle Macpherson, the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, the publicist Max Clifford, and football agent Sky Andrew.

Macpherson's publicist said in a statement: "Elle is obviously very concerned that her private telephone conversations and those of other people may have been intruded upon by reputable newspapers. She is aware that the director of public prosecutions (DPP) and the information commissioner have files on the issue. "Miss Macpherson is confident in the ability and the determination of the DPP, the police and information commissioner to ensure that appropriate and proportionate action is taken to prevent any further abuse."

The DPP is reviewing police evidence and could recommend further charges.

A second, larger, list of about 50 people, contained the names Mulcaire had obtained mobile phone details for, but which police had no evidence had been successfully hacked. The Sunday Times reported that Blair and the former culture minister Tessa Jowell were on this list.

The third list, according to the Sunday Times, reportedly included the former deputy prime minister John Prescott and held between 400 and 500 names that Mulcaire wanted to target but for which



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Press Complaints Commission

he had no numbers.

This week the culture, media and sport committee, which has reopened its 2007 phone hacking inquiry in the light of the Guardian's revelations, will hear evidence from the Guardian.

The following week, the News International lawyer Tom Crone, and News of the World editor Colin Myler (appointed after Coulson's resignation), will go before the MPs. The committee hopes to hear evidence from the former executive chairman of News International Les Hinton, who at the original inquiry said Goodman had been acting alone without the knowledge of News of the World executives. Hinton has yet to confirm his attendance.

Public figures and celebrities who fear they were the subjects of the phone hacking have been contacting lawyers. The Bethnal Green and Bow MP George Galloway said he was seeing if any action

could be taken. The politician had clashed with the paper in 2006 when its investigations editor, Mahzer Mahmood, attempted to "sting" him at a hotel and implicate him in illegal political funding.

Rod Christie-Miller, partner at the specialist media law firm Schillings, said: "Clients are going to want to see what comes out. Sooner or later there is going to be more concrete evidence about who has been targeted."

Christie-Miller said his firm was already suspicious that phone hacking could have been used against high-profile clients before the story broke.

"It is something we were concerned may have been happening," he added. "We have advised clients to change settings on phones and turn off bluetooth."

One lawyer told mediaguardian.co.uk he had advised clients to "hold their horses" to see what details emerged over the coming days but added that legal claims were "imminent".

The report in the Sunday Times, sister paper of the News of the World, shed further light on the Gordon Taylor case.

The paper stated: "Taylor's claim was settled when new evidence emerged out of the police files that another News of the World reporter knew how Mulcaire was obtaining some of his information,

"That reporter has since left the paper and there is no evidence he committed any offence. News International executives are not aware of any other evidence in the police files that show any other News of the World journalist was

involved in commissioning Mulcaire to hack phones."

Tim Montgomerie, page 23 »



A list that suggests the model Elle Macpherson, left, suffered 'intruder' interest in her phone calls is being investigated

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Critics of self-regulation have been handed a loaded gun

Jane Martinson



Among the
 broadcasters, there is
 barely disguised glee
 at the mess the press
 has got itself into



Such was the force of Nick Davies's story on phone hacking last week that it pushed John Prescott into articulation. "It didn't work in the banks, it didn't work in the Commons, and frankly it doesn't work for the press," said the former deputy prime minister.

Whatever else, the story immediately dubbed Murdochgate by the twitterati has handed critics of the system of self-regulation a loaded gun. Although the Press Complaints Commission moved to reopen an investigation almost as fast as David Cameron backed his director of communications, Andy Coulson, its role and lack of bite have become a focus for political ire. Many MPs are, of course, motivated by their upset at new regulations brought in as a direct result of a campaign largely waged by a newspaper group. But leaving aside the righteous anger of politicians at having their dry cleaning bills scrutinised, is anyone

prepared to publicly back the PCC for its role in this saga?

The commission may argue that two men went to jail after breaking the law (a criminal matter and therefore best left to the police), while Coulson, then editor of the *News of the World*, resigned. But the subsequent lack of a full inquiry now looks particularly flawed. As Roy Greenslade disclosed last week (<http://bit.ly/15uDaE>), the PCC's claims that its

investigations prompted Coulson's resignation simply underline its reputation for behind-the-scenes manoeuvring.

To be fair, the PCC admits that it is already operating outside its remit, which is simply to handle complaints. It has no right to subpoena any of the still rich and powerful news organisations it monitors, and so has to rely on data from the information commissioner, whose investigation first exposed the phone hacking, and from this newspaper. Nor can it yet ask Scotland Yard for access to its database. If we truly believe in self-regulation, surely the PCC should have more power to do its job.

There is a horror within the media at the sort of dirty-linen washing they feel is practised by MediaGuardian. Two of the most powerful figures in the industry, Paul Dacre and Rebekah Wade, have used rare public outings in the past year to criticise this paper. Even last week, as the extent of the £1m payout was digested by News International's rivals, many said that the only thing that would

come of it was tighter privacy laws.

There is no appetite among newspapers, including this one, for laws that make holding wrongdoers to account even harder. Yet many are also uncomfortable that the public interest privileges we enjoy are being used to dig up dirt on the postnatal depression of an actor or the liaisons of a football manager. I'm as interested as the next woman in the contents of Gwyneth Paltrow's fridge, but I wouldn't want to break the law to reveal them.

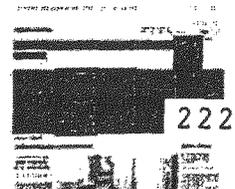
It is such an own goal. Fishing for salacious details gives ammunition to all those who say the press is an incestuous industry, governed by a powerful cabal with vested interests in maintaining the status quo.

Among broadcasters, there is barely disguised glee at the mess the press has got itself into without the sort of burdensome regulation the poor loves struggle with. On hearing the news, the senior press officer at Channel 4 tweeted, "Surely final nail in coffin for press self-regulation. If Ofcom was this lacklustre press outcry would be deafening."

Historically, the argument for tougher regulation for television has been that it enjoys limited bandwidth and therefore the barriers to entry are great. The press, with its multiplicity of voices and rampant competitiveness, never needed such restrictions. It could reflect how it saw the world and expect that someone else would see it differently.

The irony is that as the voices calling for greater regulation of the industry get louder, they are becoming drowned out by a digital media that is even more opinionated. What's more, the online world in which news organisations now compete is both interactive and immediate - unlike the PCC. If we wait too long to get our own house in order, there will be nothing left to protect. For if we think regulation of the press is impossible, just think of what it's like online.

Jane Martinson is the editor of MediaGuardian



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Press Complaints Commission

The fallout The Press Complaints Commission

This calls for an inquiry – but not by the PCC

A few months ago the Media Standards Trust published a report raising concerns that the press was not accountable enough. Its findings were not accepted by the then chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Sir Christopher Meyer. But the Guardian's revelations about the News of the World's use of private investigators to hack into voicemails, if proved, would appear not just to confirm these concerns but to reinforce them.

The current system of press self-regulation - as constituted - is not able to investigate or resolve issues such as those uncovered by the Guardian, the MST report said. The PCC is set up, as defined by its articles of association, to mediate and conciliate complaints. It is not an investigative body. It does not have the powers, resources, or personnel to hold the type of detailed and lengthy inquiry that would be required to examine such claims.

This is not a criticism of the job done by the PCC. Those at the commission work extremely hard, with relatively little funding; to respond to complaints made by the public. But it is not realistic to expect a body with a budget of less than £2m a year (the Advertising Standards Authority, for instance, has a budget of around £8m), and a remit to deal with the public's complaints, to launch large-scale investigations.

The PCC's 2007 inquiry into subterfuge and newsgathering is a good example of this. Following the conviction of Clive Goodman, and evidence of extensive phone hacking and "fishing" expeditions by many different newspapers (not just the NotW), the PCC announced an inquiry. Yet this inquiry was undermined even before it had begun when Andy Coulson resigned as the tabloid's editor. As a

result, Coulson fell outside the PCC's jurisdiction. "The commission had announced that it would make specific inquiries of the editor of the newspaper, but as [Coulson] has now resigned, this is no longer appropriate," said Meyer.

Unsurprisingly, the PCC did not discover anything new from Coulson's successor, Colin Myler, who had been editing a paper in New York. More worrying was the fact that the commission found out little more from Les Hinton, other than that Goodman had been acting alone, without the knowledge of others at newspaper. Nobody else at the NotW "knew that Messrs Goodman and Mulcaire were tapping phone messages for stories", concluded the PCC's report.

But if the practice of phone tapping was widely known about and accepted, as the Guardian's revelations suggest, contradicting these findings, there clearly ought to be a proper investigation into the collection of personal information by newspapers - particularly the use of phone tapping. The question is, who should do it?

A question of scale

£1.8m

The Press Complaints Commission's annual budget

45

Formal adjudications issued by the PCC last year, after a total 4,698 complaints

The PCC is reopening its inquiry, but given that its first investigation failed to uncover wrongdoing, there is no reason to believe that a second will be any more successful. Moreover, as already noted, the PCC's articles of association constrain its freedom to act and it has limited money and personnel.

Any disproportionate action by parliament or the police, meanwhile, would raise understandable - and justifiable - concerns about the freedom of the press and a journalist's right to protect the anonymity of his or her sources.

The press should, therefore, appoint a genuinely independent figure with wide-ranging powers to conduct a lengthy and detailed investigation. There is precedent for this within the media. In the wake of the Crowgate affair, for example, the BBC appointed Will Wyatt to look into the matter. Wyatt then published a report that was highly critical of the corporation.

By appointing an independent figure along those lines, the press would be able to achieve two things: prove to critics of self-regulation that the system can hold the press to account, and help to renew public confidence. The results of a YouGov poll last February showed that 70% of the public believe that there are "far too many instances of people's privacy being invaded by newspaper journalists". The Guardian's scoop will only confirm this impression. An independent investigation could both demonstrate whether that impression is misguided, and provide a basis from which action can be taken.

Martin Moore is director of the Media Standards Trust

PCC adjudications analysis: guardian.co.uk/datablog



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Press Complaints Commission

The fallout Regulation

When culture secretary David Mellor accepted the idea of the self-regulation of newspapers, he famously warned that the press were "drinking in the last-chance saloon". In exposing his affair with the actor Antonia de Sancha some time later, journalists used a loophole in the law to listen in on phone conversations between the two.

The gaps exposed by such cases in the old law - the Interception of Communications Act 1985 - were supposed to have been closed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which prohibits unlawful interception of communications by post or phone.

The act also specifically prohibits hacking into mobile phone systems - including voicemail, which is still "in transmission" as far as the act is concerned, and thus covered by it - which is punishable by a fine or up to two years in jail.

What is not clear after the exposure of the widespread hacking of phone messages is why, if this evidence was available, no further prosecutions were brought. It may be that the Crown Prosecution Service felt that under the law as it stands, there was no likelihood of a conviction, one of the tests they apply

to the evidence amassed by police when deciding whether to prosecute. If so, it is possible that legislators may want to revisit this area of law.

Many journalists without access to, or the desire to use, the techniques allegedly used by the News of the World will not worry much about a strengthened RIPA. But parliament's appetite for reform may not stop there. This is only the latest example of invasions of privacy, which the courts have started punishing more severely. In cases such as Max Mosley's. With the likes of John Prescott describing the PCC response to phone hacking as "useless", could the issue of self-regulation be on the agenda again? MPs have been told they cannot self-regulate, and Prescott, who has a lot of backbench support, is now very vocally wondering why the press should be allowed to.

If the result is a regulator with teeth - an Ofcom for the press - then perhaps Mellor was right and now it is last orders in the last-chance saloon.

David Banks

The writer is the co-author of McNay's Essential Law for Journalists (20th ed), published 30 July



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Press Complaints Commission

The fallout The hacked

Body blow

One unlikely casualty of the hackers was Elle Macpherson's adviser

Stephen Brook and Leigh Holmwood

Mary-Ellen Field once enjoyed a successful and lucrative career working with Elle Macpherson. Now, she says, she is "collateral damage" from the News of the World phone hacking scandal.

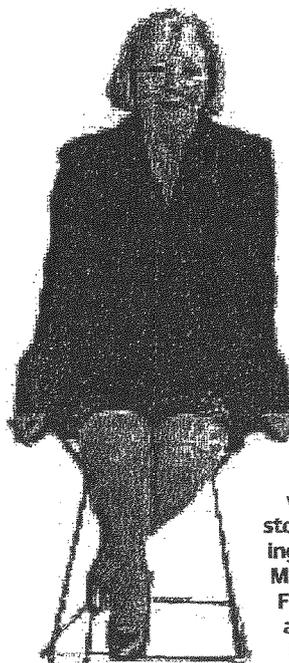
Field, who advised the supermodel on intellectual property and licensing agreements from March 2003, says she lost her job when Macpherson accused her of leaking stories to the press. "She fired me on 9 January 2005 and said she couldn't trust me any more," says Field. "She was convinced, and in a way you can't blame her. Where were these stories coming from?"

In the second half of 2005, more stories appeared. "After August, some stories started to appear in the press ... They were annoying things that were an infringement of her privacy. As I knew everything, I was absolutely flabbergasted at where these stories were coming from." Field says she advised caution and suggested the supermodel get a pay-as-you-go phone. Macpherson even had her house swept for bugs, she says, but nothing was found.

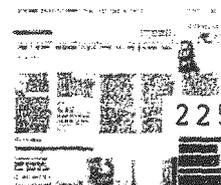
Field doubts going to the police would achieve anything - and says she cannot afford to take legal action against the News of the World. Suspicion had fallen on people who worked for the celebrities, she says: "It was the people like me, just doing their normal job, who were affected."

Macpherson did not wish to comment.

Video interview with Mary-Ellen Field: mediaguardian.co.uk »



'Where were these stories coming from?' ... Mary-Ellen Field, a former adviser to Elle Macpherson



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The fallout Privacy

Defending the indefensible

The point where the public right to know meets the individual right to privacy is blurred - but for how long?

Glenda Cooper and Stephen Whittle

Two years ago, News International's former chairman Les Hinton, the Telegraph Group's chief executive, Murdoch MacLennan, and the Daily Mail's editor, Paul Dacre, put pressure on Gordon Brown to withdraw the threat of jail terms for journalists seeking to obtain private data illicitly. What did they know at the time?

There is currently a battle around the point at which freedom of expression and the public interest meet the right to privacy. That debate is made all the more difficult by the fact neither "privacy" nor "public interest" are immutable. There have been significant changes in how both have been perceived and defined over time.

There is no doubt, however, that intrusion by third parties such as the media or the state has to be justified by a significant public interest that outweighs any normal expectation of privacy. If News International, or private investigators acting on its behalf, wanted to access personal data or voicemails, it must have been able to demonstrate that it was serving an overriding interest such as the detection of crime, or the prevention of terrorism. That is what is required by the PCC code.

In the Goodman case, the trial judge was clear that he was not ruling on a journalistic investigation or seeking to limit the freedom of the press, but dealing with a straightforward breach of the criminal law. That is why Goodman and Mulcaire were jailed. It is also why the information commissioner sought an addition to the law to make it clear that where journalists attempted to access personal information without a public interest defence, a jail sentence was appropriate. News International and other newspaper interests

resisted such powers. As a result of their intervention, the power was left in suspension. It could yet be activated.

Normally, journalists cite hypocrisy or a public figure's "role model" status in order to validate invasions of privacy and call that public interest. They have strong commercial reasons for not wanting a more narrow interpretation. But it raises the question: what is the public interest?

In our investigation into privacy and the public interest for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University, we conclude that the public interest has two main characteristics.

First, citizens in a democracy have an interest in having access to information about the government, its institutions and its officials, both elected and appointed. This interest also extends to private corporations and to voluntary organisations that require the public's trust.

Second, individuals holding office in public or private institutions should be judged for their public acts, not private ones. "Private" should mean issues to do with personal relations, personal communications, beliefs and past affiliations -

What is forbidden to the state should not be a journalistic default designed to make money

always assuming these are within the law - however much these appear to others to be deviant, or immoral, or bizarre.

The test is always public actions. There is no trace of that in the News

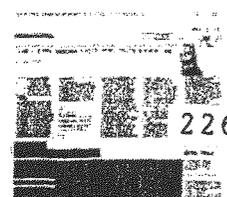
International case or the other examples raised by Nick Davies in his reports. What motivated Goodman and others was obtaining whatever titbits of gossip they could turn into some kind of story. Goodman was not a genuine investigation into a matter of public importance that might justify some degree of intrusion.

Admittedly, a tougher approach to public interest may run the risk of missing scandals that could bear on public life. But to argue from this that all potentially compromising private relationships must therefore be investigated is unreasonable. It smacks of the kind of inquisitive surveillance society that journalists would be the first to condemn. What is forbidden to the state should not be a journalistic default designed to make money. There is greater public interest in protecting private life.

All media organisations should follow the same approach to intrusion. There is no evidence from our experience that broadcasters, who operate under a tougher regime, have been unable to investigate matters of public interest that involve secret recording and intrusion.

There are two choices: more responsible media, or a privacy law passed by parliament. Given the current level of political interest in irresponsible journalism, news organisations should take heed of what the then chair of the PCC, Sir Christopher Meyer, said last year: "Beware of what you wish for."

Glenda Cooper and Stephen Whittle are the authors of the report *Privacy, Probity and Public Interest*, published today



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Phone hacking: the fallout



February 2005
 Private detective Glenn Mulcaire (right) engaged by News of the World journalists at the time - hacks into the phone of Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association.

November 2005
 News of the World's royal editor, Clive Goodman, commissions phone call intercepts of staff at St James's palace. Two stories involving Prince William lead to suspicions of phone hacking.

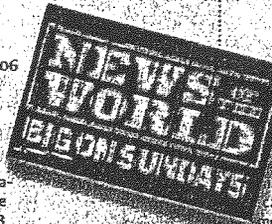
April-May 2006
 Mulcaire hacks into phones of John Prescott, Boris Johnson, Tessa Jowell, Gwyneth Paltrow, George Michael, Vanessa Feltz (right) and Jade Goody.



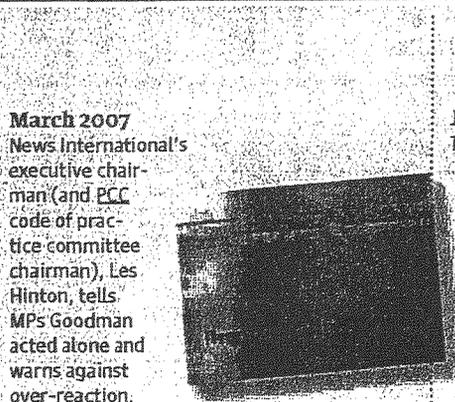
August 2006
 Anti-terror police arrest Goodman (right), on suspicion of illegally intercepting phone calls. Mulcaire is also arrested after members of royal household complain their mobile phones have been hacked into.

November 2006
 Goodman admits conspiracy to intercept phone calls "without lawful authority". Mulcaire pleads guilty to the same offence. The News of the World's editor, Andy Coulson, apologises to the Prince of Wales.

December 2006
 Information Commission publishes table of who used one particular private investigator - News of the World made 228 requests for information from 23 journalists.

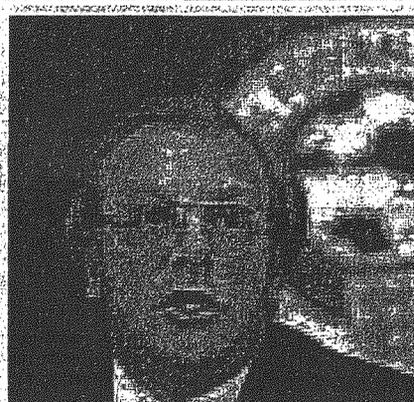


January 2007
 Clive Goodman sentenced to four months in jail. Mulcaire gets six months. Coulson (right) resigns immediately, saying he had "ultimate responsibility" and is replaced at the paper by Colin Myler.



March 2007
 News International's executive chairman (and PCC code of practice committee chairman), Les Hinton, tells MPs Goodman acted alone and warns against over-reaction.

June 2007
 The Conservative leader, David Cameron, makes Coulson his director of communications.



July 2007
 Gordon Taylor (left) sues News of the World for its involvement in illegal interception of messages on his phone. The high court later seals Taylor's file and NotW pays him more than £400,000 in damages.

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The biggest media story in years – so why the silence?

How are News International and its top executives likely to emerge from the phone-hacking scandal? Relatively unscathed, it seems – thanks to the dog-nip-dog world of Fleet Street



Peter Wilby
The press

The BBC was in no doubt. As soon as the Guardian revealed on Wednesday night how Rupert Murdoch's News Group, owners of the News of the World, secretly paid more than £1m to victims of phone hacking by its journalists, the story went to the top of the BBC's bulletins and website. Andrew Neil, former editor of the Sunday Times, another Murdoch paper, called it the most important media story in many years. The former deputy prime minister had had his mobile hacked into; a senior adviser to the man everybody expects to be the next PM was allegedly implicated in systemic criminal activity; MPs had been misled; the police and courts were accused of conniving in a cover-up; and press regulation had been found wanting. It doesn't, you may think, get much bigger than that.

Yet most newspapers didn't apparently see it that way. They didn't clear their front pages for their later editions on Thursday morning. On Friday, as the row grew over the role of David Cameron's adviser, the former News of the World editor Andy Coulson, the story remained on the inside pages of most national papers, and well down their websites.

When Times Newspapers (in the pre-Murdoch era) was embroiled in bitter disputes with its printers during the late 1970s, Harold Evans, then Sunday Times editor, told his journalists that if readers couldn't trust them to report their own paper's affairs, they wouldn't trust them on anything. Few papers could now meet Evans's exacting standards, and certainly not those in the Murdoch stable. The Sun confined itself to the information that the police had ruled out further investigations and Cameron had pronounced Coulson's job "safe". The Times did a double-page spread, which helpfully identified, with pictures, "who's who in the controversy", including Coulson and Clive Goodman, the NotW royal editor who was jailed after working with a private detective to hack into royal aides' mobiles. But the gallery didn't include Murdoch or Rebekah Wade, who becomes News International's chief



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executive in September, and didn't mention that Les Hinton, "the former News International chairman" who assured MPs the Goodman case was a one-off, still works for Murdoch at Dow Jones.

Who will cast the first stone?

Other papers were almost as reticent and few pressed the outrage button. "The press must not be cowed," stated a leader in the Independent, a paper that is rarely slow to set its flag on the moral high ground. The truth is that good journalism – by which I mean journalism that

Editors who say they would never print a sensitive story without knowing where it came from are perhaps being disingenuous

isn't limited to rewriting press releases and accepting steers from spin doctors – frequently flirts with the boundaries of ethical and legal conduct. The most obvious example is the Telegraph's exposure of MPs' expenses, where the paper could have been charged with handling stolen goods.

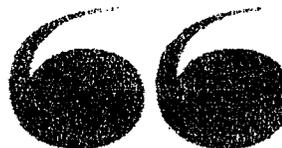
One of the strengths of British law is that it allows the police and public prosecutors discretion as to when to apply it. In some cases – environmental protests, for example – juries will acquit even where the law has been broken. Press activity lies in this grey area. Phone hacking is always illegal except, in certain instances, for the security services. There is no public interest defence. Yet cases may not reach the courts and, even if they do, juries may refuse to convict. I wrote at the time of Goodman's conviction that, if he had discovered something more interesting than that Prince William had injured his knee and called his girlfriend Babykins – that he was in regular contact with leaders of the British National Party, say – the NotW reporter might have got away with his crime. Similarly, people would now be less horrified at the idea of Sir Alex Ferguson's phone being hacked into if it had been revealed that the Manchester United manager was taking bungs.

Moreover, those editors who say they would never print a sensitive story, possibly subject to legal action, without knowing where it came from, are perhaps being disingenuous. There is a distinction between wanting assurances that a story is reliably sourced and demanding to know precisely how it was obtained. Since the late 1980s, private investigators have become a significant industry, available to journalists as well as jealous lovers. All editors know they exist, but in the same sense that some spouses know their partners' lovers exist.

When ignorance is a defence

As Peter Burden puts it in *News of the World: Fake Sheikhs and Royal Trappings*: "A tacit agreement prevailed that those at the top of a paper's management didn't need to know how their reporters obtained information." That was why, when Goodman was jailed, Coulson could deny knowledge. He knew but he didn't know. And the same could be said, not just of most senior executives in the Murdoch empire, but of many other newspaper bigwigs.

So the long and not very honourable Fleet Street tradition of dog giving dog an occasional nip, but not exactly biting, is likely to continue. The NotW, it is alleged, was guilty of a series of fishing expeditions, often with no more important aim than to find out what an actor thought about her new baby. That threatens a tightening of privacy law that could affect legitimate investigative journalism which, in my view, includes how the PR-crafted images of celebrities and politicians do not always accord with reality. It also threatens News International with a class action from victims of phone-hacking that could cost it many more millions of pounds. But will we hear a chorus of condemnation from other newspapers? Will Murdoch's executives become pariahs, finding that political leaders no longer accept invitations to their weddings? Forget it.



If you're talking about illegal tapping by a

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private investigator,
that is not part of our
culture anywhere in
the world, least of all
in Britain

Rupert Murdoch, Feb 07

I believe that Clive
Goodman was the
only person who knew
what was going on

Les Hinton, March 07

I took full
responsibility at
the time for what
happened but without
my knowledge and
resigned

Andy Coulson, July 09

Of course I knew about
[Coulson's] resignation
before offering him
the job. But I believe in
giving people a second
chance

David Cameron, July 09

You [Cameron]
appear to be the only
person satisfied with
Mr Coulson's role
whilst every other

relevant authority
is investigating the
claims

John Prescott, July 09

If NI did not have any
knowledge of these
practices, it begs the
question as to why they
paid more than £1m

John Whittingdale, July 09

I would be thinking:
how on earth could
anyone have possibly
known I was going to
be there?

Vanessa Feltz, July 09





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B) OTHER NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

Sir Alex and Shearer were part of phone tap scandal

Justin Davenport
 Crime correspondent

TELEPHONE calls from Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those bugged by the News of the World, it was claimed today.

The Manchester United manager and the former England striker and Newcastle United manager had messages intercepted by a private investigator who passed details on to reporters.

They are said to have both left messages on the mobile phone of Gordon

Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who sued the newspaper last year.

The latest revelations came as it emerged that celebrities and public figures whose phones are claimed to have been hacked are considering suing the News of the World.

Lawyers said they had been contacted by various individuals, including politicians, seeking legal advice.

The Guardian has claimed that the Sunday tabloid paid £1 million to settle legal cases which threatened to reveal the extent of the illegal methods used to get stories.

The newspaper also said the tabloid used private investigators to hack into "thousands" of mobile phones. The paper paid Mr Taylor more than £700,000 in damages and costs to settle without a public hearing.

Scotland Yard assistant commissioner John Yates said last night that police had seen no additional evidence since its last investigation, which ended with the jailing of News of the World royal reporter Clive Goodman in 2007 for tapping the phones of the royals, and ruled out a further inquiry.

The claims have led to calls for the News of the World's former editor Andy Coulson to resign as Tory communications chief.

The victims of the phone tapping are said to have included former deputy prime minister John Prescott, PR agent Max Clifford, Mayor Boris Johnson and actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

Other messages collected from Taylor's phone are believed to have referred to the Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, medical bills incurred by the former England player Paul Gascoigne, the former England midfielder Jamie Redknapp and a prominent Premier League player who had a cocaine problem.

Crown prosecutors are carrying out an "urgent" review today of evidence presented by police in the Goodman inquiry.

Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, said he wanted to reassure himself and the public that "appropriate actions" were taken over material provided by the police three years ago.

Editorial Comment Page 14



Bugged: former England striker Alan Shearer





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London Evening Standard

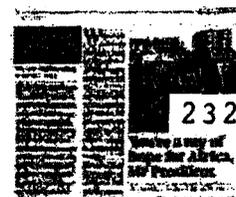


Established 1827

Journalism's best

THE contrast between a video journalist who helped expose the human-rights abuses of the Burmese regime and the antics of a few British journalists could not be more striking. As we report today, the man known only as Joshua risked imprisonment and torture to shoot footage of Buddhist monks being slaughtered by Burmese security forces during the protests of 2007. He will be the guest of honour at a screening of his film in London next week. Many other Burmese journalists are now in prison or in hiding but they hope that their work will help topple the repressive regime.

This is journalism at its best and most vital to democracy, work which is truly in the public interest. By contrast, the defence of those at the News of the World who now defend illegal mobile-phone tapping of various politicians and celebrities on the grounds that such investigations were in the public interest looks very thin indeed. Free societies need journalism to hold the powerful to account; when journalists abuse that role, we all lose.



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Press Complaints Commission

SHEARER AND FERGUSON'S MESSAGES ALLEGEDLY TAPPED

Celebs could sue amid phone-hacking storm

IMOGEN LILLYWHITE
 for thelondonpaper

A SERIES of public figures alleged to have been targeted by phone hackers working for the *News of the World* could sue the newspaper.

In its latest revelations, the *Guardian* names Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and ex-England captain Alan Shearer among those whose messages were

allegedly stolen from football union chief Gordon Taylor's phone. More than a dozen stars involved in the hacking row are considering a multi-million pound group legal action against the paper.

Three inquiries have already been launched by the director of public prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and a Commons select committee. Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, super-

model Elle Macpherson and London Mayor Boris Johnson are among celebs and politicians reported to have been targeted.

The Met Police has already conducted an investigation into phone hacking by journalists at the *News of the World*, owned by thelondonpaper's parent company News

International,
 centring on
 messages left

for Prince Charles's aides. Assistant commissioner John Yates said yesterday the investigation would not be reopened.

But lawyer Mark Stephens, of Finers Stephens Innocent, claimed director of public prosecutions Keir Starmer could force police to reopen the investigation or release civil court documents.

The original police investigation led to the jailing of journalist Clive Goodman and private detective Glen Mulcaire for phone tapping in January 2007.

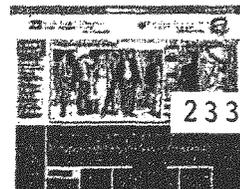
The paper's editor Andy Coulson (inset) quit because of the convictions. He is now communications director of the Conservative Party.



BOSS | Sir Alex is said to be one of those hacked



TARGET? | Alan Shearer named in revelations



Press Complaints Commission



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Tory leader's backing for former editor

Eva Green

wdnews@bepp.co.uk

David Cameron offered his strong support for Tory communications chief Andy Coulson last night as the former tabloid editor came under intense pressure over alleged phone hacking by *News of the World* journalists.

Former deputy prime minister John Prescott led Labour calls for Mr Coulson to be fired after it was reported that News Group, which owns his former Sunday paper, spent more than £1 million on out-of-court settlements relating to the claims.

Mr Cameron's endorsements came as Scotland Yard announced

the Metropolitan Police will not conduct a new investigation into claims thousands of public figures had their phones hacked by the *News of the World*.

But last night it was announced that prosecutors are to look again at the claims of alleged phone hacking.

Keir Starmer QC, the director of public prosecutions, said he had ordered an "urgent examination" of material provided by the police three years ago.

Speaking earlier yesterday, Assistant Commissioner John Yates said the police had seen no additional evidence since its last investigation.

Mr Yates also said detectives had found no evidence that Mr

Prescott's phone was tapped.

But he said police would now inform any potential

victims that their phone may have been hacked where there was any suspicion.

Mr Cameron indicated he had no intention of losing his director of communications, who resigned from the *News of the World* in 2007 after one of its reporters was jailed for hacking into phone messages of royal aides.

The latest claims, in *The Guardian*, suggest that the practice was much wider than previously thought.

Speaking outside his west London home, Mr Cameron said: "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification.

"That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the *News of the World* two-and-a-half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance.

"As director of communications for the Conservatives, he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

MPs from all three parties, including Mr Prescott and Cabinet minister Tessa Jowell were among the targets of the alleged phone taps.

The Guardian quoted sources saying police officers found evidence of News Group staff using

private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of

mobile phones.

Mr Prescott said: "If these allegations are to be believed, the enormity of it is unbelievable.

"I am actually staggered that Mr Cameron, who employed Mr Coulson, who was the editor at the time through all these allegations, says he's quite relaxed about these allegations."

Former home secretary Charles Clarke described the alleged practices as "outrageous".

"I think that David Cameron has to sack Andy Coulson because his denial is very narrow in the extreme," he said.

"I think David Cameron himself has to be much clearer about the situation.

"I think that the Home Secretary should be asking the Chief Inspector of Constabulary for a full report about the police behaviour in this whole incident."

The original phone hacking investigation resulted in *News of the World* royal editor Clive Goodman and private investigator Glen Mulcaire being jailed for four and six months respectively in January 2007.

The Press Complaints Commission (PCC) said it would investigate any suggestions of 'further transgressions' since its 2007 inquiry.

Last night the publisher of the *News of the World* defended its journalists and

said it would not "shirk from vigorously defending our right and proper role to expose wrongdoing".

In a statement News International said it was prevented by "confidentiality obligations from discussing certain allegations made in *The Guardian* newspaper today". But the statement stressed its staff had been told clearly they must operate within the law and the industry's code of conduct.



Support: Former *News of the World* editor Andy Coulson



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MPs demand police inquiry as News Group face fury over phone tap scandal

By **Macer Hall**
 Political Editor

THE integrity of Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire was in question last night amid demands for a police investigation into allegations that his journalists routinely tapped private phone calls of public figures.

Scotland Yard has indicated that thousands of people – including senior politicians, celebrities and sports stars – were targets in the scandal, despite executives at News Group claiming to know nothing about the illegal activity.

Assistant Commissioner John Yates, the officer in charge of examining allegations of criminal conduct, said on Thursday that he would not reopen an official inquiry.

But last night lawyers and former police officers demanded a fresh inquiry, while leading politicians said the revelations called into question the "integrity and veracity" of Mr Murdoch's business and said some of his senior executives had urgent questions to answer.

News Group is facing three separate investigations into claims that they turned a blind eye to reporters and private detectives breaking the law.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer has ordered a review of previous allegations while the Press Complaints Commission and the Commons culture, media and sports select committee are also planning inquiries.

There was mounting anger last night over Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen their investigation, which was launched in 2007 when the News of the World's royal editor Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire were jailed for listening into private phone calls involving members of the Royal household.

Executives insisted that Goodman had been acting alone and promised to ensure that the illegal activity never occurred again.

But it has emerged that News Group paid other targets in the scandal more than £1million to keep them quiet. One of them, Gordon Taylor,

the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, was paid £700,000 in damages and costs.

MPs from all parties voiced deep concern over the statement from Mr Yates that no additional evidence had come to light and so no fresh investigation could be justified.

Suspiciously

Liberal Democrat media spokesman Chris Huhne said he was so concerned about the lack of police action that he had referred the matter to the watchdog body the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

He said: "John Yates's statement leaves open as many questions as it answers, not least because he says he has only been asked to look into the facts around the inquiry into Clive Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire, and not whether any further investigations into other journalists or investigators should have been undertaken."

"This was a suspiciously quick review of what Mr Yates describes as a complex case.

"Where there is a potential neglect of duty by a police force, surely another police force or the Independent Police Complaints Commission should look into the matter.

"Instead, we merely have assurances from the same department that conducted the original investigation that it did so well and thoroughly.

"Mr Yates says that in the majority of cases there was insufficient evidence to show tapping had been achieved, but the standard of evidence was clearly high enough in the case of Gordon Taylor to secure a very substantial out of court settlement."

Former Labour Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott – one of the politicians allegedly tapped – also expressed disappointment over Mr Yates' announcement.

"He has defined in a very narrow way what he is going to look at, and then gives a report that everything is OK," he said.

Brian Paddick, former Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Met, said: "John Yates is in charge of the department that did the initial investigation, so not only have we the

police investigating themselves, but the department that investigated it investigating themselves."

Last night News International, publisher of the News of the World, said in a statement that following an internal investigation it was confident there had been no fresh cases of its journalists tapping people's phones.

It also denied that the paper or its staff had instructed private investigators to access voice mails or that there had been "systemic corporate illegality" to suppress evidence.

"It goes without saying that had the police uncovered such evidence, charges would have been brought against other News of the World personnel," News International said.

"Not only have there been no such charges, but the police have not considered it necessary to arrest or question any other member of News of the World staff."



Chris Huhne wants new inquiry



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Press Complaints Commission

Brown goes soft on snoops

QUESTIONS were raised yesterday over the role of News International in the Government's decision to scrap plans for jailing phone snoops and computer hackers.

Ministers had planned to introduce prison sentences for breaches of data-protection laws two years ago, but ditched the proposal after a lobbying campaign spearheaded by senior figures from News International, the publishers of the

News of the World. Lib Dem MP Richard Younger-Ross yesterday vowed to press Downing Street into revealing the full details of Gordon Brown's discussion with the newspaper executives.

The Lib Dem spokesman on media issues has submitted a series of Freedom of Information requests.

Information Commissioner Richard Thomas yesterday repeated his call for jail terms.



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Press Complaints Commission

Murdoch's aides fight for their jobs

RUPERT Murdoch's closest lieutenants were fighting for their careers last night as the phone-hacking scandal threatened to engulf his newspaper empire.

News Group Newspapers is now facing three separate investigations into claims that senior executives knew that illegal activity was being conducted by its journalists but turned a blind eye. The group was effectively cleared

of any wrong-doing following revelations in 2007 that News of the World royal editor Clive Goodman had hacked into private telephone calls concerning Prince Harry.

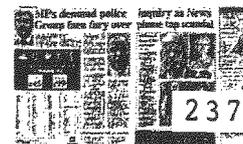
However doubts have now been raised after it emerged that Rupert Murdoch's business subsequently paid more than £1million to other individuals targeted by its journalists. The Director of

Public Prosecutions Keir Starmer has announced a major review into the evidence collected during the 2007 case.

The Press Complaints Commission is to launch an urgent investigation and MPs are to call witnesses, expected to include senior executive Les Hinton, current News of the World editor Colin Myler and Rebekah Wade, editor of The Sun.



Newsman Goodman



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Established 1855

A privacy law would be petty and dangerous

Parliament's response to the MPs' expenses scandal is a bad one: it is proposing, through the Parliamentary Standards Bill, to surrender its responsibility to regulate itself. This is a badly drafted piece of legislation conceived in a spirit of panic. Now, following the accusations that staff of the *News of the World* engaged in and bought information acquired by phone-tapping, we face the possible threat of politicians depriving the press of its power of self-regulation. The ostensible aim of such legislation would probably be a statutory right to privacy. But one of the real motives, we suspect, would be revenge.

The tapping of mobile phones by newspapers is illegal. In the case of reporters at the *News of the World*, the Metropolitan Police say that "in the vast majority of cases" there is insufficient evidence to show that such tapping took place. Therefore, a number of celebrities, who were the alleged

targets, are considering a multi-million-pound group action against the newspaper. But the crucial point is that criminal and civil sanctions are already in place against illegal investigations by journalists: when Clive Goodman, the *News of the World's* royal editor, was accused of plotting to hack into telephone messages belonging to palace aides, he was charged, tried, found guilty and sent to jail.

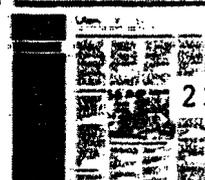
We shall have to see what firm evidence emerges of a wider conspiracy to uncover stories by illegal means. Depending on the evidence, the consequences could be

dramatic. But to repeat: there are laws to punish rogue journalists. And, in addition, there is also a voluntary watchdog, the Press Complaints Commission. Its code of practice has successfully demanded far higher standards of journalists than those set by its predecessor, the Press Council: witness the protection afforded Princes William and Harry during their formative years. The watchdog is also accessible to the public in a way that the Press Council was not. It can make life very difficult for newspapers that breach its code. But, of course, it cannot prevent all such breaches. That is not possible in a country with a press as free and vigorous as Britain's.

This week's allegations sent Labour MPs into a self-righteous frenzy. They seized on the fact that Andy Coulson, the editor who resigned over the Goodman scandal, is David Cameron's communications chief. This was predictable, given the Tories' gloating when the Government's "black operations" were brought to light by the Damian McBride affair. But at the back of many MPs' minds is something more fundamental: the chance to get even with a press, one of whose organs – this one – changed the political landscape forever by exposing the sleazy, dishonest and routine abuse of the expenses system by scores of politicians.

The Parliamentary Standards Bill aims to prevent future scandals by creating an outside regulator, instead of demanding that our supreme law-making body reforms itself. As we said yesterday, government requires good people acting honourably. The same applies to the media. If the press is subjected to new controls, it will lose the inquisitive vitality that – despite misjudgments and scandals – is the hallmark of British newspapers. It will move closer to the state, within easy reach of vengeful politicians.

A privacy law could well have stopped the *Telegraph* exposing the full extent of the expenses scandal. MPs embarrassed by our revelations are aware of this fact. Let us bear it in mind as we listen to



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Newspaper group denies hacking into stars' phones

By **Kirsty Walker**
 Political Correspondent

THE publisher of the News of the World last night robustly denied claims that its reporters had hacked into the mobile phones of 'thousands' of public figures.

The paper has been accused of paying £1million to keep secret three cases that threatened to expose its journalists accessing voicemails.

It is then alleged that they gained unlawful access to personal records, including bank statements and phone bills.

But in a statement last night, News International said it was confident there were no fresh cases of its journalists accessing the voicemails of individuals, including sports stars, celebrities and politicians.

It also denied claims made in The Guardian newspaper that there had been 'systemic corporate illegality' to suppress evidence.

Instead, the statement accused The Guardian of being 'selective and misleading' in its coverage.

It said the only evidence connecting its reporters to the accessing of voicemails was

the case of the paper's former royal correspondent Clive Goodman, who was jailed in

2007 for hacking into the mobiles of staff from the royal household.

That evidence emerged after a case brought by Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, in which Mr Taylor received £700,000 in compensation and legal costs and agreed not to discuss the case.

After Goodman was jailed, the News of the World editor at the time, Andy Coulson, resigned.

Mr Coulson is now director of communications at the Tory Party and the Guardian allegations have put pressure on Tory leader David Cameron, who insists that he now does a 'proper job in an upright way'.

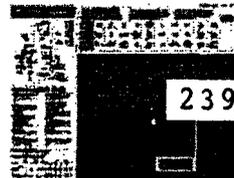
News International said last night: 'It goes without saying that had the police uncovered evidence, charges would have been brought against other News of the World personnel.'

'Not only have there been no such charges, but the police have not considered it necessary to arrest or question any

other member of News of the World staff.'

On Wednesday The Guardian reported that the paper had accessed the voicemails of hundreds of public figures, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott, London Mayor Boris Johnson and actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

News International said that when its then chairman Les Hinton had told the Commons Culture Committee in 2007



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that he was only aware of Mr Goodman being involved in phone hacking he had not

'Put the record straight'

known of the details which emerged during Mr Taylor's case.

However, it said that it was 'untrue' that police had found evidence that News International staff had either themselves, or using investigators, hacked into 'thousands' of mobile phones or accessed individuals' voicemails.

It said also that it was 'untrue' that its reporters had hacked into the voicemails of various footballers, celebrities

and politicians named in this week's reports - including Mr Prescott - or that News of the World executives had knowingly sanctioned payments for illegal phone intercepts.

The Guardian responded by saying it was about to reveal the identity of a second person with whom it claims News International made an out-of-court settlement over tapping allegations.

Its statement said: 'We note that News International claims to have known about the Taylor phone hacking since April 2008.

'It is surprising that - having assured Parliament, the Press Complaints Commission and the public - that Mr Goodman was an 'aberration' and a one-off, the company chose to conceal this discovery, which involved other journalists, rather than put the record straight.

'News International's statement contains many denials of allegations which have not been made by the Guardian.'

A Commons select committee is to quiz senior managers of News International over the affair and the Press Complaints Commission has said it was launching an inquiry.

Press Complaints Commission



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Lib Dems call for inquiry into Met's actions on phone taps

ANGUS HOWARTH

THE independent police watchdog was last night facing calls to investigate Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen the inquiry into alleged phone hacking by tabloid journalists.

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne submitted a formal request to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for an inquiry.

It follows the announcement yesterday by assistant commissioner John Yates that the Met would not be investigating fresh claims by the *Guardian* that hundreds of public figures had had their phones hacked.

Mr Huhne said the police review of the files by Mr Yates left open as many questions as it answered.

"The Metropolitan Police cannot act as judge and jury in its own trial. Only an independent

inquiry can properly consider any possible neglect of duty.

"These allegations have serious implications for privacy laws and freedom of the press in this country, and as such must be investigated thoroughly."

A spokesman for the IPCC confirmed that it had received Mr Huhne's letter.

In his statement, Mr Yates said police had seen no additional evidence since its last investigation, which ended with the jailing of *News of the World* royal reporter Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire in 2007 for hacking into Prince William's mobile phone.

The *Guardian* has alleged that the phone hacking went far

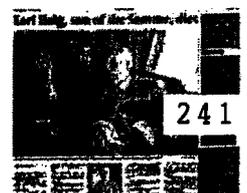
wider, with former deputy prime minister John Prescott and London mayor Boris Johnson among the victims.

The Commons culture, media and sport committee and the Press Complaints Commission have announced that they will hold fresh inquiries.

Allegations that police officers found evidence that the *News of the World* hacked into thousands of mobile phones were untrue, *News International* said last night.

"The Met cannot act as judge and jury in its own trial"

Chris Huhne



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Press Complaints Commission

Privacy law would not be in the public interest

Ian Bell THE SATURDAY ESSAY



THERE is an old saying in the newspaper industry, one journalists sometimes use to console, explain or excuse themselves. It goes like this: news is a story that someone in power doesn't want to see written or told. You could call it the Watergate paradigm, but it applies as easily to MPs' expenses, a war in Iraq, football transfers or a council planning committee.

In no particular order, there are a few other things you could add as to the increasingly elastic idea of print journalism. One is that investigative reporting is hellishly expensive. It takes a lot of time, money and human resources. As often as not, it leads nowhere.

Equally, the people who sign the cheques insist, always, on having the expenditure justified. This is not petty cash. Even a slush fund can't be hidden forever. Only in the movies is "a hunch" accepted as sufficient reason to put a hole in the profits.

A third point is simple common sense: editors want to know where their stories are coming from. They have to protect their reputations, obviously enough,

but they also bear a legal responsibility for the things they elect to print. Only the foolish, the naive and the purblind fail to ask simple questions.

Then there is the fact that good, exclusive stories are gold in a business that is, must be, competitive. How you define "good" is another matter. But if a certain species of tale is your paper's stock in trade, and if authentically original tales are always rare, and if your job depends on it: what follows? Dog eats dog, even – sometimes especially – when both beasts are housed in the same kennel.

A final point: readers are

hypocrites. There may be general indignation over the News of the World, over hacking, bugging, blagging, tracking, over privacy, over former editor Andy Coulson's services to the Tory party, over cheque books and private investigators, over self-regulation, over the nonsense made of the public interest, over Rupert Murdoch's influence, over the indolence of police, prosecutors and courts: the justification remains. People, millions of them, buy the papers.

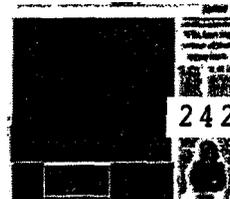
If there was real money to be

had in stories about environmental science, the News of the World would have a green masthead. Its journalists would not stand accused of hacking the mobile accounts of various politicians and celebrities, or of employing seedy individuals to obtain confidential records by deception, or – though who can fail to smile? – of compromising the privacy of a senior colleague, Rebekah Wade, editor of the elevated Sun.

Another unanswerable question, as old as the press: do newspapers create the appetite for sensation, "celebrity" sensation in particular, or merely reflect and serve squalid voyeurism? On this, I'm agnostic. I suspect that the relationship is symbiotic. But I

do not accept that the need to see secrets revealed is always malign. I can see where this affair is heading, nevertheless.

Contrast and compare. The Daily Telegraph has just given us a peak into the private lives and presumptuous attitudes of MPs. Many of the parliamentarians – note only the ink expended on "redactions" – believed that their privacy was breached out-



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rageously. Some, if you pore over the revelations, were right. Few doubt, meanwhile, that the material was obtained in a manner that was, prima facie, illegal. All assume that money, a great deal of it, changed hands.

Yet Scotland Yard did not bother to begin to investigate. The "public interest defence" was deemed impregnable. Hence a paradox or two. First, journalists may break all sorts of laws if they can convince a court that they served a higher duty.

It is axiomatic, for example, that you do not reveal sources as and when the state demands. Should you also happen to breach privacy, data protection legislation, the Official Secrets Act or whatever to prove that politician X is plotting a military coup the public will, with luck, applaud. Its

interest has just been defended. But if you are employing precisely the same methods simply to trawl through the private lives of public figures on the off-chance, your subterfuge, as the codes of conduct describe it, will land you beyond the pale, deep in News of the World territory. So what would we be saying now if that newspaper had stumbled across politician X while lurking in the digital shadows? Same methods; same laws; same outcome; differing intent. Therefore?

You can guarantee, nevertheless, that some of the politicians, bruised and aggrieved by the Telegraph revelations, will now use the News of the World scandal to demand a privacy law. They will say – and they will be right – that industry self-regulation as exhibited by the Press Complaints Commission is a joke. That body exists – for let's not be coy – to keep legislation or an independent regulator at bay. When the hacking scandal first broke, the PCC thought a quick resignation from Mr Coulson apology enough. Now the politicians will have their chance.

Where might that lead? Anyone "turned over" by a tabloid with unaccountable political

power would want to see the pack reined in. A handful of the super-rich can play the rich man's game that is English libel law. Time and again, the rest succumb to what is, in effect, threats and menaces. But if the Wapping Capers give excuse to explicit privacy legislation journalism, good and bad, will be dead.

There is a difference, simple and clear, between the public interest and anything that might interest the public. There is a dispute, too, over what is meant by privacy: are you still a private

citizen if you have sold your wedding to Hello! If not, does that truly make you fair game for the hackers in the News of the World newsroom? Everything is private until it becomes public, and it becomes public when, right or wrong, it hits the papers. So define "right" and "wrong".

A privacy law would derive, in any case, from a state that displays a fast-decreasing interest in the concept. The MPs appalled by the News of the World attempted to debase freedom of information legislation just to protect themselves. The government exempts itself from data protection law, meanwhile, the better to harvest and "share" private details. The national identity register, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, the security services and a rash of other databases crawl all over lives. Privacy as a human right has become notional.

You could ask why tabloid journalists can get away with flagrant, routine, breaches of the law. You might also ask why honest reporters often have no choice but to lapse into illegality, and why whistleblowers of honest intent still face dismissal and jail. A privacy law would be nothing less than a permanent gagging order. Ideal, obviously, for some.

The upshot, in other words, is that real stories would be chloroformed along with the risible. Perhaps it is blackly comic that papers face the choice only thanks to the News of the Counter-Sunk Fixing Device and

its crayon version of the human comedy, but there you are: reaping and sowing.

My advice would not carry far in Wapping. They and the MPs can have Bob Dylan, once again, instead: "If you live outside the law, you must be honest."



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Met 'neglect' over hacking claims

Huhne demands inquiry into refusal to reopen case

PHONESROW

THE independent police watchdog was last night facing calls to investigate Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen the inquiry into alleged phone hacking by *News of the World* journalists.

Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne submitted a formal request to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to mount an inquiry, saying there had been a potential "neglect of duty" by the Metropolitan Police.

It follows the announcement on Thursday by Assistant Commissioner John Yates that the Met would not be investigating

fresh claims by *The Guardian* that hundreds of public figures had their phones hacked.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer, however, said that the Crown Prosecution Service was carrying out an "urgent examination" of the police files relating to the case to check they were properly dealt with at the time.

Mr Huhne said the police review of the files by Mr Yates had been conducted "too quickly" and left open as many questions as it answered.

"The Metropolitan Police cannot act as judge and jury in its own trial," he said.

"Only an independent inquiry can properly consider any possible neglect of duty by the Specialist Operations Department into the original investigation.

"Given the scale and scope of the allegations, the possibility that other journalists and investigators were involved must now be seriously considered.

"The review by the Director of Public Prosecutions is a tacit admission that the review by Assistant Commissioner Yates was rushed, and supports the

case for a full, independent inquiry by the IPCC into the original police investigation.

"These allegations have serious implications for privacy laws and freedom of the Press in this country, and as such must be investigated thoroughly."

A spokesman for the IPCC confirmed that it had received Mr Huhne's letter.

"In accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform Act, we will need to forward it to the appropriate authority – in this case the MPS (Metropolitan Police Service) –

for their consideration," the spokesman said.

In his statement, Mr Yates said police had seen no additional evidence since its last investigation, which ended with the jailing of *News of the World* royal reporter Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire in 2007. The case related to a complaint by the royal household that Prince William's mobile phone voicemail may have been hacked into.

However *The Guardian* has alleged that the phone hacking went far wider, with former deputy prime minister John

Prescott, PR agent Max Clifford, London Mayor Boris Johnson and actress Gwyneth Paltrow said to be among the victims.

Telephone messages from football manager Sir Alex Ferguson and player Alan Shearer were also said to have been intercepted.

The Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee and the Press Complaints Commission are to hold fresh inquiries into the latest allegations.

Tory leader David Cameron yesterday again rejected calls to sack his communications director, Andy Coulson, who was editor of the *News of the World* at

the time alleged phone hacking took place.



CHRIS HUHNE: Police review of files conducted 'too quickly'.



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HACKED OFF

The allegations of phone-hacking by a tabloid that have shaken both the media and the political world are unpicked by Jon Ungood-Thomas

Sitting in his office in the home counties last week, a private investigator leant across his desk and spoke about one of his skills: the art of obtaining private information on celebrities and other public figures. From an ex-directory phone number to banking files and health records, they were, he explained, all readily available from the right person at the end of the phone, whether they worked at BT or the NHS.

"It's about assessing the psychology of the person you are speaking to and then convincing them to give you the information," he said.

"You have to know the terminology of the organisation you are targeting and know which people might legitimately be able to ask for the information you are after. Then you pose as them. You need to be confident and personable."

The investigator admitted he has sold such information to newspapers, but this business was an increasingly risky trade. He said he had been investigated and subsequently charged by the Information

Commissioner for alleged breaches of data protection laws and was no longer willing to work for the media.

His main clients now are insurance companies, for which discovering evidence of a criminal record can be a quick and easy way to reject a claim.

This weekend, the work of such investigators faces scrutiny after The Guardian claimed that the News of the World, which is published by News International, the owner of The Sunday Times, had used private investigators to hack illegally into mobile phone voicemails. The Guardian said there were "thousands" of victims but produced no evidence for its extravagant claims.

Part of this was old news. In January 2007 Clive Goodman, the News of the World's former royal reporter, and Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator, were convicted and jailed for hacking into hundreds of mobile phone messages, including those of aides to the royal family.

The scandal also cost Andy Coulson his job as editor of News of the World. He is now the director of communica-

tions for the Conservative party under David Cameron.

The new claims, however, suggested that such practices were not just the province of one rogue reporter, but a systematic operation that had targeted thousands of phones. John Prescott, the former deputy prime minister, Tessa Jowell, the Olympics minister, and Gwyneth Paltrow, the actress, were said to be among the victims. But again no evidence was produced to show that they had been on anything but a wish list.

On Friday evening, News International issued a strong rebuttal. It described some of the most serious allegations as "irresponsible", "unsubstantiated" and "false".

Specifically, it denied that police had uncovered evidence of News of the World staff, or private investigators commissioned by them, hacking into thousands of phones. News of the World executives also deny sanctioning payments for illegal phone intercepts.

John Yates, the assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan police who reviewed the Goodman case files last

week, had already announced that he had found nothing that warranted further investigations or charges.

Andy Hayman, the former Met assistant commissioner, who led the original inquiry, said yesterday there was only evidence that a handful of phones had been tampered with and "we put our best detectives on the case and left no stone unturned".

By now, however, a hue and cry was gathering pace across

Westminster and the BBC. There were calls for Cameron to sack Coulson, for newspaper executives to be hauled before committees of MPs and for police investigations to be reopened.

For some politicians there was a delicious taste of schadenfreude after Fleet Street exposed their fiddling of parliamentary expenses. Now the biter was being bitten.

On Friday, Tom Watson, the former Labour minister, reflected the mood, bowling up to a journalist from a national newspaper and tugging at the reporter's House of Commons pass. "You won't

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much longer," he grinned.

First it was bankers, then MPs and maybe now it is the turn of the press. In a recession we all love someone to blame.

IN THE late 1990s, the rather dishevelled figure of Benjamin Pell, a former trainee lawyer, could often be spotted around London's Chancery Lane, scooping up bags of rubbish from outside law firms. Inside was pay-dirt for national newspapers.

Pell, it later emerged, was one of the most successful story-getters of those years. He obtained papers relating to the libel case between Neil Hamilton, the former Tory MP, and the Harrods owner Mohamed al-Fayed; documents showing how Jonathan Aitken, the former Tory minister, had been involved in setting up arms deals in Saudi Arabia and even Sir Elton John's enormous bill for flowers. Every story came out of the bins.

David Leigh, the investigations editor at The Guardian, is reported to have offered Pell — known as "Benji the Binman" — £100 on one occasion and put him in touch with a freelance journalist who could help Pell find markets for future stories.

At the time none of the journalists, including some from The Sunday Times, appeared unduly concerned about Pell's bin raids.

"The real issue is: should journalists use information from unsavoury sources?" said Leigh in a letter to Press Gazette, the trade magazine, in April 2005, when details of Pell's activities were exposed. "The answer is, 'Yes, if it's true and in the public interest; no, if it's merely tittle-tattle acquired with a chequebook'."

This justification was of scant help to Pell, who was subsequently convicted on five counts of theft from bins.

It was not just rifling through rubbish that was landing the scoops, however.

Many reporters would use private detectives, who could

obtain a wealth of information on an individual, much of which would be considered confidential. While these private detectives were sometimes being used for legitimate investigations in the public interest, they were also used by the tabloids to trawl for stories on celebrities.

In 2006 Richard Thomas, then the information commissioner, published a report on the unlawful trade in private information, *What Price Privacy?*. It included a tariff for various categories of information. For example, obtaining an ex-directory telephone number cost £75, while a car number-

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FIRST IT WAS BANKERS, THEN MPS. MAYBE NOW IT IS THE TURN OF THE PRESS

plate check to match it to an address cost £150.

Six months later Thomas provided more details of one of his team's cases, *Operation Motorman*, which had targeted the private investigator Stephen Whittamore. In a raid on Whittamore's Hampshire home, details of 305 journalists who had used the investigator's services between April 2001 and March 2003 were found.

According to the report, more than 50 Daily Mail journalists had bought material from Whittamore on 952 occasions. Other newspapers on the list included the Daily Mirror (681 transactions) the News of the World (228), The Observer (103) and The Sunday Times (4).

While Thomas suggested that the evidence bolstered his case that those convicted of trading unlawfully in personal information should be punished with a two-year jail term, his report was fundamentally flawed.

He did not identify which of the transactions might be considered unlawful and which newspapers had public interest defences or were requesting publicly available information, such as electoral roll checks. Thomas's report ended as a damp squib and he later had to apologise to The Sunday Times for publishing misleading information about the paper.

There was more meat on the Goodman and Mulcaire case the following year. The pair admitted hacking into more than 600 messages on the mobile phones of royal family aides.

Mulcaire, who ran his company from Sutton, south London, also admitted intercepting voicemail messages intended for Max Clifford, the publicist; Sky Andrew, agent of Sol Campbell, the England footballer; Gordon Taylor, chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association; Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP; and Elle Macpherson, the model.

Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World. His successor, Colin Myler, conducted an internal inquiry and subsequently told the Press Complaints Commission that Goodman had deceived News International to pay Mulcaire, had concealed the sourcing on royal stories, and that nobody else knew Goodman and Mulcaire were tapping phone messages for stories.

On Thursday, The Guardian contradicted News International's account of the affair but produced scant evidence for its claims.

The story was picked up with glee by the BBC, which led its bulletins with it. It provided a

useful diversion from its own woes, since the BBC has faced sustained and heavy criticism from the press since it released the details of the lavish salaries and expenses paid to some of its senior executives. Those disclosures showed that 27 of the BBC's top 50 executives were paid more than the prime minister.

Prescott, who believed he might have been a victim, exploded in a bluster on the BBC news. In a letter to Cameron, he wrote: "The claim that up to 3,000 people, including myself, had their mobile phones 'hacked' on the instruction of the News of the World while being edited by your director of communications, Andy Coulson, must be thoroughly investigated."

Yet the suggestion that there might be thousands of crimes that had never been properly investigated was almost immediately dismissed by John Yates in his review of the Goodman files. Prescott's phone had never in fact been hacked. Yates said that while there may have been hundreds of potential targets, only a small number had had their phone messages compromised. All those people had been contacted.

A senior source with good knowledge of the case said that police had categorised those targeted by Mulcaire into three lists. On the first list, which was fewer than 20 people, were those whose phones had been illegally hacked. This list is thought to include Boris Johnson, now the London mayor, a senior executive at the BBC, and the individuals named in the Goodman court case.

On a second list were 40-50 people. Mulcaire had obtained the mobile numbers of these individuals, but there was no evidence their phones had been unlawfully tapped. Jowell and Sir Ian Blair, the former Met commissioner, are believed to

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have been on this list.

On the final list were about 400-500 people who were possible targets, but Mulcaire had not even obtained their phone numbers. This list, referred to as the "C" list, is believed to have included Prescott.

This account was backed up by Andy Hayman yesterday; he said the inquiry he headed had uncovered "several hundred names" that had been targeted by Mulcaire. "Of these, there was a small number — perhaps a handful — where there was evidence that the phones had actually been tampered with," he said.

The source of the confusion about the story may lie in a case that Taylor launched after Goodman was convicted to seek damages for breaches of the Data Protection Act.

News International initially resisted the claim, so Taylor's lawyers subpoenaed two collections of files — one relating to the police case against Goodman and Mulcaire; the second relating to journalists in the What Price Privacy? report.

Taylor's claim was settled when new evidence emerged out of the police files that another News of the World reporter knew how Mulcaire was obtaining some of his information. That reporter has since left the paper and there is no evidence he committed any offence.

News International executives are not aware of any other evidence in the police files that show any other News of the World journalist was involved in commissioning Mulcaire to hack phones.

So it appears The Guardian may have conflated the Goodman case files with the alleged misdemeanours from the information commissioner's files, which detailed a huge number of contacts of journalists with private investigators, even if it did not outline any specific offences. Did a tip about 500 names on the Met files become

thousands by some extrapolation based on the information commissioner's report? The Guardian has still not provided any documentary evidence for its allegations.

While News of the World executives are angry about what they consider unfair reporting, the disclosures have touched a nerve with the public. As MPs have discovered with their expenses, the defence that activities were within the law or common practice is not always regarded as satisfactory.

Newspapers will have to mount a robust defence if the current system of self-regulation is not overtaken by a privacy law. Those committed to serious investigations will argue that they always act in the public interest when using subterfuge.

Recent cases include the exposure of MPs' expenses — which technically breached their right to have their data protected — and The Sunday Times's exposure of peers accepting cash-for-amendments in which reporters posed as businessmen to gain proof of wrongdoing.

STANDING more directly in the firing line is Coulson, even if no proof emerges of further phone hacking by reporters under his editorship. Labour MPs — and some Tories — have a whiff of blood in their nostrils.

When the scandal first broke Cameron's spokesman declared that the Tory leader was "relaxed" about the position of Coulson. But on Thursday an operation was put in place to build a wall around Cameron's communications chief. "In any political scandal the first 24 hours normally determines whether someone survives or has to be thrown to the wolves," said a party insider.

The disaffected right wing of the party is restless. There is a feeling that there is one rule for MPs accused of expenses

fiddling whom Cameron regards as "expendable" and another rule for members of the inner circle. "David Cameron talks about giving Coulson a 'second chance'," said one MP. "Where were the second chances for people like Peter Viggers [the MP who tried to claim for the duck island]?"

Labour are, meanwhile, determined to enjoy the Tory discomfort.

"Initially I was disappointed that the police decided not to investigate," said a special adviser to a cabinet minister. "But then I slept on it and thought that if the police had gone in, Coulson would have been out within 24 hours. Now we can drag this out for months. Each day the Tories will be damaged just a little more."

*Additional reporting:
Jonathan Oliver*

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How to hack mobile phones and what the law says

Hacking into a mobile phone does not necessarily require any advanced technical knowledge.

Those who do rely on the fact that many phone users do not bother to change the default pin codes that allow remote access to their voicemail message boxes.

Alternatively, if they do alter the four-digit number, they often use a number associated with a family member's birthdate or an anniversary.

Armed with the pin code, the hacker then dials the

target phone at a time when it is off or engaged in order to be diverted to the message box. If the pin number matches, he has access to any new or saved messages.

Listening in on mobile phone messages in this way is an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, legislation which was brought in to give various government agencies the power to carry out surveillance.

Intercepting telephone communications legally requires the consent of a

member of the cabinet. Transgressors face up to two years in jail.

However, since the act stipulates that the offence occurs if a communication is intercepted "in the course of its transmission", hacking into someone's old messages may not constitute a crime.

Listening into a mobile phone user's conversations while they take place is a far more complicated undertaking. It would usually necessitate either the co-operation of someone working for the relevant

phone company or the placing of some kind of bugh in the target's handset.

Confidential details such as phone records, bank details and medical records are obtained by private investigators who con their way into the confidence of the data keepers. This is an offence under the Data Protection Act and punishable by a fine of up to 25,000. However, significantly, such activities may be permissible in serious investigations if there is a public interest defence.

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2 Glenn Mulcaire, left, and Clive Goodman were jailed in January 2007 for six months and four months respectively after pleading guilty to conspiracy to intercept phone calls.

3 Last year Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, left, who was one of the five people named, settled a legal case with the News of the World over the allegations.

1 The model Ella Macpherson was one of five people named alongside royal aides in connection with mobile phone hacking allegations against a News of the World journalist and a private investigator.

4 On Thursday, The Guardian alleged that the Taylor settlement was part of a plan to suppress evidence of phone hacking by the News of the World's publisher. It offered no concrete evidence.

5 Andy Coulson, editor of the tabloid at the time of the Goodman affair and now the Conservative communications chief, faces fire from Labour ranks and Tory rebels over the phone hacking allegations.

The allegations — and the rebuttals

What The Guardian claimed

- The paper alleged that News of the World journalists hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones in order to generate stories. The paper's publisher, News International, conspired to suppress this information by paying more than £1m to settle legal cases.
- "MPs from all three parties, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott... were among the targets".
- News International executives misled a parliamentary select committee and the Press Complaints Commission when they said Clive Goodman, the paper's former royal correspondent, was acting alone when he hacked phones.
- The police did not pursue all potential charges against News of the World journalists.

News International's response

- It is untrue that apart from Goodman, [police] officers found evidence that other members of News Group staff hacked into mobile phones or accessed individuals' voicemails.
- It is untrue that there is evidence that News Group reporters, or indeed anyone, hacked into the voicemails of Prescott.
- It is untrue that "Murdoch journalists" used private investigators to illegally hack into the phone messages of numerous public figures to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data, including: tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills.

Statement of John Yates, Metropolitan police assistant commissioner

- "Our inquiries showed that in the vast majority of cases there was insufficient evidence to show that tapping had actually been achieved... No additional evidence has since come to light. I therefore consider no further investigation is required."

Andy Hayman, former Met assistant commissioner, who headed original investigation

- "The Guardian has said it understands that between 2,000 and 3,000 individuals had their phones hacked into... As I recall, the list of those targeted ran to several hundred names. Of those, there was a small number — perhaps a handful — where there was evidence that the phones had actually been tampered with."

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REVENGE SHOULD NOT CURB FREEDOM

This was a week for sweet revenge. The story that the News of the World had paid nearly £1m to silence three people suing it over interceptions of their mobile phone messages has unleashed a torrent of vitriol across Westminster. MPs have been having a terrible time recently thanks to revelations in The Daily Telegraph about their expenses — revelations acquired for cash and through dubious means. Parliamentarians dared not retaliate against that newspaper, however, because what it published was in the public interest. Now they have a chance to have a go at the press in general, and they have seized it with relish.

There was revenge, too, for those in Labour who have not forgiven the Tories for ousting the No. 10 aide Damian McBride for underhand tactics. Here was a chance to attack David Cameron's spin doctor, Andy Coulson, the News of the World editor when the intercepts were said to have taken place. By attacking him, they could attack the Tory leader.

Then there was the relish with which the BBC covered the story. The corporation has taken a pounding for executives' bloated salaries, fat expense accounts, generous pensions and all round profligacy. It joined in the kicking of the press, though it is known it has used questionable journalistic techniques in the past.

Despite the schadenfreude and merriment, there are serious issues at stake. MPs are muttering about a privacy law that they say would protect individuals but we believe would curb press freedom. We know they tried to flout the Freedom of Information Act by redacting controversial parts of their expenses. Had we relied on the authorised version, there would have been no expenses scandal.

The Telegraph paid for that information and was right to do so. Many years ago The Sunday Times paid for documents essential for the thalidomide exposure. But nobody would con-

done illegal hacking and certainly not electronic "fishing expeditions" in search of stories.

We should be clear about two things, however. Self-regulation has worked. The Press Complaints Commission provides rapid redress for those who believe they have been wronged, without recourse to expensive legal action. Journalists and editors take it seriously.

Furthermore, curbing legitimate investigative journalism would be hugely damaging. At least the government has abandoned proposed prison sentences for journalists under the Data Protection Act, providing there is a public interest defence. It is right that when journalists overstep the mark they should be held accountable, but if this frenzy leads to further restrictions on the press, we will all be the poorer, knowing even less about those who seek to govern our lives.

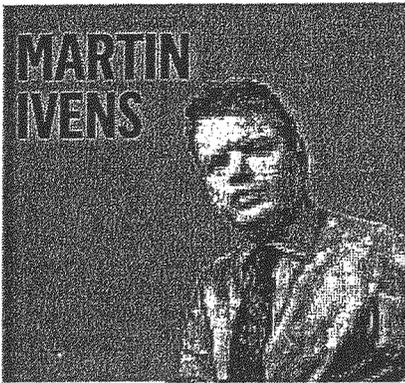


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A free press needs no new guardians



A frown of deep concern furrowed the cabinet minister's brow as he stared into my eyes and told me that the freedom of the press was dear to his heart. But what if the wrongdoings of the fourth estate, the buggings and the phone-taps of politicians and celebrities, proved to be systemic? In that case the government might find it impossible to restrain the righteous anger of the House of Commons. Statutory regulation of the press could swiftly follow.

His concern for us folks "drinking" in what David Mellor once called "the last chance saloon" of newspaper vice may have been genuine. Yet out of nowhere some lines about the fate of the oysters in Lewis Carroll's Walrus and the Carpenter came into my head: "I weep for you," the Walrus said: "I deeply sympathize." With sobs and tears he sorted out those of the largest size."

Not a lot of love is lost between politicians and the press these days. All sides of the House are still seething at the newspaper revelations about their expenses, which have brought down upon their heads the wrath of voters and angry constituents. Some have lost their jobs. Westminster is thirsting for

revenge. The government, which the public blames for failing to clear up this mess long ago, is also at odds with newspapers which think its time is up.

For many Labour MPs, The Guardian's allegations against Andy Coulson, the Tory communications chief and former News of the World editor, therefore came as welcome relief. Coulson is a lightning rod for a series of discontents. His scalp, so precious to the Conservative leader, David Cameron, would be quite a trophy for Labour. It would also be a blow to their most-hated enemy, George Osborne, the shadow chancellor, who recommended Coulson for the job despite being the victim of a lurid story himself in the News of the World.

Lazy comparisons are made between Cameron's man and Tony Blair's spin-doctor, Alastair Campbell, as both were journalists. But Coulson was an ambitious executive; Campbell a tribally Labour columnist with strongly defined politics. Although Conservative by instinct, Coulson is less interested in policy than giving technical advice. He will typically offer the Tory leader suggestions about the soundbite that will catch the attention of the 10 o'clock television news. As an Essex man and a state school boy, Coulson also helps Cameron keep in touch with the non-metropolitan voters beyond Notting Hill. But that's about as far as it goes.

The Conservative leader values Coulson for his professional competence. "Campbell's temperament was Celtic, prone to extremes of emotion," says a shadow cabinet member, "Andy is a cooler customer whether the press is good or bad." He is part of a team, not a lone star. Steve Hilton develops Tory strategy — the brand, as it is called — through rhetoric and policy while Ed Llewellyn, an old Etonian chum of Cameron, is chief of staff.

Coulson has chopped no shadow cabinet minister off at the knees, yet, and he is disappointingly respectable,

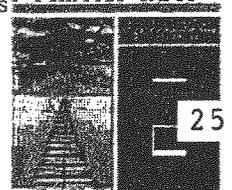
whereas Campbell once wrote pornography. But that is the way of Fleet Street. When I started out in this business, the wife-swappers could be found at the arch-Conservative broadsheet, The Daily Telegraph.

Still smarting from the loss of Gordon Brown's press adviser, Damian McBride, after the exposure of his "black ops", No 10 wants to take Coulson out. Peter Mandelson, John Prescott and Campbell himself went prematurely for the jugular before waiting to see how the story ran. The Tories have stuck to two lines that have held: Coulson resigned his editorship after wrongdoing occurred on his watch but he has subsequently committed no sins of omission or commission.

That said, the Tories should mind their language. Cameron should not

**'TO LISTEN TO SOME,
YOU'D THINK THE
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PRESS HAD JUST
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have said he was "relaxed" about the allegations — that sounds like vintage Mandelson and Blair, circa 1995-97. The public is not relaxed about unreasonable breaches of privacy in the lives of celebrities and ordinary folk. The Conservative leader has to take the conduct of his inner circle most seriously: the voters are understandably tired of slimy cabals and spin. All press



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Bernard Ingham "span" for Margaret Thatcher have attracted odium. Coulson will have to work doubly hard to avoid their fate. He knows he can't afford to be "the story" for long.

MPs will be watching carefully. Are the press in general vulnerable? Red top intrusions into the private lives of celebrities have never been popular. Juries in libel actions used to award eye-watering damages until the tabloids started cleaning up their act. But recent polling evidence shows that the stock of broadsheet papers, like this one, is high — higher than that of the BBC.

The Sunday Times — whose parent company is News International, also owners of the News of the World — has long specialised in stories exposing political corruption. The Daily Telegraph's gamble on publishing the records of MPs, gained by underhand means, has also vindicated the role of a hard-nosed press. Ultimately that paper was relying on public sentiment for protection. If juries think reporters have exposed wrongdoing, they may forgive the newspaper the means by which it exposed it. But it's a fine line.

The vices of newspapers are more akin to those of bankers than of MPs. Ferocious competition, a desire to sell more papers through scoops, drives us on. As with the City, some absurd risks have been taken. At one time it seemed that every investigative reporter was trying to break into Buckingham Palace to prove that security there needed tightening. Yet it would be wrong to impose more restraints on British newspapers already shackled by some of the most ferocious libel laws in the free world.

To listen to some commentators you would also think the virginity of the press had just been violated. Back in the 1970s it wasn't just the prurient press that relied on odd methods. The priggish press, too, were in receipt of the stolen goods of politically motivated burglaries. My own father's office — he was a tough free enterprise campaigner — was turned over a couple of times and they weren't after the petty cash. Yet not so long ago, the youthful privacy of Princes William and Harry was respected by all papers.

The state, too, was formerly more outrageous in its illegal activities. Then it was malign, now it is usually bungling. Peter Wright of MI5 admitted "bugging and burgling his way across London".

This made some people very paranoid. I remember my father having conversations with Colonel David Stirling, founder of the SAS, who had plans to keep the power stations running in the event of a general strike. He suspected the government was tapping his phone. When clicks on the line occurred, my mischievous father would intone solemnly: "Success is assured. Tony Wedgwood Benn is with us in the plot."

There is a curious symmetry between the plight of backbench MPs and journalists. The government is seeking to impose stiff bureaucratic regulation on the Commons through its proposed Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. Yet most of the politicians' worst abuses can be corrected by the proper application of the Freedom of Information Act. As long as we know for what MPs are claiming, we can be satisfied that the system is clean. And as long as the voters know how MPs get extra income, they can make up their own minds on their conduct.

Our legislators should not be governed by new laws and commissions that curtail their freedoms: like newspapers, they have to observe the old ones. Frank Field, the most upright man in parliament, resists this supervision; his colleague Denis MacShane dubs such a body an Iranian-style "Council of Guardians". A Council of Guardians for newspapers, too, would be a step back for freedom. One Guardian is enough.

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Peter Preston Press and Broadcasting

It's bad... but the watchdog has got the message

This is "one of the most significant media stories of modern times", says Andrew Neil, once a Murdoch henchman but now best beloved by the brothers Barclay. Shame on the House of Rupert! And look, here's the most significant political story of modern times, featuring MPs and their sleazy expenses, as exposed by the Barclays' *Telegraph*. Press behaviour horror and a triumph of investigatory zeal – with one hell of a grey area in between.

Why did the *Times* and the *Sun* both turn down the shadowy middleman who offered them an illicit computer disc of Parliament's darkest secrets for a mere £300,000? Nobody involved has ever explained directly, but let's say lawyers talking theft, privacy and data protection were loud in the decision-making process. Let's also say that, after the hammering News International took when Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the *News of the World*, Wapping was being super-careful.

That turned out a bad call: the public interest in what the disc revealed proved so great that nobody – bar Speaker Martin for about five benighted seconds – thought of calling in the Yard. But now, with hundreds,

going on supposed thousands, of hacking telephone calls and similar stunts to consider, the boot is on a different foot.

MPs have a chance to vent spleen – and go to it with a will. Labour faithful anxious to knock some away some of David Cameron's saintly aura have his spinmeister Coulson in their sights. Critics of the Press Complaints Commission see their target clear again. Murdoch foes across the Atlantic are hugging themselves at the prospect of his Dow Jones CEO, Les Hinton, having to troop back to Westminster and explain why he didn't mention a million or so in secret payments to some of those who were bugged. Celebrities summon eager solicitors. It's a six-ring circus of wrath, calculation and axe-grinding, gaining portent as it goes.

But should newspapers – or anyone – employ seedy private eyes to hack out information that rightly belongs to us alone? Of course not. Forget PCC codes, telephone hacking has been illegal for almost a decade. Clive Goodman of the *News of the World* and the dodgy detective who fed him royal titbits both went to prison. There's no reason why future transgressors shouldn't hear heavy doors slam behind them, too.

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What isn't quite clear enough yet, though, is the timing of transgressions past as they affect Coulson when he was deputy editor of the *News of the World* (to Rebekah Wade), then editor – appointments stretching from 2003 to January 2007. If (as Nick Davies in his pungent *Guardian* exclusive claims) hacking was commonplace in the newsroom of the time, with Goodman far from an isolated case, then Coulson seems either a fool or a knave; and Hinton, who vowed Goodman was a solitary case, is in much the same plight.

Yet something's missing here. It isn't news that Fleet Street fished in murky electronic waters. On 10 May 2006, Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, published a thunderous report called "What Price Privacy Now?" where he warned of gross media intrusions. Six months later, he followed through with a second report that provided the number of transactions with private eye intermediaries "positively identified" by his office.

Score 952 for the *Daily Mail*, 802 for the *Sunday People*, 681 for the *Daily Mirror*, 266 for the *Mail on Sunday* and only 182 for Coulson's *News of the World* (a mere 19 reporters initially identified, as opposed to 58 on the *Mail*). But don't forget, either, that the *Observer*, *Sunday Times* and many more titles, including *Woman's Own*, were also in the frame.

There are crucial details here. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 has no possible public interest defence appended, while the Data Protection Act – covering hacking into a computer, for instance, as well as generally "blagging" information by deceit – has a public interest element that can be pleaded in court. There's a practical difference, too, between blagging the telephone number of someone a reporter needs to interview for defined investigatory purpose and recording calls to a celebrity's mobile as part of a general trawl.

Some Scotland Yard sources

who talked to the *Guardian* about "thousands" of this or that may have been mixing their hacks and blags (which would be different cases under different acts). Some transactions featuring Glenn Mulcaire, the investigator who went to jail, must have fallen in both categories, too. And since Mulcaire, like others in his line of business, took orders far and wide, some of the other papers on the information commissioner's list were probably ordering hacks as well.

So this isn't just pain for News International, and you'd have thought the select committee and the PCC would have realised as much as they heard those reassurances from Hinton and Coulson. They need to ask why they themselves seemed oblivious to the Information Commission's evidence.

But when the PCC issued its amplified warning after Goodman, it did succeed in scrapping the hacks. Self-regulation worked. Scotland Yard, which gathered the evidence that convicted Goodman and Mulcaire, does not seem inclined to push further. Unlike the "most significant political story of modern times", acts were mostly cleaned up after an awful warning, rather than too late.

Don't sell the shabby dealings and evasions of all this short – but don't rock with melodramatic horror, either.

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THE OBSERVER PROFILE by James Robinson

Rebekah Wade Red-top stunner plays a blinder

Never one to back down from a challenge, the Sun editor faces her biggest test yet – taking the helm of News International amid allegations of phone-tapping involving the News of the World, which she once edited

Say what you like about *Sun* editor Rebekah Wade (and many people do), but she cannot be accused of lacking front. On Wednesday night, Wade, 41, who will become chief executive of the paper's parent company News International in September, had just read revelations that may yet provoke one of the biggest crises of her glittering career. The *Guardian* disclosed that the company had secretly paid £1m to several prominent figures, including PFA chairman Gordon Taylor, who had been victims of a phone-tapping sting at the *News of the World*, the paper she edited before her boss Rupert Murdoch handed her the *Sun* job in 2003.

If Wade was worried, however, guests at the Victoria & Albert museum, where publisher HarperCollins, also part of the Murdoch empire, was throwing its annual summer party, could not discern

it. "She was ebullient," said one attendee, who watched Wade power-network her way around the atrium of the museum, deftly steering her fun-loving husband Charlie Brooks, whom she married last month, away from inquiring journalists. "You would not dream that there had been a crisis going on two hours earlier."

The *Guardian* story has placed the methods used by tabloid journalists in general, and *NoW* reporters in particular, under the sort of scrutiny the Murdoch press usually reserves for others. Wade has achieved a long-held ambition by being appointed to run News International, which also owns the *Times* and its Sunday sister title, a promotion that confirmed her status as one of Murdoch's favourites. But it will now fall to her to ensure the group is not damaged by the controversy, which has already prompted the Press Complaints Commission and a committee of MPs to reopen investiga-

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tions into the way the *NoW* operates.

The signs are that Wade will carry out the task with relish, employing the aggressive, in-your-face tactics that have kept the *Sun* the country's biggest-selling daily paper, with a circulation of 3m. After days of silence from NI, Wade wrote to John Whittingdale, the Conservative MP who chairs the Commons culture and sport select committee, responding to his demand that NI executives attend a hearing this week that will investigate the *Guardian's* claims. "The *Guardian* coverage, we believe, has substantially and likely deliberately misled the British public," she declared. The *Guardian* said it was pleased the company had confirmed its out-of-court settlement with Taylor.

The allegations of journalistic malpractice had emerged previously, however. In 2007 former *NoW* royal editor Clive Goodman was jailed for illegally obtaining information, as was Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who worked for him and was on the paper's payroll. Its editor, Andy Coulson, installed in the top job when Wade left the *NoW*, resigned immediately and the company drew a line under the affair. It has always insisted Goodman was acting alone and without the knowledge of executives.

The fresh revelations suggested that the illegal procurement of data was more widespread than originally believed, and threatened to blow the whole affair open again as Wade prepares to take up her new role. Worst of all, it was claimed that journalists were engaged in illegal activity while Wade was *NoW* editor. While she may have disguised it well at last week's party, Wade was aggrieved by the suggestion that her inexorable rise through the company was in jeopardy. "This is ridiculous," she is said to have told a colleague. Staff at the *Sun* reported her to be "furious".

Whatever happens, few doubt that Wade will still be in situ. "News International will go down before Rebekah does," says a friend. Since deciding to become a journalist at the age of 14, Wade has single-mindedly pursued that ambition, working in local papers and, briefly, at a French magazine in Paris, before

landing a job as a secretary at the *NoW*. She joined the paper's features desk and impressed colleagues and bosses with her flair and work ethic.

In 1997, Wade went to the House of Commons to see Tory MP Jerry Hayes and tell him the *NoW* was about to inform its readers he was two-timing his wife with an 18-year-old gay lover. She delivered the news in such a straightforward, sympathetic manner that Hayes later phoned the newspaper to thank her for the way in which she had handled it.

In the decade or so since, she has lost none of her people skills, although she now tends to use them on figures who wield far more power than backbench Tory MPs. The *Sun* may not be as influential as it once was, but its editors are

still feted by politicians and celebrities. Wade is a regular visitor to Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat, and has befriended Sarah Brown. At her wedding to Brooks, a small private ceremony at St Bride's - the "journalists' church" - on London's Fleet Street, followed by a star-studded party in the Cotswolds, there were more contacts than friends, according to guests, although there appears to be little distinction between the two. Flower girls and bridesmaids at her wedding were said to include Jeremy Clarkson's daughters and Elisabeth Murdoch's young girls.

Wade's most powerful contact of all, her boss Rupert Murdoch, is said to regard her as a surrogate daughter. The pair are even said to go for morning swims together when Murdoch is in London. And when Wade was arrested in 2005 for alleged assault following a row with her then-husband Ross Kemp, Murdoch reputedly sent a designer suit to the police station so that Wade would look her best were she to be hauled before a judge. No charges were brought.

Murdoch's affection for Wade seems to run deep. He once reacted to news that a scoop had been landed by the *Daily Mirror*, the *Sun's* biggest rival, by phoning Les Hinton, the former News International chairman, and asking: "Is she all right?" Others might have been hauled before management, but then no one can question Wade's loyalty to the company, and that is a quality Murdoch is known to respect. "Why on earth did you leave

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News International?" Wade once asked a journalist in amazement, as if life outside Wapping was inconceivable.

Wade's fury and despair at missing a story can be keenly felt by staff, a trait that Murdoch may also admire. She once airily recalled coming into work and throwing a heavy object, possibly an ashtray, at the news desk when the *Mirror* published a particularly impressive exclusive. That singularity of purpose, allied to her thinly disguised ambition, means that Wade has not always endeared herself to employees. Her lifestyle, which includes flying to Monaco for dinner, according to a recent interview given by her new husband to *Tatler*, may help to explain that.

One former *Sun* reporter recalls that she was rarely on the newsroom floor, and could walk from one end to the other without acknowledging staff. He makes more serious allegations about her habit of toning down stories written about celebrity friends, although that cannot be proven and other editors sometimes act to protect cherished contacts.

In her new role, Wade is effectively replacing Hinton, who ran Murdoch's newspaper arm for a decade, although she will not take on all his duties. Murdoch's youngest son, James, has been running the titles since December 2007, when Hinton left, in addition to his duties as chairman and chief executive of News Corporation in Europe and Asia. Hinton is now ensconced in a different part of the Murdoch empire, running Dow Jones, which owns the *Wall Street Journal*, but his presence has been missed in London. Some claim that the fallout from the *No W* Max Mosley episode, which resulted in an unprecedented privacy victory for the Formula One boss, may have been handled better had Hinton been around.

As chief executive, Wade will be faced with some tough decisions and may need to be cosseted during her first few months in charge. Newspapers are facing an uncertain future, and executives, including Murdoch himself, are trying to work out how to make papers pay at a time when readers are migrating to the internet. There is talk about asking readers to pay for content currently available for free online, but few clues about

how they might be persuaded to do so.

Wade will not chair the regular commercial meetings each title holds, at which key strategic decisions are taken, and Murdoch Jr has been at pains to point out that he will remain a "very hands-on" chairman. She will also be required to referee spats between the papers' commercial and editorial departments, and resolve altercations between titles, but it is the ambassadorial role at which she is likely to excel. Like Hinton, she will be expected to smooth the feathers of the rich and powerful whenever they are at the wrong end of a story.

As if to underline her metamorphosis from journalist to executive, Wade will assume her married name when she takes up her executive role on 1 September and is in the process of changing her driving licence and passport to become Mrs Brooks. Her reaction to the crisis engulfing the newspaper empire of which she has been placed in charge, however, reflects a simple truth. She may have a new name and a new job, but she is still the same old Rebekah.

THE WADE LOWDOWN

Born Warrington, Cheshire, on 27 May 1968. She attended Appleton Hall County Grammar school. Twice married - first to *EastEnders* actor Ross Kemp, and last month, she married former racehorse trainer Charlie Brooks.

Best of times Calling for the introduction of "Sarah's law" when she was editor of the *News of the World*. The campaign to

give parents the right to learn about sex offenders' whereabouts was controversial but it struck a chord with the public and the government changed the law.

Worst of times Arrested after a row with then-husband Ross Kemp and held for eight hours, she was released without charge. Wade later dismissed the incident as an argument that got out of hand.

What she says

"Actually I think Page 3 is very popular with bishops. If you want to meet Keeley Hazell, you only have to ask."

What they say "She's good at schmoozing showbiz people. She can turn people over and have lunch with them the next day."

Former *Sun* editor David Yelland

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We have debased the craft of journalism and now it's up to us to sort out the mess

THE ETHICS
BY JOHN LLOYD
DIRECTOR OF JOURNALISM

TALK to any tabloid reporter prepared to be frank about his trade – as I did before writing this piece – and he or she will tell you this: that

it was and is common for journalists on these papers to pay officials, police and civil servants for information; that culling private information from phone records, DHSS files and

police data banks was routine; that “blagging” information on the phone by pretending to be the person about whom you wished to get information, and “hacking” into mobile networks to eavesdrop on conversations, was increasingly part of the repertoire; that private detective agencies would have tariffs of what information was worth – high for celebrities, low (relatively) for nobodies.

Ask them if the senior executives, including the editor, didn't know, and you invite ridicule. The former tabloid reporter I spoke to, who had freelanced on the News of the World and worked on the staff of another tabloid, said that if you didn't use these techniques, you were regarded as ineffectual by the bosses. Not to do so meant loss of status – even of the job. My acquaintance said it was routine, it was accepted, it was just what we did.

What we do, some of us journalists, is to pay (bribe is more accurate) people to release to us information with which they have been entrusted which is not, and in many cases should never be, in the public arena. What we do is to use this information to paint a picture of an individual, often to his or her discredit, with information they had thought private and which they did not know was being accessed.

We journalists make the case for our trade on this basis: that we hold power to account. That we both cover the routines of democratic life – from parish councils to Downing Street – and that we investigate what seems to be wrong; chief among that,

breaches of human rights.

Yet what we do – what Nick Davies's revelations in the Guardian tells us members of our trade do, routinely – is to breach human and civil rights in the most basic fashion. We have done the opposite of holding power to account. We have used our power to invade privacy. In so doing, our craft has been debased.

We have a public interest defence, practically enshrined in law. Under that defence, the bending or breaking of the law may be winked at if, as a result of investigation or revelation, a public good is done. The contemporary case is that of the disk bought by the Daily Telegraph which contained details of MPs' expenses. Common sense tells us that the disk was stolen at some point, and that to trade in it was a felony. But no enquiries will be made. It's a kind of rough justice: the civilian equivalent of “a fair cop”.

But most of these investigations, we may be sure, had no such defence. The people on whom the enquiries focused were largely sports stars or celebrities. The politicians whose phones may have been bugged were in the reporters' sights because of personal scandals.

The News of the World and News International had, two years ago, sought to contain this issue: it declared that phone hacking was confined to one reporter and one private investigator – rogues, working without the knowledge of the executives or the editor. That, it appears, was false.

We have seen a partly-venal House of Commons being given a roasting – and taking steps to reform. The journalists' trade must have its roasting too – and must reform. That is the responsibility, in the first place, of journalists themselves. We must develop, perhaps through a reformed Press Complaints Commission, a proactive institution which both protects and raises the standard of the necessary trade of journalism. For, like MPs, we are necessary to a free society. And when we pollute that freedom, we have to clean up the mess.

John Lloyd is a contributing editor to

the Financial Times, and director of journalism at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. He has also been editor of the New Statesman



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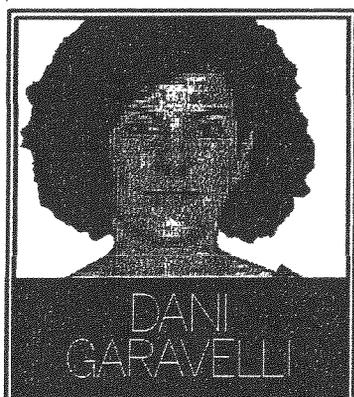


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Tapping into hypocrisy

REAL LIVES



SO THE News of the World may have been involved in the widespread tapping of celebrities' phones. Well, I suppose that's shocking in a way. Hacking into people's voicemail to listen to their private communications is pretty shoddy - if not illegal. But so is breaking into their hotel rooms and hiding in their wardrobes, in the hope you will catch them in flagrante. Or actively encouraging them to commit an illegal act so you can expose their criminality.

We all know tabloid journalists use dubious tactics to get their exclusives, don't we? When a newspaper exposes a priest as a cocaine-snorting, cross-dressing father-of-three, we don't imagine he rang them up and told them because he wanted to get it off his chest. We know they staked out his house, peered through his window or raked through his rubbish. So why are we now all throwing up our hands in horror?

The issue of phone-tapping isn't new. We had it with Camillagate and Squidgygate in the early 1990s (both of these were recorded by third parties and then passed on to newspapers). Back then, the

Press Complaints Commission made it clear the transcripts shouldn't have been published, but it did nothing to stop it happening again.

Nor is the fact journalists farm out their dirty work to private investigators exactly a revelation: more than a year before *NoW* royal reporter Clive Goodman was jailed for hacking into mobile phones used by royal aides, private investigator Stephen Whittamore was charged in connection with the sale of confidential information about celebrities to newspapers. During the course of their inquiries, detectives found records of 13,000 requests for information from 20 national newspapers. The process is a bit like Britain outsourcing its torture: it gives journalists access to the information they need, while allowing them to turn a blind eye to the methods used to extract it.

No, the most shocking aspect of the story is not the alleged widespread tapping of phones, but the hypocrisy it has exposed on the part of almost everyone involved. First up against the wall is, of course, the *NoW*, which, it is alleged, tried to cover up its own transgressions by buying its victims' silence with large out-of-court settlements, while continuing to cite the need for transparency as justification for its own vicious exposés.

Then there are the journalists and politicians who are behaving like ingenues even though they are all well acquainted with the sleazy compromises and petty trade-offs on which their worlds turn.

The celebrities are more or less blame-free - the likes of Gwyneth Paltrow and Nigella Lawson have every right to feel aggrieved if their phones were being tapped for no other reason than that one of them has a child and the other cooks

while sucking her fingers in a suggestive manner. But there are other celebrities, and even the odd royal, who have used journalism's penchant for leaks to shore up their own reputations or damage other people's. And there is something distasteful about the sight of Max Clifford, spinmeister and orchestrator of many a tabloid spread, taking centre stage to complain about having his privacy invaded.

I'm sure the Metropolitan Police have a bona fide reason for not pursuing the phone-tapping allegations, but it is not unknown for police officers themselves to be involved in passing on information from the Police National Computer thus helpfully eliminating the need for a private investigator. And the general public isn't entirely innocent either, since its outrage towards seedy journalistic practices seems to increase in direct proportion to its appetite for the kind of stories such practices produce.

Even *The Guardian* is being slightly disingenuous. While I'm sure the newspaper is not being hypocritical in the most obvious sense (I doubt it has ever gone on a fishing expedition that involves hacking into celebrities' voicemails), it seems likely it has a political as well as an ethical axe to grind. This story, after all, is not really about a bunch of hacks conforming to type: it's about the future of *NoW* editor turned Tory spin doctor Andy Coulson, and what his potential downfall might mean for David Cameron.

Whatever its motives, I think *The Guardian* ought to think very carefully about the consequences of its story for the future of its particular brand of writing. Already there have been calls for legislation to



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bring in prison sentences for reporters found guilty of obtaining information illegally; a move which would kill investigative journalism stone dead.

The truth is that - since few people come out and admit to corruption - a degree of subterfuge is vital in uncovering wrongdoing. The kind of crackdowns being called for by some parliamentarians would have put paid to the MPs' expenses story (as the information came from stolen documents) and many other important exclusives.

What we need, if we want journalism to improve, is not a blanket ban on particular investigative techniques, but more discussion of what is and what absolutely isn't in

the public interest. Although I'm not personally sure phone-tapping could ever be justified, the real question is not so much "Should reporters be jailed for it?" but "Is the story they are working on important enough to warrant pushing the ethical boundaries?" If it involves the prime minister of a European country cavorting with a harem of teenage girls when he should be attending a G8 summit then the answer might well be yes. If, on the other hand, it involves a dizzy socialite, a botched Botox job and a dalliance with an Arabian prince, then it is a very definite no.

dani.garavelli @ scottlandonsunday.com

“
The truth is, a degree of subterfuge is vital in uncovering wrongdoing
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'A burning indignation towards people who abuse power'

With his story on bugs in high places, Nick Davies picks a fight with the big boys. By **Matthew Bell**

The biggest stories of recent times have all made the same dispiriting revelation – those we think of as moral figureheads are not quite

as well-intentioned as we thought. First it was bankers, then MPs, and now, with almost Swiss timing, the press.

It's not the first time the Fourth Estate has come under such scrutiny – only last year Nick Davies published his book *Flat Earth News*, which levied a barrage of criticism against modern newspaper journalism, claiming it was institutionally corrupt, self-protecting and riddled with "falsehood, distortion and propaganda". So it was no surprise to find Davies's byline over *The Guardian's* story, on bugging at News International, as it broke on their website on Wednesday evening.

An investigative journalist with more than 30 years' experience, and now 56, Davies has

filled an ambition to become an investigative reporter first kindled when he heard of Nixon's resignation at the hands of Woodward and Bernstein. He was then working as a stable-hand, shortly after graduating from Oxford with a PPE degree in 1974.

But his desire to bring to justice those who abuse their positions began much earlier. As a child

Davies was energetic and talkative, and, as a consequence, he says, was hit a lot by adults at home and at school. "It left me with a burning indignation towards people who have power and abuse it," he says. "As it turns out I have a job that involves exposing people in power."

He didn't like school, and says he "zigzagged between state and private school in the south-east of England ... The kids at the state schools thought you were posh and at the private schools they thought you were an oik". But even this had its upside, as he says he now feels comfortable talking to anybody.

His journalistic career began with a place on the *Mirror's* trainee scheme in Plymouth.

Two years later he moved to London to join the *Sunday People*, then a heavyweight investigative newspaper, but the tabloid culture, which Davies recalls as "bullying", didn't suit him, and he fled to the *Evening Standard*, and the Londoner's Diary gossip column. A year later, diary editor Peter Cole left to become news editor at *The Guardian* and Davies went too, arriving in July

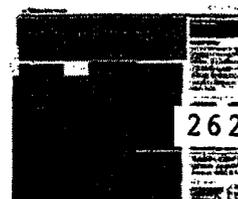
1979, on the same day as Alan Rusbridger, now the paper's editor-

in-chief. He stayed as a reporter for five years, but left after a falling out with then editor Peter Preston. "I felt they were being weak-kneed and they felt I was bolshy and difficult," he explains. He then joined *The Observer* for a two-year stint as home affairs correspondent. The managing editor was Magnus Linklater, who took him to Robert Maxwell's *London Daily News* in 1986, making him chief feature writer. When that folded a year later he left for America with his partner, where he wrote his first book, *White Lies*, the story of the wrong conviction of a black janitor for a white girl's murder.

In 1989 he returned to England and signed a freelance contract with *The Guardian*, to write 18 stories per year "or the equivalent in time and effort".

'I felt they were being weak-kneed, they felt I was being bolshy'

Although he never has to come into the office, Davies says *The Guardian* is a civilised place to work. "Nobody interferes, people don't shout at you, it's all terribly civilised. At other papers there is this intense pressure to get exclusive stories. *The Sunday Times* and the *Daily Mail* led the way with the use of dark arts. But *The Guardian*



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is a sort of well-mannered gentleman.”

Davies is universally described as a man who ploughs his own furrow, happiest away from the pack. He has plenty of critics – some describe him as arrogant, others as an egotist. Such criticism is no doubt in part because of *Flat Earth News*, and in part out of jealousy of his highly enviable contract with *The Guardian*. The arrangement couldn't suit him better, allowing him freedom to chase stories in great depth from his home in Lewes, Sussex, where he is part of a growing social scene of journalists and writers.

He recently spent nine months investigating the tax affairs of Hans Rausing, a luxury most reporters can only dream of. In his spare time he rides a friend's horse, sometimes cutting a solitary figure across the downs, and is keen on cricket and supports Arsenal.

The coming weeks promise to shed more light on the nitty-gritty of Davies's story, as the Commons Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport investigates his claims. Rebekah Wade, incoming chief executive of News International, has already written to committee chairman John Whittingdale, accusing *The Guardian* of “substantially” misleading the public. *The Guardian* is standing by Davies's story, and Davies himself says “not a single word of our original story is incorrect”.

Davies has picked a fight with News International, David Cameron's high command, and potentially the police and the PCC. But if anyone is up to the challenge, it's Davies.

Source: BBC Radio Derby

Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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C) COVERAGE BY BROADCASTERS

NEWS OF WORLD REPORTERS ACCUSED OF HACKING INTO VOICE MAILS

Programme: Drivetime
 Programme Start: 09/07/2009 17:05:00
 Presenter: Colin Bloomfield
 Item Start: 17:11:34
 Duration: 4:23

The Metropolitan Police are looking into those allegations and the paper's former editor Andy Coulson [PHONETIC] who now works for the Conservative Party as director of communications, he's in the spotlight today. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESLAND [PHONETIC], CORRESPONDENT, AT WESTMINSTER - you may recall all the hoo har when the News of the World's Royal Editor, Clive Goodman went to prison for hacking into the phone messages of Royal staff. Today's Guardian claims that private detectives were used to hack into the mobile phone messages of celebrities and politicians, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Max Clifford, Tessa Jowell [PHONETIC], and even John Prescott. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - what does concern me and I shall be writing to the Police is why we were not told that we're being tapped. Reporter - David Cameron hired Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL [PHONETIC], BBC PRESENTER, USED TO WORK FOR NEWS INTERNATIONAL - I think it had become common knowledge that the news room of the News of the World had become overly dependent on the use of private investigators. Presenter - News International said that it would be inappropriate to comment. Gordon Brown weighed into the affair. There were pretty tough laws brought in in 2000, RIPA, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. The Press Complaints Commission has today says it's seriously concerned about these allegations.

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ALLEGATIONS INTO NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKING

Programme: Drivetime
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 18:00:00
Presenter: Elly Fiorentini
Item Start: 18:04:20
Duration: 2:14

Andy Coulson now works for the Conservative Party, he denies knowing about the claims. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESSLAND, CORRESPONDENT - the Guardian reckons the paper hacked into the phone messages of up to 3,000 celebrities and politicians. Including Gwyneth Paltrow, Max Clifford and John Prescott. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - what concerns me is why we were not told we were being tapped. Then a prosecution could have taken place. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PRESSLAND - the police have said they see no need to reopen an investigation. Assistant Commissioner John Yates said he sees no further reason to investigate these claims. The Press Complaints Commission is looking into these allegations, as is the Department for Culture and Media at the House of Commons.

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD ACCUSED OF HACKING MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Newsnight
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 22:30:00
Presenter: Gavin Esler
Item Start: 22:34:19
Duration: 21:09
Reporter: Richard Watson

This is tomorrow morning's Guardian front page. That's Sir Alex Ferguson there, of Manchester United, and Alan Shearer calls were hacked. That's messages they left on the phone of Graham Taylor of the Professional Footballers Association. We'll the consider the fate of the former News of the World editor Andy Coulson, now a key adviser to David Cameron. INTERVIEW: DR SIMON BRANSFIELD-GARTH, CELLCRYPT - they really have no impact on somebody who's more organised. Reporter - in 2007 the News of the World's royal correspondent Clive Goodman was convicted. Along with private investigator Glen Mulcair. GRAPHIC VISUAL: John Prescott MP/Tessa Jowell MP/Simon Hughes MP/Max Clifford/Elle MacPherson VV: ASST COMM JOHN YATES, METROPOLITAN POLICE - there was insufficient evidence. INTERVIEW: VANESSA FELTZ, BROADCASTER - I believe my text messages to have been roundly investigated. INTERVIEW: MATTHEW NICKLIN, MEDIA BARRISTER - I think they should have been told. CLIP: 2007 testimony to Culture, Media and Sports Committee by Les Hinton, Former News International Executive. INTERVIEW: RON SUTTON, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR - we use little tricks. Reporter - an investigation from the Information Commissioner's Office concluded that 305 named journalists had made more than 13,000 requests for confidential information. This was the going rate; vehicle check with the DVLA £150-200, criminal records £500. A supposedly thorough inquiry by the Press Complaints Commission failed to uncover major wrongdoing. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, JOURNALIST, THE GUARDIAN - what we're looking at is all the other reporters on the paper. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT MP, FORMER DEPUTY PM - Mr

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Source: BBC 2
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Yates did ring me about two minutes before he made his statement. The same evidence is being further reviewed by the Crown Prosecution officer. STUDIO INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER MET DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER - it's a very narrow thing that he's looked at. This investigation was given to Specialist Operations Department. A member of the royal family was involved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PUBLICIST - I was told by my mobile phone provider. I'd fallen out with Andy Coulson. We had a dispute over Kerry Katona. The Beckham allegations and Jeffrey Archer, they were all my stories. Presenter - Jade Goody was mentioned, may have had her phone tapped. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PRESCOTT - it's exactly the problem we had in the House of Commons that we're a self-regulatory body. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PADDICK - it could be that there is a mass of civil actions.

Source: BBC Radio Manchester
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

METROPOLITAN POLICE LOOKING INTO NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE TAP ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Manchester Now
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 16:59:27
Presenter: Steve Saul
Item Start: 17:30:16
Duration: 3:03

Andy Coulson now works for the Conservative party. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESSLAND, CORRESPONDENT - Clive Goodman was jailed for hacking into the mobile phone messages of Royal staff. Coulson resigned over the affair. The Guardian alleged the NOTW hacked into the messages of 3,000 celebs and politicians including Gwyneth Paltrow, Max Clifford and Tessa Jowell. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT MP, FORMER DEPUTY PM - what does concern me is why we were not told. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PRESSLAND - police will not be investigating the matter further. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, EMPLOYEE, NEWS INTERNATIONAL - the newsroom of the NOTW has become overly dependent on the use of private investigators in general. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PRESSLAND - Gordon Brown this afternoon, he weighed into the matter. There will be separate investigation carried out by the Department of Media and the Press Complaints Commission.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKING

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 16:00:00
Presenter: Steve Dixon and Paula Middlehurst
Item Start: 16:32:42
Duration: 6:38

Claims the News of the World hacked into the mobile phones of politicians and celebrities. Gordon Brown says it raises questions that need to be answered. There are calls for David Cameron to sack his Director of Communications, Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - one of the first questions you ask is where did you get the story? If your newsroom, as the Guardian claims, was awash with this kind of stuff. Presenter - Alistair Campbell had a spell in the newsrooms at the Mirror. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ALISTAIR CAMPBELL, TONY BLAIR'S FORMER SPIN DOCTOR - any editor when they get a good story wants to know where it came from. Clive Goodman went to jail. John Prescott has been raising. There are big questions for the PCC, the police and David Cameron. Presenter - Andy Coulson says he knew nothing of the Gordon Taylor settlement. I'm glad John Whittingdale, the Tory chairman of the select committee is investigating it. Presenter - why do you think the Metropolitan police didn't tell him what was going on?

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Source: Sky News
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKING

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 16:00:00
Presenter: Steve Dixon and Paula Middlehurst
Item Start: 16:42:05
Duration: 2:24

Claims that News of the World journalists hacked into the mobile phone messages of thousands of politicians and celebrities. Clive Goodman was jailed. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRISTINA MICHALOS, PRIVACY LAWYER - it is an invasion of privacy to intercept someone's mobile phone calls. It is an offence under RIPA. It allows the security services and police to apply for an interception warrant. The Press Complaints Commission condemned this practice.

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Source: Sky News
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PHONE HACKING PROBE

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 16:00:00
Presenter: Steve Dixon and Paula Middlehurst
Item Start: 16:01:03
Duration: 10:12

Gordon Brown says there are serious questions to be answered over new claims that News of the World journalists hacked into the mobile phone messages of thousands of politicians and celebrities. Scotland Yard is to make a statement. VV: GORDON BROWN, BRITISH PM - there is a police investigation underway. I know what the chairman of the Culture, Sports and Arts Committee of the House of Commons said. VV: SIR PAUL STEPHENSON, MET POLICE COMMISSIONER - this relates to the investigation the Metropolitan Police Service undertook in 2006. That was undertaken by the Special Operational Directorate. I have asked Asst Commissioner John Yates to look into the detail. Presenter - amongst the high profile figures targeted included Gwyneth Paltrow, Nigella Lawson, Tessa Jowell, John Prescott and Boris Johnson. Newsgroup Newspapers paid the chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, Gordon Taylor more than £1m in out-of-court settlements. Royal editor Clive Goodman was sentenced to three months in prison. Private investigator Glenn Mulcaire was jailed for six months. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, MP, FORMER DEPUTY PM - it's appalling we are not told about the contact. VV: VANESSA FELTZ, BROADCASTER - the least they could have done is make one phone call and let us know. Presenter - David Cameron's Director of Communications, Andy Coulson, was editing the News of the World at the time. STATEMENT: ANDY COULSON - I have no knowledge whatsoever of any settlement with Gordon Taylor. The Mulcaire case was investigated thoroughly by the police and the PCC. VV: DAVID CAMERON, MP, TORY LEADER - it is wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy without justification. VV: CHRIS GRAYLING, MP, CONSERVATIVE - the story that appeared in this morning's paper raised

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question. VV: CHRIS HUHNE, MP, LIB DEM HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN - Andy Coulson was responsible for a newspaper that was out of control. VV: DENNIS SKINNER, MP, LABOUR - has the Minister noticed the relaxed attitude of the front bench opposite? Presenter - Adam Boulton is at the G8 conference. Martin Brunt is at the ACPO conference. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ADAM BOULTON, CORRESPONDENT - this is a major political opportunity for the conservatives opponents. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MARTIN BRUNT, CORRESPONDENT - the allegations that are made in the Guardian aren't new. You have Gordon Brown talking, Alan Johnson talking, the Home Office Police Minister saying these are serious allegations.

Source: City Talk 105
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CLAIMS OF PHONE HACKING BY NEWS OF THE WORLD TO BE LOOKED INTO BY POLICE

Programme: Paul Jacobs
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 16:55:01
Presenter: Peter McDowell
Item Start: 17:06:21
Duration: 12:35
Reporter: Phil Cooper

The News of The World hired private detectives to access the messages of thousands of people including Max Clifford and Gwyneth Paltrow. INTERVIEW: HELEN FOSTER CLARK, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR - its incredibly easy. A land line you can attach a bug to the BT box on the outside of the house. If your going to tap a mobile, it will take expertise and equipment. Its not widespread. There are certain cases where it is legal, such as adultery cases going to the divorce court or harassment. It depends how far they are willing to go with it. Generally we work for private clients or private companies. Presenter - will Andy Coulson face a criminal investigation. INTERVIEW: FOSTER CLARK - he probably won't it will be the PI involved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOSEPH WALSH, BRADNERS SOLICITOR - we are talking about celebrity phones being tapped just for tittle tattle. The Press Complaints Commission has its own code of conduct saying the press should not obtain material by any listening devices. The PCC only have limited powers. Everyone has a right to a private life. In 2007, Royal Editor Clyde Goodman and PI Glen McCair were sentenced for conspiracy. The massive coverage the Telegraph had form MP expense scandal, each paper will try and out do each other.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

MET POLICE TO PROBE MOBILE PHONE HACKING

Programme: Newsdrive
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 17:00:00
Presenter: Bill Whiteford and Nick Rougvie
Item Start: 17:08:17
Duration: 5:53

A senior Met police officer is to probe whether News of the World journalists intercepted mobile phone messages for politicians and celebrities. The Guardian says details emerged when the News of the World's Royal Editor was jailed. VV: ALAN JOHNSON, MP, HOME SECRETARY - Assistant Commissioner John Yates is looking at the detail. Presenter - Conservative leader David Cameron is coming under pressure to sack his Communications Director, Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: MARTIN SALTER, MP, LABOUR - it is appalling Cameron has this person on his staff. INTERVIEW: GEORGE OSBORNE, MP, SHADOW CHANCELLOR - Andy Coulson resigned. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - if it is real story of national interest you can have a public interest defence. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN WHITTINGDALE, MP, CHAIR, CULTURE MEDIA AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE - we were given an assurance by News International that Clive Goodman was acting alone. The PCC also conducted an inquiry at that time.

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Source: BBC News 24
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

INVESTIGATION INTO PHONE HACKING CLAIMS

Programme: News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 14:00:00
Presenter: Nicholas Owen
Item Start: 14:49:13
Duration: 5:11

It's claimed private detectives working for journalists at the News of the World have hacked into mobile phones. The Press Complaints Commission are reopening an investigation. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN KAMPFNER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INDEX ON CENSORSHIP - the police have under responded on this. This sets back the cause of free expression in this country. News International will be worried this process has been rumbled. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport are looking at the Select Committee and press standards libel and privacy.

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Source: BBC Radio Wales
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE IN: REPORTERS HACKING MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Radio Wales Phone-in
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 12:05:00
Presenter: Jason Mohammad
Item Start: 12:07:03
Duration: 8:44

Politicians and celebrities alike are all said to have been targeted by mobile phone hackers, private investigators who were working for News of the World reports. The former Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott says he will go to the Police to ask if his phone was hacked into. The Conservative Leader, David Cameron is under pressure, his Head of Communications Andy Colson resigned as News of the World editor when the story first broke. Does journalism need to be dirty to give us the headlines we want? STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRIS HORRY, LECTURER AND AUTHOR ON THE TABLOIDS - this is the most extraordinary violation of the law that I can remember. If it is anything like the scale being alleged by the Guardian, we have had all the scandals about the Parliament, City. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROB LYONS, DEPUTY EDITOR, SPIKED ONLINE - this is illegal. You mentioned the expenses scandal, there must have been a breach of confidentiality to get that story into the public domain. They are titillation and celebrity gossip. Presenter - what is the difference the News of the World and the Daily Telegraph obtaining a disc. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRIS HORRY - completely utterly different. This is what is known in the trade as Trawling. Gwyneth Paltrow, lets get into her mobile phone. I have invaded privacy in order to bring out information that was being suppressed. When you do this on television, on World in Action, you have to make the whole case first of all. It is set out in the Press Complaints Commission Code of Conduct. STUDIO INTERVIEW: WILL GETTIS, SECURITIES SPECIALIST, ICP GROUP - it is a viciously competitive market. Presenter - the Mosley case, why was that in the public interest says Bill.

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Source: BBC Radio Wales
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE IN: REPORTERS HACKING MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Radio Wales Phone-in
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 12:05:00
Presenter: Jason Mohammad
Item Start: 12:26:09
Duration: 6:11

Max Clifford, was one of the people who was targeted by News of the World reporters? STUDIO INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERT - the Police confirmed to me that I did have my phone tapped by the News of the World, by the Royal Correspondent, Clive Goodman wasn't it. According to the Guardian today, a lot of people were involved or knew what was going on. If the Police knew all of this, why didn't they inform people, particularly the Deputy Prime Minister. There has been a statement issued by the Commissioner of Police. What happened to the Press Complaints Commission? My mobile phone provider came to me. News of the World is part of News International, owned by Rupert Murdoch.

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Source: BBC Radio Ulster
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Programme: Good Morning Ulster
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Conner and Karen
Item Start: 07:49:12
Duration: 2:57

News International have said that it is inappropriate to comment on the claims made by The Guardian of alleged phone tapping. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, BBC MEDIA CORRESPONDENT - there are a lot of allegations here, that have come out of a court case two years ago. Clive Goodman pleaded guilty to phone tapping and he was jailed. It was claimed that the PFA's Gordon Taylor was tapped into. This is against the law in so many ways. It is even dodgy looks at records through the Vehicle Licence Records and tax records. Andy Coulson who works for David Cameron was the editor at the time. This is a very big news story. The Met Police, Press Complaints Commission, News International have got a lot of talking to do.

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Source: LBC News 1152 AM (London)
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

MET PROBES NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE HACKING

Programme: News
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 14:30:00
Presenter: Russell Hookey and Andre Morgan
Item Start: 14:35:18
Duration: 3:14
Reporter: Eamonn Holmes

The Guardian claims hundreds of people had their voicemails targeted. Former deputy PM John Prescott and actress Gwyneth Paltrow are among those monitored. So was PR agent Max Clifford. He's been telling Sky News Eamonn Holmes how he feels. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PR AGENT - I know my phone was tapped, The police came and told me. The Press Complaints Commission said they found nothing. My mobile phone provider told me. My relationship with the News of the World ran into problems over Kerry Katona.

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Source: Absolute Radio
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CLAIMS PUBLIC FIGURES HAD PHONES TAPPED BY NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Christian O'Connell
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 09:00:00
Item Start: 09:01:15
Duration: 0:40

The Guardian alleges News of the World secretly paid out of court settlements. Among those apparently monitored were PRH, Gwyneth Paltrow, John Prescott and Max Clifford. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD - if this has come from the police, why didn't they reveal it at the time, and why did the press complaints commission find nothing?

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FORMER DEPUTY PM JOHN PRESCOT WILL CONTACT SCOTLAND YARD

Programme: Wake Up To Wogan
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 08:30:00
Presenter: Jonny Walker
Item Start: 09:00:05
Duration: 0:49

This is over claims his mobile phone messages were intercepted by private investigators hired by the News of the World. The Guardian newspaper alleges that News International has secretly paid more than £1m in out of court settlements. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - I am shocked by the scale of it. I am also shocked by the police or the courts or the Press Complaints Commission or anybody else.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD IS ACCUSED OF USING PRIVATE DETECTIVES

Programme: Jeremy Vine
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 13:00:00
Presenter: Jeremy Vine
Item Start: 13:09:09
Duration: 9:30

This is to listen in on the phone messages of up to 3,000 politicians and celebrities. The Guardian newspaper is claiming high profile figures such as Gwyneth Paltrow, George Michael, London Mayor Boris Johnson, Former Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott were among those whose voicemail messages were spied on. John Prescott says he is taking the allegations to Scotland Yard. He is calling for Andy Coulson, Former Editor to be sacked as Communications Director for the Conservative Party. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - it is a huge story. News International Executives testified before Parliament. Presenter - it leads to Andy Coulson who is David Cameron's right hand man. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NEIL - it leads to the Crown Prosecution Service. Presenter - tell us how Gordon Taylor comes into this. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - he himself has not said anything. The source for a lot of this is a source within the Metropolitan Police. We have heard John Prescott, Tessa Jowell and a few others. That was Clive Goodman and the investigator. STUDIO INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - I was appalled at the police action, the fact that the enquires by the Select Committee and the Press Complaints Commission had bought the one off story.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

JOHN PRESCOTT ALARMED AT NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Scotland Live
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 12:00:00
Item Start: 12:07:18
Duration: 7:20

The Guardian alleges that their owners, News International, has hacked into the mobiles of up to 3000 people. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT MP - I am writing to the Chief of Police to ask him at the Met authority 'did you know?' INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PUBLICITY AGENT - if these allegations prove to be true then that's something a lot of people are going to be very unhappy about. Presenter - the Metropolitan Police released a statement saying they'd look into the matter. This stems from a case in 2007 when a News of the World reporter, Clive Goodwin, and a private investigator Glen Mulcair [PHONETIC] were jailed after being found guilty of tapping into phones to find stories. INTERVIEW: JOHN WHITTINGDALE, CHAIRMAN OF CULTURE COMMITTEE - I'm extremely surprised if it is the case if a payment has been made by News International to people who have allegedly had their phones intercepted by an investigator. Presenter - Andy Coulson resigned as editor of News of the World and is now working for David Cameron. STATEMENT: ANDY COULSON, PR, CONSERVATIVE PARTY - this story relates to an alleged payment made after I left the News of the World; I had no contact with Gordon Taylor. The Mulcair case was investigated by the police and the Press Complaints Commission. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, GUARDIAN - I am not the only journalist who has thought for some time that there was a great deal we have not been told about when Clive Goodman went to jail. If Andy Coulson did know what was going on, his job with David Cameron must be finished.

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Source: LBC News 97.3FM (London)
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD FACES ALLEGATIONS OVER CELEBRITY PHONE TAPPING

Programme: James O'Brien
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 10:00:00
Presenter: James O'Brien
Item Start: 10:00:26
Duration: 0:44

The Guardian claims dozens of high profile politicians and celebrities have been paid off by the News of the World to keep quiet about phone tapping. It says hundreds of public figures, from John Prescott and Boris Johnson to Jude Law and Gwyneth Paltrow had their voice mail hacked. Scotland Yard is also facing questions about how much it knew. INTERVIEW: MAX CLIFFORD, PR CONSULTANT - the press complaints commission is meant to be the watchdog of the media.

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Source: BBC Radio Gloucester
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWSPAPER REVIEW

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Mark Cummings
Item Start: 07:52:14
Duration: 4:27

STUDIO INTERVIEW: VIV HARGREAVES, EDITOR, FORESTER NEWSPAPER - Jack Straw will have to call the election. The Guardian is revealing that Murdoch to hide these dirty tricks although the Press Complaints Commission says they have failed to find any evidence of illegal activity. STUDIO INTERVIEW: VIV HARGREAVES - the elixir of life has been found on Easter Island. The dog stealing story comes and goes.

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Source: BBC Radio 4 FM
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PRICE OF A FREE PRESS IS EXCESS

Programme: Today
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Sarah Montague, Evan Davis
Item Start: 08:10:03
Duration: 9:35

When News of the World journalist Clive Goodman was jailed in 2007 we did know that other stories had occurred but the Guardian story today implies a far greater level of excess. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - Clive Goodman was jailed for four months and Glen Marcale [PHONETIC], the private investigator he had been working with was jailed for six months. Andy Colson [PHONETIC] the editor of the paper at the time resigned. They hacked into messages left by Max Clifford, Gordon Taylor, the CEO of the PFA, Elle Macpherson and Simon Hughes and that was known at that time. News International say it would be inappropriate to comment. Presenter - what about the PCC and the Police and the case they have or don't have to answer? STUDIO INTERVIEW: DOUGLAS - the Press Complaints Commission were meant to investigate. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - I am shocked by the scale of it and by the allegations and evidence that they have presented. Presenter - he was getting all sorts of information, the Observer, the Daily Mail and the Mirror group. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NEIL - the Information Commissioner is not making everything public. Presenter - we've seen it with the Telegraph and the expenses row. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NEIL - why is attempting to get into the voicemail of Gwyneth Paltrow public interest. I can't see why the Sun using this kind of investigative technique, there is no public interest in it at all.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Thursday 9, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS INTERNATIONAL NOT COMMENTING ON GUARDIAN ALLEGATIONS

Programme: 5 Live Breakfast
Programme Start: 09/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Nicky Campbell, Rachel Burden
Item Start: 07:05:39
Duration: 7:42

The Guardian said the News of the World owner hacked into mobile phones of people like Lenny Henry, George Michael, Gwyneth Paltrow and Nigella Lawson. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, FORMER DEPUTY PM - a lot of the stories are coming from private information. INTERVIEW: ANDREW NEIL, FORMER EDITOR, SUNDAY TIMES - why did they not inform the Deputy PM that his mobile phone had been compromised? STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROY GREENSLADE, FORMER EDITOR, DAILY MIRROR / ASSISTANT EDITOR, THE SUN - I think they were surprised it didn't come out in 2006 when Clive Goodman was arrested along with the private investigator. Using mobile phones in this way is relatively new. When I was editing the Daily Mirror I had trust that James Whittaker had proper contacts. Presenter - does the Press Complaints Commission have any powers to act?

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Source: LBC News 1152 AM (London)
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD FACE LEGAL ACTION

Programme: News
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Matthew Schofield
Item Start: 08:00:25
Duration: 0:45

The dozens suspected victims of News of the World phone tapping are in talk with their lawyers about taking legal action. They are now facing three inquiries from the Department of Media Sport and Culture, the DPP and the PCC. INTERVIEW: CHRIS HUHNE MP, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN - the PCC is a toothless watchdog.

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URGENT REVIEW OF EVIDENCE RELATED TO PHONE TAPPING BY THE NEWS OF THE WORLD CARRIED OUT

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Charlie Stayt, Kate Silverton
Item Start: 07:02:26
Duration: 1:59
Reporter: Ben Wright

This is by the Crown Prosecution Service. Reporter - today the Guardian alleges Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson was one of the voices on one of the phones which was tapped. John Yates, Metropolitan Police said no new evidence had cropped up. The Crown Prosecution service is going to look into the case, and the Press Complaints Commission will also have an enquiry. The heat isn't quite off Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: JEREMY HUNT MP., SHADOW CULTURE SECRETARY - he did it because he was taking responsibility for something he didn't know about. Reporter - he has had strong backing from David Cameron.

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Source: BBC Radio 4 FM
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NUMBER OF PROMINENT PEOPLE CONSIDERING LEGAL AGAINST NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Today
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Edward Stourton, Evan Davis
Item Start: 08:00:30
Duration: 2:21
Reporter: Torin Douglas

Their phones were allegedly hacked into by the investigators hired by the paper. Reporter - some of the immediate pressure has been lifted by the decision of the Assistant Commissioner John Yates. There are claims that he just reviewed the case of Clive Goodman. Several law firms are considering suing News International. The Guardian named Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer among those whose messages were allegedly recorded. Enquiries by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee will also maintain pressure on News of the World and Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: MARK STEPHENS, HEAD OF MEDIA LAW, FINNER STEPHENS INNOCENT [PHONETIC] - John Yates statement seems not to address the possibility of a criminal attempt or conspiracy. That is what Keir Starmer [PHONETIC] has understood.

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Source: BBC Radio Newcastle
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

POLICE NOT TO INVESTIGATE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Alfie Joy, Charlie Charlton
Item Start: 07:31:54
Duration: 0:39

The guardian says that Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those whose messages were allegedly intercepted. INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - there are three other inquires going on, the DPP is reviewing the case as is the PCC and the Culture Media and Sport select committee.

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Source: ITV Carlton
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NEWS OF THE WORLD FACING THREE INQUIRIES

Programme: GMTV
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Andrew Castle, Emma Crosby
Item Start: 07:00:55
Duration: 1:50
Reporter: Emma Pyne

Our reporter at News International. STUDIO INTERVIEW: EMMA PYNE, CORRESPONDENT, EAST LONDON - Scotland Yard may not investigate but bosses face tough questions. More high profile names. VISUAL: THE GUARDIAN. Reporter - former Newcastle boss Alan Shearer and Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson among those allegedly targeted. Max Clifford and Vanessa Feltz among those considering legal action after reports that Rupert Murdoch's company paid compensation to stop the story getting out. Met Police believe there is no fresh evidence from case that saw Clive Goodman jailed. Former NI boss Les Hinton had said case was a one off. Former editor Andy Coulson, who now works for David Cameron will be called to give evidence. DPP calls for review and Press Complaints Commission to carry out inquiry.

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Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

SCOTLAND YARD CRITICISED FOR NOT INVESTIGATING NEW CLAIMS

Programme: Good Morning Scotland
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:30:00
Presenter: Aasmah Mir, Gary Robertson
Item Start: 07:32:06
Duration: 0:42

These are claims that private detectives working for the News of the World hacked into the phone messages of hundreds of people. The Guardian newspaper says Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those whose messages were allegedly intercepted. The Metropolitan Police say there's not enough evidence. INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - there are also these three other inquiries that are still going on. The Director of Public Prosecutions is reviewing the evidence again. The Press Complaints Commission is looking at it again and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: 5 Live Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Nicky Campbell, Rachel Burden
Item Start: 07:17:37
Duration: 4:19

It is being claimed that phone messages from Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were recorded by private detectives working for The News of the World. The allegations come from The Guardian Newspaper. The Director of Public Prosecutions Ken Stamer says he is going to look again at the claims of hacking. The Metropolitan Police doesn't want to start another inquiry. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER BURDEN, WRITER, PUBLISHED A BOOK ON UNDERCOVER WORLD OF TABLOID JOURNALISM - I think I would like to see more evidence from The Guardian. It was an activity that was very easy for journalists to engage in. The Information Commissioner found 307 journalists who used that particular firm. The News of the World stories aren't public interest stories. Presenter - Andy Colson, Editor of the Times has denied all knowledge. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER - I have asked Andy Colson directly. Presenter - The Press Complaints Commission are going to look into it and there will be a Commons Committee Inquiry as well. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER - if the names exist they should tell the individuals. Criminal prosecutions would be a waste of time.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
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PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: 5 Live Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Nicky Campbell, Rachel Burden
Item Start: 07:01:37
Duration: 0:46

Scotland Yard is facing criticism over its decision not to investigate new claims that the phone messages of thousands of people were hacked into by private detectives hired by The News of the World. In its latest revelations The Guardian says Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those whose messages were allegedly intercepted. The Metropolitan Police said there was not enough evidence for them to look into the fresh allegations. Reporter - the Director of Public Prosecutions is reviewing the evidence. The Press Complaints Commission is looking at it again and so is the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE HACKING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: GMTV
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:30:00
Presenter: Emma Crosby, Andrew Castle
Item Start: 07:30:58
Duration: 1:29
Reporter: Emma Pine

Reporter - Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer are said to be amongst thousands of high profile figures. VISUAL: Times, Sunday Times, News International. Reporter - some celebrities, including Max Clifford and Vanessa Feltz, are considering taking legal advice. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER MET POLICE COMMANDER - Scotland Yard don't seem to have the appetite to take this any further. Reporter - the Press Complaints Commission will also carry out an inquiry.

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A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHOSE MOBILE PHONE CALLS WERE HACKED INTO CONSIDER LEGAL ACTION

Programme: Today
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: John Humphrys, Evan
Item Start: 07:00:27
Duration: 1:23
Reporter: Torin Douglas

This was by investigators working for the News of the World. Reporter - some of the immediate pressure has been lifted by the decision of the Assistant Commissioner John Yates. There are claims he took too narrow a view, simply reviewing the case of the News of the World Royal Editor, Clive Goodman. The Guardian names Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer among those whose phone messages were allegedly recorded. Enquiries by Director of Public Prosecutions Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee will also maintain pressure on the News of the World and on Andy Coulson, Conservative Communications Director.

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Source: BBC 1
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CPS CARRY OUT PHONE TAPPING EVIDENCE REVIEW

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Charlie Stayt, Kate Silverton
Item Start: 06:03:31
Duration: 2:08
Reporter: Ben Wright

Reporter - today the Guardian alleges that the Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was one of the voices on a phone that was tapped by a private detective for the News Of The World. Yesterday John Yates from the Metropolitan Police said no new evidence had cropped up. The Press Complaints Commission is to have an inquiry, so the heat isn't off Andy Coulson. INTERVIEW: JEREMY HUNT MP, SHADOW CULTURE SECRETARY, SPEAKING ON QUESTION TIME - Andy Coulson stepped down from the News of the World because he was taking responsibility for something he didn't know about. Reporter - Andy Coulson has been backed by David Cameron.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD FACES INQUIRIES OVER PHONE TAPPING

Programme: GMTV Newshour
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Penny Smith and Andrew Castle
Item Start: 06:30:42
Duration: 1:54

The inquiries are into claims that its journalists tapped into phones of thousands of celebrities and politicians including the Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. STUDIO INTERVIEW: EMMA PYNE, CORRESPONDENT - Scotland Yard may not be taking fresh investigation into these allegations but bosses here at the New International Group will still come under serious pressure. They'll be called by the Commons. Reporter - Sir Alex Ferguson and former Newcastle manager Alan Shearer are said to be among the high profile figures who have allegedly had their private telephone messages recorded. After reading newspaper reports that Rupert Murdoch's company paid £1m in damages to stop paying the story getting out. Max Clifford and Vanessa Feltz are now taking legal advice. The Met Police believe there's no fresh evidence from the investigation that saw Clive Goodman jailed for phone taping two years ago. They'll re-open their 2007 inquiry to hear evidence from Les Hinton. Andy Coulson who now works for David Cameron will also be called in to give evidence. The Director of Public Prosecution has called for an urgent review and the Press Complaints Commission will also carry out an inquiry.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD FACES INQUIRIES OVER PHONE TAPPING

Programme: GMTV Newshour
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Penny Smith and Andrew Castle
Item Start: 06:00:48
Duration: 2:00

The inquiries are into claims that its journalists tapped into phones of thousands of celebrities and politicians including the Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. STUDIO INTERVIEW: EMMA PYNE, CORRESPONDENT - Scotland Yard may not be taking fresh investigation into these allegations but bosses here at the New International Group will still come under serious pressure. They'll be called by the Commons. Reporter - Sir Alex Ferguson and former Newcastle manager Alan Shearer are said to be among the high profile figures who have allegedly had their private telephone messages recorded. After reading newspaper reports that Rupert Murdoch's company paid £1m in damages to stop paying the story getting out. Max Clifford and Vanessa Feltz are now taking legal advice. The Met Police believe there's no fresh evidence from the investigation that saw Clive Goodman jailed for phone taping two years ago. They'll re-open their 2007 inquiry to hear evidence from Les Hinton. Andy Coulson who now works for David Cameron will also be called in to give evidence. The Director of Public Prosecution has called for an urgent review and the Press Complaints Commission will also carry out an inquiry.

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Source: BBC Radio 4 FM
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NUMBER OF PROMINENT PEOPLE SAID TO BE CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Today
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Evan Davis, Ed Stourton
Item Start: 06:00:40
Duration: 1:02
Reporter: Torin Douglas

Their mobile phone calls were allegedly hacked into by investigators working for the News of the World. Reporter - some of the immediate pressure has been lifted by the decision of Assistant Commissioner John Yates not to open a new police inquiry. The Guardian named Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer among those whose phone conversations were allegedly recorded. Inquiries by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture Media and Sports Select Committee will also maintain pressure on the News of the World.

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Source: BBC Radio 5 Live
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

METROPOLITAN POLICE IS FACING CRITICISM

Programme: 5 Live Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Rachel Burden
Item Start: 06:06:19
Duration: 4:55

It is over it's decision not to re-investigate allegations made by the Guardian about the News of the World and phone messages they hacked into. The Guardian is claiming that messages from Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were hacked into. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, GUARDIAN - it is a very weird performance by Mr Yates. He dedicated his remarks to Clive Goodman. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - I think the pressure was taken off quite a bit but there are still lots of other things that are putting pressure on News International. Various people will take legal action like Gordon Taylor. The Director of Public Prosecutions, The Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee are still looking at the case.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PUBLIC FIGURES CONSIDER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Good Morning Scotland
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Gary Robertson, Aasmah Mir
Item Start: 06:00:52
Duration: 1:02
Reporter: Torin Douglas

Lawyers have been contacted by people. The Police said they weren't planning investigations. Reporter - some of the pressure has been lifted by Assistant Commissioner John Yates. The Guardian named Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer among those whose messages were recorded. Inquiries by the Director of the Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee will also maintain pressure.

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Source: BBC Radio Norfolk
Date: Saturday 11, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

DAVID CAMERON UNDER PHONE HACKING FIRE

Programme: Drivetime
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 17:11:38
Item Start: 17:27:45
Duration: 4:39

There was alleged phone tapping at the News of The World. INTERVIEW: CHARLES CLARKE, NORWICH SOUTH - it is very serious the allegations being made, the most important thing is to get answers from Andy Caulson and News International. INTERVIEW: DAVID CAMERON - he took responsibility, he did the right thing. INTERVIEW: VANESSA FELTZ, BROADCASTER - what really matters is that such a thing should carry on. Reporter - investigations are being carried out by the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture Media and Sports Select Committee. INTERVIEW: RICHARD BURDEN, WRITER - I think they were both feeble.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Saturday 11, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS INTERNATIONAL HAS DENIED ALLEGATIONS IT HACKED INTO PEOPLE'S MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Sky News At Ten
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 22:00:00
Presenter: Steve Dixon
Item Start: 22:14:04
Duration: 3:04
Reporter: Martin Brunt

In a letter from the company's new Chief Executive Rebahak Wade accused The Guardian of having substantially misled the public. Reporter - actors, politicians are thought to be considering suing the News of the World for hacking into their mobile phones. INTERVIEW: MARK STEPHENS, MEDIA LAWYER - I think people are going to be looking for settlements of a significant amount of money. We have seen with the Max Mosley case that invasions of privacy now are attracting significant amount of money in damages. Reporter - Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer are the latest said to have been bugged in messages left with Gordon Taylor, the Players Union boss. News of the World's Royal Editor, Clive Goodman was jailed. The Director of Public Prosecutions is reviewing the Police evidence that didn't lead to charges against other staff at the paper. There are two new investigations by a MPs Committee and the Press Complaints Commission. Did Andy Coulson know, he quit, he is now the Tory Party's Chief Media Advisor. The Liberal Democrat's Chris Huhne accused Scotland Yard of neglect of duty. He has asked the Independent Police Complaints Commission to investigate.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

FIGURES CONSIDERING MASS LEGAL ACTION AFTER HACKING CLAIMS

Programme: Sky News
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 18:00:00
Presenter: Andrew Wilson
Item Start: 18:12:50
Duration: 4:27
Reporter: Martin Brunt

Lawyers say the News of the World could face individual pay outs of £100,000's. INTERVIEW: MARK STEPHENS, MEDIA LAWYER - we've seen with the Max Mosley case that invasions of privacy now are attracting significant amounts of money. Reporter - Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer are the latest said to have been bugged with messages left with Gordon Taylor, the Players' Union boss. Dozens more victims who sue successfully could cost the News International much more. INTERVIEW: JONATHAN PRICE, BARRISTER - I would hate to put a figure on it. Reporter - evidence of widespread hacking is said to have been uncovered during the case of the News of the World's Royal Editor, Clive Goodman. The Director of Public Prosecutions Kiestamer is reviewing the police evidence. There are two new investigations by an MP's Committee and the Press Complaints Commission. Did Andy Coulson know, he is now the Tories chief media advisor. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MARTIN BRUNT, CORRESPONDENT - the Lib Dems Chris Huhne has asked the IPCC to launch a fourth investigation into the original police investigation. The Lib Dems are saying in the light of the Guardian's allegations there are clear suggestions that other journalists at the News of the World were using illegal methods. What they have done is pass it back to Scotland Yard for its comments.

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Source: BBC Radio Cumbria
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CHILD NEGLECT ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Drivetime
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 16:59:44
Presenter: Ian Timms
Item Start: 17:13:12
Duration: 3:49

Yesterday it was reported that journalists from the News of the World hired private investigators to hack into the voicemail of politicians and other public figures. A number of the people whose phones were targeted are thought to be considering legal action. INTERVIEW: RICHARD BURDEN, WRITER - i think the PCC and the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee were very feeble in their investigation of the original bugging allegations. Presenter - is bugging the phones of public figures ever acceptable? INTERVIEW: COLIN HARROW, FORMER GROUP EDITOR, THE MIRROR - newspapers have to produce a paper that their readers want to read.

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Source: BBC News 24
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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MORE FALL OUT OVER PHONE HACKING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: BBC News
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 09:30:00
Presenter: Tim Wilcox, Carrie Gracey
Item Start: 09:36:27
Duration: 2:55

What's being said at News International's headquarters? STUDIO INTERVIEW: HELENA WILKINSON, CORRESPONDENT - there could be legal implications for News International which owns the News of the World, we've heard Alan Shearer and Alex Ferguson have been named, Scotland Yard say there is no case. John Yates says there is no case at all. The pressure on News International has lifted a little bit but there will be three different inquiries into this. There will be investigations by the CPS and Press Complaints Commission.

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Source: BBC Radio Newcastle
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE HACKING BY INVESTIGATORS AT THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Drivetime
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 16:00:00
Presenter: Simon Horgan, Ann Lucas
Item Start: 16:06:35
Duration: 4:09

Scotland Yard won't investigate the fresh allegations. Lawyers say they have been contacted by various figures seeking advice. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESLAND, CORRESPONDENT - the Guardian reckon that Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer may have had their mobile messages interception by investigators from the News of the World. The media lawyer Mark Stephens revealed he had been contacted by various high profile figures. INTERVIEW: MARK STEPHENS, MEDIA LAWYER - I have had two clients. I have also been contacted by the private office of somebody who believes they are a likely target. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESLAND - at Westminster, the Tory Party's Chief spin doctor, Andy Coulson had to resign as Editor from the News of the World after his royal correspondent was jailed for hacking. The former Labour Home Secretary, Charles Clarke wrote to David Cameron and demanded that Mr Cameron put Mr Coulson on the spot. Today he issued another robust defence of the man. INTERVIEW: DAVID CAMERON MP, LEADER, CONSERVATIVE PARTY - he resigned as Editor of News of the World two years ago. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MATT PRESLAND - the Police say we have no evidence. The Crown Prosecution Service is undertaking an urgent review of evidence. The Press Complaints Commission are looking into allegations.

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Source: BBC Radio Northamptonshire
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

LAWYERS SAY FIGURES TO SUE THE NEWS OF THE WORLD OVER MOBILE PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Bob Walmsley
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 13:00:00
Item Start: 13:02:19
Duration: 0:41

Investigations are being carried out by the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. INTERVIEW: RICHARD BURDEN, WRITER - they were both very feeble about their investigation of the last crisis. The CMS committee didn't even have Andy Coulson in.

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Source: CNBC
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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE HACKING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Worldwide Exchange
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 09:00:00
Presenter: Christine Tan, Ross Westgate & Scott Wapner
Item Start: 09:45:15
Duration: 3:16

The Guardian newspaper has been alleging that the News of the World was using private investigators to tap the phones. The Director of Public Prosecutions, a parliamentary committee and the Press Complaints Commission have all indicated they are starting fresh inquiries. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MIMI TURNER, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER - it's a question about culture; we have just had the MPs' expenses row. David Cameron is defending his aide.

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Source: BBC Radio Berkshire
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE TAPPING SCANDAL

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:59:00
Presenter: Andrew Peach
Item Start: 08:25:06
Duration: 5:31

Presenter - The phone-tapping scandal with the News of the World, are we bothered about it? SALT - Yes. It's their cleaner, their friends and relations. It's a gross invasion of privacy. And it's been done on a massive scale. I find it incredible that the police are not re-opening the files yet the Press Complaints Commission are, the Director of Public Prosecutions is, the Conservative led Culture, Media and Sport are going to summon News International executives along. And the Home Affairs Select Committee that I'm on will open an inquiry on it. Why should the public care? BENNION - If my mobile phone was hacked into I would be furious and instructing solicitors. There are innocent bystanders in this. I'd like to get some probity back into journalism. SALT - The evidence was not that Goodman was hacking into phones, it was that the hacking was going on on a large scale. Are we going to allow the media to destroy private lives? Coulson himself has said they paid police officers for information. That's illegal.

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Source: BBC Radio Norfolk
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PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Norfolk Today
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Steven Bumfrey
Item Start: 07:22:38
Duration: 2:11

Several people whose mobile phone calls were hacked into by people working for The News of the World is said to be considering legal action against the paper. INTERVIEW: JOHN YATES, METROPOLITAN POLICE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER - it is important to recognise that our inquiries had insignificant evidence. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, GUARDIAN REPORTER - we are talking about the activity of News of the World Journalists. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSION FOR THE MET - there must be some degree of independence of not The Independent Police Complaints Commission. Presenter - investigations are being carried out by The Director of Public Prosecutions, The Press Complaints Commission and The Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

REBECCA WADE ALLEGED VICTIM OF PHONE HACKING

Programme: Scotland Live
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 12:00:00
Presenter: Kenneth Macdonald
Item Start: 12:32:42
Duration: 8:30

STUDIO INTERVIEW: LORRAINE DAVIDSON, MEDIA COMMENTATOR - politicians are seeing this as the opportunity to get back at the press who've been making their lives hell over their expenses. It's also Labour's opportunity to cast Andy Coulson as the Damian McBride of the Tories. There's the issue of whether this is going to change the way we do journalism in the future. The phone tapping came to the fore when Clive Goodman was jailed and the laws were tightened up. STUDIO INTERVIEW: STUART COSGROVE, MEDIA COMMENTATOR - this story will and run because there are so many dimensions and it touches on something about the nature of the way different branches of the media are regulated. In television, the regulations don't permit you to go on fishing expeditions for information. Presenter - any politician will talk about tightening the laws on the press; we get by in the electronic medias quite well. The Press Complaints Commission isn't too hot. STUDIO INTERVIEW: DAVIDSON - if people had faith in it, it would avoid the number of lengthy court battles. STUDIO INTERVIEW: COSGROVE - Tommy Sheridan was in the Guardian's list of people to whom they assume it had happened. Andrew Neil said the News of the World was out of control.

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Source: BBC Radio Foyle (Londonderry)
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CELEBRITIES AND POLITICIANS COULD SUE OVER PHONE TAPPING SCAM

Programme: News At One
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 13:00:00
Presenter: Michael Bradley
Item Start: 13:27:13
Duration: 3:21

PCC are carrying out investigations. STUDIO INTERVIEW: ROY GREENSLADE,
FORMER DAILY MIRROR EDITOR - a number of staff at NOTW were using private
investigators to obtain voicemail form many people.

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Source: BBC Radio Scotland
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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

ALLEGATIONS THE NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKED INTO MOBILE PHONES

Programme: Riddoch Questions
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 13:15:00
Presenter: Derek Pitman
Item Start: 13:17:27
Duration: 11:51

The News of the World bugging phones. STUDIO INTERVIEW: DAVID MCLETCHIE, MSP, EDINBURGH PENTLANDS, CHIEF WHIP/CONSERVATIVE, BUSINESS MANAGER/ HOLYROOD, SOLICITOR - the reporter who tapped into the Royal Family went to prison and the way forward with this is that if there is any wrong doing then they should be brought to trial. The issue now is that the former editor who resigned from The News of the World is now working as Director of Communications for David Cameron. There was an out of court civil action settled with Gordon Taylor involved with the Professional FA. STUDIO INTERVIEW: HENRY MCLEISH, FORMER FIRST MINISTER, POLITICIAN, AUTHOR, ACADEMIC - there's a party political issue in terms of Coulson and Cameron. The CPS and the Media Committee of the House of Commons and Press Complaints Commission are all now active on this. Sir Alex Ferguson is also one. Are we so obsessed with Cristiano Ronaldo transfer to Real Madrid that we have to bug his telephone? No there is something deeper than this. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MIKE DAILEY, PRINCIPLE SOLICITOR, GAVIN LAW & MEDIATION CENTER - we got allegations of over 3000 people having their phones tapped and the Met has ruled out a fresh inquiry. We've got allegations that the private detectors were on the payroll for News International that must of been a lot of money. The former editor Andy Coulson said he didn't know about it, but he would know the payroll. Remember the Mosley case, now the court says the people have a right for privacy and the media don't like that. INTERVIEW: JOHN PRESCOTT, MOBILE PHONE ALLEGEDLY TAPPED - I'm writing to the Chief of Police. I want to know if he told the Public Prosecutor.

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

WHOSE BEEN TAPPING INTO MY PHONE?

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Gordon Swindlehurst
Item Start: 08:06:34
Duration: 6:02

A number of prominent people including Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer are said to be considering legal action against the News of the World. Investigations into the claims is being carried out by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee. VV: UNNAMED - the technical challenges posed by the service providers to establish they had in fact been interception, were very significant. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, JOURNALIST, GUARDIAN - those are very weird performances by Mr Yates. He focused on Clive Goodman. STUDIO INTERVIEW: GREG KELLY, ULTIMATE SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS LTD - I came into the business six years ago. It is referring to the Human Rights Act. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act on how to breach the rights act and how to do it properly. The Interception of Communications Act talks about the interception of communications.

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Source: BBC Radio Derby
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE TAPPING ALLEGATIONS

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Shane O'Connor
Item Start: 07:47:24
Duration: 4:09

A number of people whose mobile phones were hacked into by people working for The News of the World are said to be considering group legal action against the paper. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT - people were surprised when the police decided not to investigate. Today we know of several legal firms that have been contacted by their clients. If people do club together it makes much more sense. The Guardian has made allegations. Today they have got Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer as two of those who have had messages on their mobile phone by Gordon Taylor. The Director of Public Prosecutions is reviewing the evidence, as is The Press Complaints Commission and perhaps most importantly, The Culture and Media Sports Select Committee of MPs. It maybe the pressure on the police is renewed.

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Source: BBC 2
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PUBLIC FIGURES CONSIDER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Programme: Daily Politics
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 12:00:00
Presenter: Anita Anand
Item Start: 12:09:15
Duration: 6:54

Revelations of phone tapping by investigators working for the News of the World in The guardian. Further pressure on company as Press Complaints Commission, the DPP Keir Starmer and Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee may launch investigations. Conservatives' Director of Communications Andy Coulson may be called. STUDIO INTERVIEW: VANESSA FELTZ, BROADCASTER - it is not a nice feeling. My lawyer Graham Shear says that many have turned to the firm for advice. STUDIO INTERVIEW: NEIL RAFFERTY, THE DAILY MASH - outside the London bubble, people just care about the stories. STUDIO INTERVIEW: FELTZ - I don't think people have much sympathy. Presenter - people were happy about revelations about MPs in the Telegraph. STUDIO INTERVIEW: FELTZ - they do receive public money. That is different from Gwyneth Paltrow. Presenter - we heard Rebekah Wade's phone may have been tapped. STUDIO INTERVIEW: IAN COLLINS, TALKSPORT - I can't believe it will go beyond what John Yates said. STUDIO INTERVIEW: RAFFERTY - Labour MPs will call David Cameron's judgement into question.

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Source: BBC Radio Lancashire
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PEOPLE CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION OVER NEWS OF THE WORLD PHONE HACKING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:30:00
Presenter: Tony Livesey
Item Start: 07:53:45
Duration: 3:02

Lawyers have been contacted by politicians and celebrities. `STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - the names have been mentioned in The Guardian over the past couple of days. Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers Association sued them. We hear Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer had messages hacked into and also references to Paul Gascoigne and Jamie Redknapp. Vanessa Feltz has also had her privacy breached. Both the Guardian and Former Metropolitan Police officer Brian Paddick have said John Yates took a narrow view. The Press Complaints Commission produced a report and also MPs on the Culture, Media and Sport Committee.

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Source: BBC Radio Sussex
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE HACKING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Neil Pringle
Item Start: 07:21:36
Duration: 3:08

The number of prominent people whose mobile phone calls were allegedly hacked into by people working for the News of the World are said to be considering legal action against the paper. Detectives investigated allegations of phone hacking back in 2006 which ended with the conviction of the journalist Clive Goodman and the private detective Glenn Mulcaire [PHONETIC]. Yesterday, the Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner John Yates said there just wasn't enough evidence for any more people to be charged. VV: JOHN YATES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - the technical challenges posed to the service providers to establish that there had in fact been interception were very significant. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, GUARDIAN - it was a very weird performance by Mr Yates. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR THE MET - John Yates said that he had a degree of independence because he wasn't involved in the initial investigation but he is now in charge of the department that did that initial investigation. There must be an outside force looking at it, if not the IPCC. Presenter - it's claimed that the phone messages of Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were recorded by private detectives and investigations of the allegations of phone tapping are being carried out by the director of public prosecutions and the press complaints commission and the Culture Media and Sports select committee.

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Source: BBC Radio Tees
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN PHONE TAPPED MAY SUE

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:30:00
Presenter: John Foster
Item Start: 07:39:28
Duration: 2:09

This was by the News of the World. It ended with the conviction of News of the World journalist Clive Goodman and Glen Mulcaire [PHONETIC]. VV: JOHN YATES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - the technical challenges posed by the service providers to establish there had been interceptions were very significant. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIS, REPORTER, GUARDIAN - it is a very weird performance by Mr Yates. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MET - John Yates said that he had a degree of independence because he wasn't involved in the investigation. There must be at least an outside force looking at it, if not the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Presenter - it has been claimed phone messages from Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were recorded. Investigations into the allegations of phone tapping are being carried out by the Director of Public Prosecution, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

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Source: BBC News 24
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

CELEBRITIES CONSIDER SUING THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: BBC News
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 09:00:00
Item Start: 09:01:17
Duration: 7:14
Reporter: Ben Wright

This is following allegations the paper hired private investigators to hack into the phones of high profile people. Reporter - The Guardian alleges Sir Alex Ferguson's phone was tapped by a private detective working for the NOTW. John Yates from the Met Police said no new evidence had cropped up. The CPS is going to look into the case and the Press Complaints Commission will also have an inquiry so the heat isn't quite off Andy Coulson who is the Tory's media chief. VV: JEREMY HUNT MP, SHADOW CULTURE SECRETARY - he has behaved totally honourably. STUDIO INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MET POLICE - John Yates said he had reviewed the Goodman case. STUDIO INTERVIEW: MARK STEPHENS, MEDIA LAWYER - it appears that someone has told The Telegraph today that i have. I have two clients one who has been named publically. Presenter - a lot depends on what Kir Starmer [PHONETIC], the DPP, decides in his review of evidence today.

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Source: BBC Radio Ulster
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Programme: Good Morning Ulster
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Conner and Will
Item Start: 07:04:32
Duration: 2:53

Scotland Yard has said 'no' to a fresh investigation into phone tapping by the News of the World. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, BBC MEDIA CORRESPONDENT - around three or four legal firms are looking at whether action can be taken, this is following information from The Guardian. Information Commission has been looking at whether personal information from banks and the DVLA has been published. Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer had their phones tapped into. Gordon Taylor from the PFA was given £700,000 from the News of the World after he had his phone tapped into. Presenter - John Yates said that there will be no investigation. INTERVIEW: DOUGLAS - the Guardian has criticised this. The Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee are going to investigate. News International say that they are constrained in what they can say.

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Source: BBC Radio Essex
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

LEGAL ACTION AGAINST NEWS OF THE WORLD OVER PHONE HACKING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Ray Clark
Item Start: 07:09:09
Duration: 2:15

Detectives investigated allegations of phone hacking in 2006 which ended with the conviction of the News of the World journalist Clive Goodman and a private detective Glenn Mulcaire. Yesterday the Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner John Yates said there wasn't enough evidence for any more people to be charged. VV: JOHN YATES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - the technical challenges posing to the service providers to establish that they had in fact been intercepted were very significant. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, REPORTER, GUARDIAN - it's a very weird performance by Mr Yates. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - there must be some degree of independence in this investigation, at least an outside force looking at it if not the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Presenter - it's being claimed phone messages for Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were recorded by private detectives. Investigations into the allegations of phone tapping are being carried out by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee. I wonder if any tapping was going on when two MPs were talking about expenses.

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Source: LBC News 97.3FM (London)
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

TABLOID PHONE TAPPING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Nick Ferrari
Item Start: 08:00:26
Duration: 0:45

A dozen victims of phone hacking are in talks with their lawyers about taking legal action against the News Of The World. The paper is facing three separate investigations; by MPs, the director of public prosecutions and the Press Complaints Commission. A police investigation has been ruled out. INTERVIEW: CHRIS HUHNE MP, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN - the Press Complaints Commission is a toothless watchdog which is a self regulatory body of the newspaper industry and failed to get a grip on this issue in the first place. The select committee are not in the position to conduct the sort of investigation with the rigour we expect from a police force.

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Source: BBC Radio Suffolk
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE TAPPING CLAIM

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:03:45
Presenter: Mark Murphy
Item Start: 07:08:00
Duration: 2:25

A number of prominent people whose phone calls were allegedly hacked into by investigators working for the News of the World are considering legal action against the paper. VV: JOHN YATES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - our inquiries show that in the vast majority of cases there was insufficient evidence. INTERVIEW: NICK DAVIES, GUARDIAN - that was a very weird performance by Mr Yates - he devoted all his remarks to one single journalist, Clive Goodman. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - there must be some degree of independence involved here in this investigation such as the IPCC. Presenter - it's been claimed phone messages from Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were recorded. Investigations into the allegations are being carried out by the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee.

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Source: BBC Radio Wales
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

MET POLICE WON'T INVESTIGATE NEWS OF THE WORLD HACKING

Programme: Good Morning Wales
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 06:00:00
Presenter: Treen Ywareth, Sarah Dickins
Item Start: 06:07:32
Duration: 4:55

Assistant Commissioner John Yates told reporters the police had seen no additional evidence. INTERVIEW: DAVID BANKS, FORMER EDITOR, THE MIRROR - the Mirror's been named, the Observer the Guardian's sister paper and the Daily Mail. STUDIO INTERVIEW: PETER PRESTON, FORMER EDITOR, GUARDIAN / WRITER OBSERVER- I think it is basically worse endemic across Fleet Street. What David Banks is referring to is reports by the Information Commissioner, it lead to many things, including Press Complaints Commission's new guidelines. It is dealing with the time before Goodman was exposed. It relates to whether News International executives told the truth. There are investigations underway, including by the CPS. Goodman and his chum Glen Mulcaire, both of who went to prison. Gordon Taylor, the Chief of the Football Association, all of that was there.

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Source: BBC Radio Wales
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

MOBILE PHONES HACKING ALLEGEDLY BY THE NEWS OF THE WORLD JOURNALISTS

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Reen, Sarah Dickens
Item Start: 08:07:16
Duration: 5:27

The Metropolitan Police doesn't think an investigation into newspaper claims of mobile phone hacking by The News of the World is needed. This is despite fresh claims by The Guardian that The News of the World reporters intercepted the mobile phone messages of the great and good and that the announcement by the DPP Keir Starmer who said he'll look again at those claims. A Met Police investigation three years ago did end with two convictions. INTERVIEW: JOHN YATES, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE - our inquiries show that in the fast majority of cases there was insufficient evidence to show that tapping had been achieved. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRIS HUME, HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT - you didn't mention in his report that he started his statement saying he's been asked to review by the Commissioner the case of Glen Mulcaire and Clive Goodman. The issue people want to know is how widespread this practice was. I intend to write the IPCC and the Chair Nick Hardwick to look at this again. It's all very well saying that the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee is going open its inquiry. Presenter - a former editor of The Guardian said that he believes that these allegations date back before newspapers and the Press Complaints Commission tightened the regulations of which they run themselves. We know News International were prepared to pay an out of court settlement with Gordon Taylor of the Professional FA in order to provide him with the compensation for the damage of intruding on his privacy.

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Source: ITV Carlton
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD FACES INQUIRIES INTO PHONE TAPPING

Programme: GMTV
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Andrew Castle and Emma Crosby
Item Start: 08:01:12
Duration: 1:59

STUDIO INTERVIEW: EMMA PYNE, CORRESPONDENT - Scotland Yard may not be investigating these fresh allegations but bosses at the News International Group will come under severe pressure. They'll be called in by the Commons. Reporter - the Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson and former Newcastle manager Alan Shearer are said to be among the thousands of high profile figures who have allegedly had their private telephone messages recorded. It is after reading newspaper reports that Rupert Murdoch's company paid £1m in damages to stop the story getting out. Some celebrities including Max Clifford and Vanessa Feltz are now considering legal advice themselves. The Met Police believe there is no fresh evidence from the investigation that saw Clive Goodman jailed for phone tapping. INTERVIEW: BRIAN PADDICK, FORMER DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MET POLICE - Scotland Yard don't seem to have the appetite to take this any further. Reporter - MPs will reopen their 2007 inquiry to hear evidence from Les Hinton. It's expected Andy Coulson who now works for David Cameron will also be called in to give evidence. The Director of Public Prosecution has called for an urgent review and the Press Complaints Commission will also carry out an inquiry.

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Source: BBC Radio Three Counties (Herts, Beds & Bucks)
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

SCOTLAND YARD SAYS IT WILL NOT INVESTIGATE MOBILE HACKING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Stephen Rhodes
Item Start: 08:00:35
Duration: 0:42

The Guardian alleges that Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those targeted by the News of the World. INTERVIEW: DR ALEC CHARLES, SENIOR LECTURER IN MEDIA, UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE - Press Complaints Commission is not doing a very good job.

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Source: BBC Radio Newcastle
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

SCOTLAND YARD FACES CRITICISM OVER NON INVESTIGATION OF PHONE MESSAGES

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:30:00
Presenter: Charlie Chartlon, Alfie Joey
Item Start: 08:31:05
Duration: 0:40
Reporter: Torin Douglas

The Guardian says Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer were among those whose messages were intercepted by the News of The World. The Metropolitan Police says there is not enough evidence to look into the allegations. Reporter - there are three other inquiries ongoing. The Press Complaints Commission and the Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee are looking again.

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Source: BBC Radio Solent
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

TABLOID PHONE TAPPING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Steve Harris
Item Start: 07:17:22
Duration: 3:43

Prominent people who had their phones tapped by the News Of the World are said to be considering legal action against the paper. Lawyers have been consulted by various celebrities and politicians. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORRIN DOUGLAS, CORRESPONDENT - three or four legal firms have been contacted by their clients who believe their private details were accessed. It has always been said that this sort of thing goes on in journalism, the problem is proving it. The Guardian alleges that at the News Of the World the practice is more widespread than the activities of their royal correspondent who was jailed for phone tapping. The Director of Public Prosecutions is still investigating this case and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee of the House of Commons is also looking into it to see if they have been misled by News International. The Press Complaints Commission is also investigating. Today the Guardian says Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer had their phone messages hacked into on the phone of Gordon Taylor the head of the Professional Footballers Association. There were other cases involving the Arsenal manager, Paul Gascoigne and others. Gordon Taylor received £700,000 in costs and if others get that sum it could be very pricey for the News Of the World. Presenter - For mre information on the tabloids, read 'Flat Earth News' by Nick Davis.

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Source: Sky News
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEW CLAIMS ABOUT ALLEGED PHONE HACKING

Programme: Sunrise
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:00:00
Presenter: Mark Longhurst, Gillian Joseph
Item Start: 07:32:42
Duration: 5:49

This is by reporters at the News of the World. The Guardian claiming Sir Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer have been targeted. The Crown Prosecution Service carries out an urgent review. Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman called for an independent inquiry into the phone hacking claims. Further investigations by the Metropolitan Police. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRIS HUHNE, MP, HOME AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - it wouldn't have been the police who conducted the original inquiry. The Commissioner of the Met Police asked did you do a good job? What people wanted was not a review of the evidence as Assistant Commissioner Kohn Yates said. In the case of Clive Goodman and Glen Mulcaire, the two men were convicted. I think it would be appropriate for the IPCC to look at it. The Press Complaints Commission is a toothless watchdog. It hasn't been denied by News International there was a substantial payment Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Football Association. Presenter - is it the case MPs see a chance to kick back at the media after the Telegraph and expenses row? STUDIO INTERVIEW: HUHNE - I spent 19 years a journalist, including at the Independent, running investigations into things like Robert Maxwell.

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Source: BBC 1
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

URGENT REVIEW OF EVIDENCE RELATING TO ALLEGED PHONE TAPPING BY NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 08:00:00
Presenter: Charlie Stayt, Kate Silverton
Item Start: 08:03:16
Duration: 2:00
Reporter: Ben Wright

This is being carried out by the Crown Prosecution Service. Reporter - the Guardian alleges that Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was one of the voices on one of the phones that was tapped by a private detective working for the News of the World. John Yates from the Metropolitan Police said no new evidence had cropped up. A committee of MPs will begin a hearing next week. The Crown Prosecution Service is going to look into the case. The Press Complaints Commission will also have an inquiry. The heat isn't quite off Andy Coulson [PHONETIC], the former News of the World editor who is now the Conservative Party's Media Chief. INTERVIEW: JEREMY HUNT MP, SHADOW CULTURE SECRETARY - he did it because he was taking responsibility for something that he didn't know about. Reporter - he's had strong backing from his boss David Cameron.

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Source: BBC Radio Three Counties (Herts, Beds & Bucks)
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

LEGAL ACTION CONSIDERED BY PEOPLE WHOSE PHONES HACKED INTO BY PEOPLE WORKING FOR NEWS OF THE WORLD

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Stephen Rhodes
Item Start: 07:08:06
Duration: 4:37

Stars including Nigella Lawson, Gwyneth Paltrow have reportedly been hacked and today the Guardian says Alex Ferguson and Alan Shearer have been hacked too. STUDIO INTERVIEW: DR ALEC CHARLES, SENIOR LECTURER IN MEDIA, UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE - we are supposed to have the Press Complaints Commission to regulate an ethical stance. Why after New International had as the Guardian is to believed paid out about a million to people and why was there no police investigation. It would appear if the allegations are true that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 has been broken. Presenter - take the Telegraph during the expenses scandal, they seemed to be hounding people in some cases. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHARLES - when Parliament were forced by Freedom of Information to publish the full details there was a great deal blacked out.

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Source: BBC Radio Manchester
Date: Friday 10, July 2009

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Press Complaints Commission

Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

PHONE TAPPING

Programme: Breakfast
Programme Start: 10/07/2009 07:05:00
Presenter: Allan Beswick
Item Start: 07:36:14
Duration: 2:36

What can you tell us about these new moves to sue the News of the World? STUDIO INTERVIEW: TORIN DOUGLAS, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT - we know of three or four legal firms that have been contacted by high profile clients to say have we got a case to sue the News of the World. That's what Gordon Taylor, the CEO of the PFA has done. Sir Alex Ferguson is one of those whose messages were allegedly hacked into on Gordon Taylor's mobile phone. Alan Shearer and various other high profile figures are there as well. Presenter - the DPP, the Commons Select Committee and the Press Complaints Commission have said that they're going to have a look at it.

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Source: BBC Radio 4 FM
Date: Saturday 11, July 2009

Press Complaints Commission

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Keyword: Press Complaints Commission

NEWS OF THE WORLD REJECTS PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Programme: Today
Programme Start: 11/07/2009 08:00:00
Item Start: 08:53:50
Duration: 6:10

The Guardian says it's got proof. Some papers will go too far to get a story as exclusive stories sell papers after all. STUDIO INTERVIEW: DONALD TRELFOED [PHONETIC], FORMER EDITOR, OBSERVER / PROFESSOR OF JOURNALIST, SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY - if you look at a historic perspective, much investigative journalism has come from methods that were legal at the time. The Sunday Times exposed a drug firm by buying court papers which someone had access to. STUDIO INTERVIEW: CHRIS HORRY [PHONETIC], AUTHOR, TABLOID NATION - the Press Complaints Commission Code makes it clear a journalist should only obtain information by straight forward means unless there's an overwhelming case in the public interest. Max Clifford's phone has apparently been hacked into as well as Gwyneth Paltrow [PHONETIC]. STUDIO INTERVIEW: TRELFOED - I think what we have here is a celebrity culture. It reminds me of Nixon in the White House.

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Press Complaints Commission

2. DUNBLANE ADJUDICATION

Commission upholds Dunblane complaints

THE Scottish Sunday Express has been criticised by the Press Complaints Commission for intruding into the private lives of teenagers who survived the Dunblane massacre.

On 8 March the newspaper published an article headlined "Anniversary shame of Dunblane survivors", which claimed that the behaviour of some of those who survived the Dunblane shooting in 1996 - and who were now turning 13 - 'shamed' the memory of those who died.

This claim was based on pictures and other information which the newspaper had obtained from social networking websites.

The parents of two of those

named in the piece said it was intrusive of the newspaper to have identified their children as Dunblane survivors and to have published information about their private lives, including pictures.

The Scottish Sunday Express acknowledged that the tone of the article had been ill-judged and published an apology.

It did point out, however, that the identities of the survivors had been published previously and that the information about them had been obtained from publicly-accessible websites.

Serious intrusion

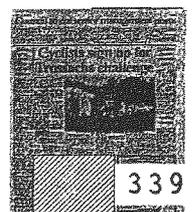
The Commission did not accept that this argument justified what was a serious intrusion and the

apology, while appropriate, was not a sufficient remedy to breaching the Code of Practice.

It was clear that the boys involved in this case were not public figures in any meaningful sense and had done nothing to warrant media scrutiny since being caught up in a newsworthy event thirteen years ago.

As a result, even though the images and information were available freely online, "the way they were used - when there was no particular reason for the boys to be in the news - represented a fundamental failure to respect their private lives."

The Commission concluded that "publication represented a serious error of judgement".



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Charlie Brooker



The very fabric of society is breaking down around us. What the hell is there left to believe in?

It's all gone wrong. Our belief in everything has been shattered by a series of shock revelations that have shaken our core to its core. You can't move

for toppling institutions. Television, the economy, the police, the House of Commons, and, most recently, the press . . . all revealed to be jam-packed with liars and bastards and gaspers and bullies and turds.

And we knew. We knew. But we were deep in denial, like a cuckolded partner who knows the sorry truth but tries their best to ignore it. Over the last 18 months the spotlight of truth has swung this way and that, and one institution after another was suddenly exposed as being precisely as rotten as we always thought it was. What's that? Phone-in TV quizzes might a bit of con? The economic boom is an unsustainable fantasy? Riot police can be a little "handy"? MPs are greedy? The News of the World might have used underhand tactics to get a story? What next? Oxygen is flavourless? Cows stink at water polo? Children are overrated? We knew all this stuff. We just didn't have the details.

After all their histrionic shrieking about standards in television, it was only a matter of time before the tabloids got it in the neck. Last Monday even the Press Complaints Commission, which is generally about as much use as a Disprin canoe, finally puffed up its chest and criticised the Scottish Sunday Express for its part in the Dunblane survivors' story scandal. You remember that, don't you? Back in March? When the Scottish Sunday Express ran a story about survivors of the Dunblane massacre who'd just turned 18? It fearlessly investigated their Facebook profiles

and discovered that some of them enjoyed going to pubs and getting off with other teenagers, then ran these startling revelations on its front page, with the headline ANNIVERSARY SHAME OF DUNBLANE SURVIVORS.

"The Sunday Express can reveal how, on their social net-

working sites, some of them have boasted about alcoholic binges and fights," crowed the paper. "For instance, [one of them] - who was hit by a single bullet and watched in horror as his classmates died - makes rude gestures in pictures he posted on his Bebo site, and boasts of drunken nights out."

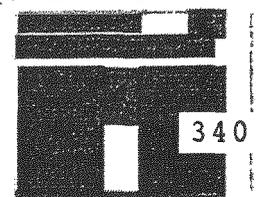
Nice, yeah?

As I'm sure you recall, there was an immediate outcry, which was covered at length in all the papers. You remember their outraged front pages, right? All their cries of SICK and FOUL and VILE in huge black text? Remember that? No? Of course you don't.

Because the papers largely kept mum about the whole thing. Instead, the outrage blew up online. Bloggers kicked up a stink; 11,000 people signed a petition and delivered it to the PCC. The paper printed a mealy-mouthed apology that apologised for the general tenor of the article, while whining that they hadn't printed anything that wasn't publicly accessible online. All it had done was gather it up and disseminate it in the most humiliating and revolting way possible. Last Monday's PCC ruling got next to zero coverage. Maybe if it had happened after the News of the World phone-tapping story broke it would have gathered more. Or maybe not. Either way, the spotlight of truth is, for now, pointing at the press.

But this is just one small part of the ongoing, almighty detox of everything. There's been such an immense purge, such an exhaustive ethical audit, no one's come out clean. There's muck round every arse. But if the media's rotten and the government's rotten and the police are rotten and the city's rotten and the church is rotten - if life as we know it really is fundamentally rotten - what the hell is there left to believe in? Alton Towers? Greggs the bakers? The WI?

The internet. Can we trust in that? Of course not. Give it six months and we'll probably discover *Conole's cat*



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Press Complaints Commission

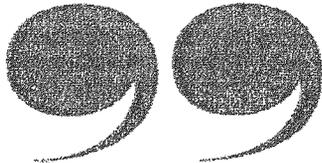
together by orphans in sweatshops. Or that Wi-Fi does something horrible to your brain, like eating your fondest memories and replacing them with drawings of cross-eyed bats and a strong smell of puke. There's surely a great dystopian sci-fi novel yet to be written about a world in which it's suddenly discovered that wireless broadband signals deaden the human brain, slowly robbing us of all emotion, until after 10 years of exposure we're all either rutting in stairwells or listlessly reversing our cars over our own offspring with nary the merest glimmer of sympathy

or pain on our faces. It'll be set in Basingstoke and called, "Cuh, Typical."

What about each other? Society? Can we trust us? Doubt it. We're probably not even real, as was revealed in the popular documentary The Matrix. That bloke next door? Made of pixels. Your co-workers? Pixels. You? One pixel. One measly pixel. You haven't even got shoes, for Christ's sake.

As the very fabric of life breaks down around us, even language itself seems unreliable. These words don't make sense. The vowels and consonants you're hearing in your mind's ear right now are being generated by mere squiggles on a page or screen. Pointless hieroglyphics. Shapes. You're staring at shapes and hearing them in your head. When you see the word "trust", can you even trust that? Why? It's just shapes!

Right now all our faith has poured out of the old institutions, and there's nowhere left to put it. We need new institutions to believe in, and fast. Doesn't matter what they're made of. Knit them out of string, wool, anything. Quickly, quickly. Before we start worshipping insects.



Give it six months and we'll probably discover Google's sewn together by orphans in sweatshops



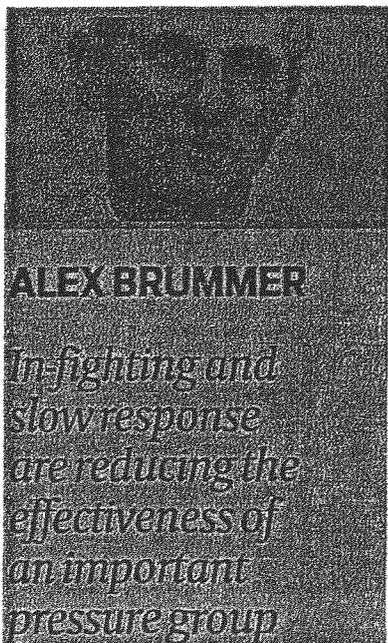
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3. THE MEDIA & THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

COMMENT

Pressure group must keep up pressure



THE NEED for scrupulous monitoring of the core Middle East conflict in the British media has been evident since the outbreak of the second Intifada in autumn 2000. But it was not until the second Israel-Lebanon war in the summer of 2006 that a group of philanthropists and like-minded young professionals decided to move into the vacuum. The new organisation, *Just Journalism*, launched amid some fanfare in the spring of 2008, has sought to be different from other monitoring groups. Its aims (as recorded on *JJ*'s website) were to measure coverage of the Middle East in the UK media

against various codes of conduct laid down by the BBC, Ofcom, the Press Complaints Commission and other bodies using meticulous research. It would be largely focused on the British media in contrast to other groups

like *Memri* – which looks at material emanating from Arab lands – and *Honest Reporting* which monitors media from across the globe.

It has also organised Middle East debates at Hampstead Town Hall including one earlier this year in which this writer, *JC* editor Stephen Pollard and Jon Snow participated. Reports from *JJ* have been thorough. It regards its most recent study comparing alleged war crimes in Sri Lanka and Gaza as ground breaking.

But at times it seems slow. *JJ* argues that it is not there to provide “kneejerk” responses. Yet the pace with which it works on issues – such as the Amnesty International report on Gaza or the current slew of articles on settlements (in the *Guardian* and *New Statesman* to name two) – is not impressive. *JJ* would seem to miss an early opportunity to frame the debate by pointing out potential factual shortcomings or imbalance.

This lack of alertness potentially stems from a leadership vacuum. In

its short life *JJ* has already disposed of two chief executives. The first, Adel Darwish, was a veteran Middle East correspondent who has worked for a number of UK papers and reported from the front line in the Middle East. He left without explanation although there were reports of heated policy differences with colleagues.

Losing two chief

Now we learn that his succes-

executives in short order looks careless

sor, Elizabeth Jay, a former barrister and experienced public affairs executive

with Fishburn Hedges, has also left her post. Losing two chief executives in short order looks careless.

JJ refused comment on her early departure and simply states that a powerful new member of its Advisory Board will soon be announced.

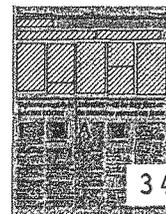
Jay's tenure was not without controversy. A report on British media coverage of the Israeli elections produced

a negative response on the *Guardian's Comment is Free* website from writer Sharif Nashashibi. He accused Jay of betraying *JJ*'s original principles in its “selectivity, inaccuracy and exaggeration”. He disputes, for instance, a finding that the British media were too easy on Hamas after its election.

Criticism on the *Guardian's* site, which frequently carries anti-Israel material, is not surprising. What is more worrying is that the writer was able to pick holes in the methodology noting that *JJ*'s independence looked to have been compromised by “subjective judgements”.

Objectivity always is going to be a problem in covering the Middle East and *JJ* has generally done a good job. But with two chief executives gone and interviews just beginning for a third it is to be hoped that its undisclosed backers do not feel they have embarked on an impossible task.

Alex Brummer is City Editor of the Daily Mail



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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS

Revealed: Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

● Tory PR chief under fire over tabloid hacking

● Politicians and celebrities among victims

Nick Davies

Rupert Murdoch's News Group newspapers has paid out more than £1m to settle legal cases that threatened to reveal evidence of his journalists' repeated involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The payments secured secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of Murdoch journalists using private investigators who illegally hacked into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures and to gain unlawful access to confidential personal data including tax records, social security files, bank statements and itemised phone bills. Cabinet ministers, MPs, actors and sports stars were all targets of the private investigators.

Today, the Guardian reveals details of the suppressed evidence which may open the door to hundreds more legal actions by victims of News Group, the Murdoch company that publishes the News of the World and the Sun, as well as provoking police inquiries into reporters who were involved and the senior executives responsible for them. The evidence also poses difficult questions for:

● Conservative leader David Cameron's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was deputy editor and then edi-

tor of the News of the World when, the suppressed evidence shows, journalists for whom he was responsible were engaging in hundreds of apparently illegal acts

● Murdoch executives who, albeit in good faith, have misled a parliamentary select committee, the Press Complaints Commission and the public

● The Metropolitan police, who did not alert all those whose phones were targeted, and the Crown Prosecution Service, which did not pursue all possible charges against News Group personnel

● The Press Complaints Commission, which claimed to have conducted an investigation but failed to uncover any evidence of illegal activity.

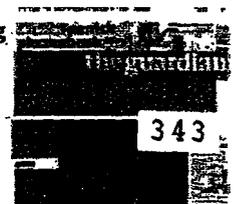
The suppressed legal cases are linked to the jailing in January 2007 of News of the World reporter Clive Goodman for hacking into the mobile phones of three royal staff, an offence under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. At the time, News International said it knew of no other journalist who was involved in hacking phones and that Goodman had been acting without their knowledge.

However, one senior source at the Met told the Guardian that during the Good-

man inquiry, officers had found evidence of News Group staff using private investigators who hacked into "thousands" of mobile phones. Another source with direct knowledge of the police findings put the figure at "two or three thousand" mobiles. They suggest that MPs from all three parties and cabinet ministers, including former deputy prime minister John Prescott and former culture secretary Tessa Jowell, were among the targets. News International has always maintained that it has no knowledge of phone hacking by anybody acting on its behalf.

A private investigator who had been working for News Group, Glenn Mulcaire, was also jailed in January 2007. He admitted hacking into the phones of five other targets, including Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association. Among those phones he hacked into were the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew. News Group denied all knowledge of the hacking, but Taylor

Continued on pag





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Murdoch's £1m bill for hiding dirty tricks

« continued from page 1

last year sued them on the basis that they must have known about it.

In documents initially submitted to the high court, News Group executives said the company had not been involved in any way in Mulcaire's hacking of Taylor's phone. They specifically denied keeping any recording or notes of intercepted messages and claimed they had not even been aware of the hacking. However, at the request of Taylor's lawyers, the court ordered the production of detailed evidence from Scotland Yard's inquiry in the Goodman case and also from a separate inquiry by the Information Commissioner into journalists who dishonestly obtain confidential personal records.

The Scotland Yard files included paperwork which revealed that, contrary to News Group's initial denial, Mulcaire had provided a recording of the messages on Taylor's phone to a News of the World journalist who had transcribed them and emailed them to a senior reporter; and that a News of the World executive had offered Mulcaire a substantial bonus payment for a story specifically related to the intercepted messages.

Several famous figures in football are among those whose messages were intercepted. Coulson was editing the paper at this time. He told the Guardian this week he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action, which began after he left the paper.

The paperwork from the Information Commission revealed the names of 31 journalists working for the News of the World and the Sun, together with the details of government agencies, banks, phone companies and others who were conned into handing over confidential information on politicians, actors, sportsmen and women, musicians and television presenters, all of whom are named in the paperwork. This is

an offence under the Data Protection Act unless it is justified by public interest.

Senior editors are among those impli-

cated. This activity occurred before the mobile phone hacking, at a time when Coulson was deputy and the editor was Rebekah Wade, now due to become chief executive of News International. The extent of their personal knowledge, if any, is not clear: the News of the World has always insisted that it would not break the law and would use subterfuge only if essential in the public interest.

Faced with this evidence, News International changed their position, started offering huge cash payments to settle the case out of court, and finally paid out £700,000 in legal costs and damages on the condition that Taylor signed a gagging clause to prevent him speaking about the case. The payment is believed to have included more than £400,000 in damages. News Group then persuaded the court to seal the file on Taylor's case to prevent all public access, even though it contained prima facie evidence of criminal activity.

The Scotland Yard paperwork also provided evidence the News of the World had been involved with Mulcaire in his hacking the mobile phones of at least two other football figures. They filed complaints, which were settled earlier this year when News International paid more than £300,000 in damages and costs on condition that they signed gagging clauses.

The Guardian's understanding is that the paperwork disclosed by Scotland Yard is only a fraction of the total material gathered on News Group's involvement with Mulcaire. And it is a matter of record that the Information Commission has refused to release paperwork which implicates national newspaper journalists in thousands of apparently illegal acts.

Taylor declined to make any comment. Goodman, now out of jail, said: "My comment is not even 'no comment'." A spokesman for News International said: "News International feels it is inappropriate to comment at this time." A spokeswoman for Cameron said the Tory leader was "very relaxed about the story".

Henry Porter, page 28 »

Leader comment, page 30 »

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Trail of hacking and deceit under nose of Tory PR chief



Nick Davies on how the News of the World was involved in illegal activity, from intercepting phone messages to buying confidential personal data

When the high court last summer ordered the News of the World to pay damages to Max Mosley for secretly filming him with prostitutes, the paper was furious. In an angry leader column, it insisted that public figures must maintain standards. "It is not for the powerful and the influential to run to the courts to gag newspapers from publishing stories that are TRUE," it said. "This is all about the public's right to know."

Even as those words were being published, lawyers and senior executives from News International's subsidiary News Group were preparing to run to court to gag Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, who was suing the News of the World for its undisclosed involvement in the illegal interception of messages left on his mobile phone.

By persuading the high court to seal the file and by paying Taylor more than £400,000 damages in exchange for his silence, News Group prevented the public from knowing anything about the hundreds of pages of evidence which had been disclosed in Taylor's case, revealing potentially criminal behaviour by journalists on its payroll. It also protected some powerful and influential people from the implications of that evidence.

David Cameron's chief press adviser, Andy Coulson, is not named in any of the suppressed evidence. However, the paperwork shows that during the time when he was editor of the News of the

World, and contrary to News Group's earlier denials, editorial staff for whom he was responsible were involved with private investigators who engaged in illegal phone-hacking; and that when Coulson was deputy editor, reporters and executives were commissioning multiple purchases of confidential information, which is illegal unless it is proved to be in the public interest. These purchases were not secret within the News of the World office: they were openly paid for by the accounts department with invoices which itemised illegal acts. News Group has always maintained that it acts lawfully and in the public interest.

The scale of the activity is bound to provoke questions about whether Coulson knew of and sanctioned the activity. When he was asked by the Guardian whether he accepted that his journalists had been hacking into phones and

illegally obtaining information, Coulson made no comment beyond saying he knew nothing about Taylor's legal action. When he resigned, he said he had had no knowledge of his reporter Clive Goodman's involvement in hacking the phones of royal staff.

The full picture on News Group's involvement in the hacking of mobile phones is still not clear, largely because the Metropolitan Police took the controversial decision not to inform the public figures whose phones had been targeted and the Crown Prosecution Service



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decided not to take News Group executives to court. Scotland Yard is likely to face questions about whether senior officers intervened to avoid alienating a powerful media group.

Scotland Yard disclosed only a limited amount of its evidence to Taylor. The Guardian understands that the full police file shows that several thousand public figures were targeted by investigators, including, during one month in 2006: John Prescott, then deputy prime minister; Tessa Jowell, then responsible for the media as secretary of state for culture; Boris Johnson, then the Conservative spokesman on higher education; Gwyneth Paltrow, after she had given birth to her son; George Michael, who had been seen looking tired at the wheel of his car; and Jade Goody.

When Goodman, the News of the World's royal editor, was jailed for hacking into the mobile phones of Palace staff, News International said he had been acting without their knowledge. One of the investigators working for the paper, Glenn Mulcaire, was also charged with hacking the phones of the Lib Dem MP Simon Hughes, celebrity PR Max Clifford, model Elle MacPherson and football agent Sky Andrew as well as Taylor. At the time, the News of the World claimed to know nothing about the hacking of these targets, but Taylor has now proved that to be untrue in his case. Others who are believed to have been possible targets include the Scottish politician Tommy Sheridan, who has previously accused the News of the World of bugging his car; Jeffrey Archer, whose perjury was exposed by the paper; and Sven-Göran Eriksson, whose sex life became a tabloid obsession.

According to one source with direct knowledge of the Scotland Yard evidence, News of the World journalists were systematically using private investigators who would break the law to obtain information, hacking into thousands of mobile phones and supplying raw material which was then converted into stories that made no reference to their real source. Against that - and in apparent contradiction of the evidence supplied and suppressed in Taylor's case - senior News International executives have publicly claimed that Goodman was the only person at the News of the World who was involved in hacking, and that he acted without their knowledge.

In evidence to the House of Commons select committee on culture, media and sport, on 6 March 2007, seven months after Goodman's arrest, Les Hinton, chairman of News International, was asked if he had conducted "a full, rigor-

ous internal inquiry" and was "absolutely convinced" that Goodman was the only person who knew about the phone hacking. Hinton replied: "Yes we have and I believe he was the only person." Hinton added that the investigation would continue under the new editor, Colin Myler, but Myler had already told the Press Complaints Commission 12 days earlier that Goodman's hacking was "aberrational", "a rogue exception" and "an exceptional and unhappy event in the 163-year history of the News of the World, involving one journalist". The same claim was made later by the News of the World's managing editor, Stuart Kuttner, who told Radio Four's Today programme in February 2008 that

only one News of the World journalist had been involved in illegal phone hacking: "It happened once at the News of the World. The reporter was fired; he went to prison. The editor resigned."

These executives were not aware of the evidence disclosed by Taylor's legal action at the time that they made these claims. In an unconnected move, Kuttner yesterday announced that he was stepping down as managing editor of the News of the World.

The then chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Sir Christopher Meyer, promised to investigate "the entire newspaper and magazine industry of the UK to establish what is their practice" but opted not to question Andy Coulson on the grounds that he had resigned, and not to question any other journalist or editorial executive on the paper, apart from Myler, who necessarily had no direct knowledge of what had been going on before his arrival. The PCC's subsequent report failed to uncover any evidence of any phone hacking by any media organisation beyond that revealed at Goodman's trial.

In suppressing Taylor's legal action, News Group buried not only the Scotland Yard evidence but also paperwork that had been seized by the Information Commis-

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sion from a Hampshire private investigator, Steve Whittamore, who had been running a network of sources who specialised in the illegal extraction of information from police computers, British Telecom, the DVLA, Inland Revenue and others. Whittamore subsequently pleaded

guilty to criminal offences, although the newspapers who hired him were never prosecuted.

Although the Information Commission has since said that almost all of this activity was "certainly or very probably" illegal under the Data Protection Act, the paperwork shows no sign of secrecy at all as 27 different journalists from the News of the World and four from the Sun ordered more than a thousand searches. One News of the World reporter made 130 requests. Another made 118. One news executive is recorded as directly commissioning 90 actions by Whittamore. This included 23 illegal searches of the DVLA for the details behind car number plates; two illegal searches of police databases for criminal records; five illegal searches of phone company records to convert a mobile number into a private address; and three requests for illegal access to records of ex-directory phone numbers.

Another news executive is recorded commissioning 70 more actions including nine illegal searches of British Telecom records to convert landline phone numbers into addresses, 13 illegal searches at the DVLA and two illegal accesses to criminal records from police computers. A very senior executive of the paper is recorded directly commissioning illegal access to records from a mobile phone company.

Among those whose privacy apparently was illegally violated when British Telecom was conned into handing over their addresses and/or ex-directory numbers are Nigella Lawson (four times); Patsy Kensit; Jude Law and Sadie Frost; Lisa Snowdon (three times); Anne Robinson and her former partner; Carol Caplin; Lenny Henry; Vanessa Feltz; Lord Mountbatten's grandson;

and witnesses to the murder of Jill Dando, thus potentially interfering with the course of a live police inquiry.

When the actress Charlotte Coleman died after an asthma attack, the News of

the World paid for BT to be conned into handing over the itemised Friends and Family list from her bereaved parents' phone bill. When the TV presenter Linda Barker moved house, they hired Whittamore to get her new home address from the supposedly confidential social security database.

Working on instructions from the News of the World, Whittamore and his network also conned the criminal records database of the police, which is a specific criminal offence; the Inland Revenue, also a specific criminal offence; a cab company used by Ken Livingstone; a Paris hotel used by Jason Donovan; the actors union, Equity, for the addresses of actors; Granada TV, for information on a Coronation Street actor; and on numerous occasions the DVLA for the home details of people whose car numbers they had spotted. The News of the World has insisted that its journalists use subterfuge only when justified in the public interest.

The Information Commissioner has resisted all requests to release the entire collection of paperwork seized from Whittamore, which covers a total of 13,343 requests for information from 305 journalists not only from News International but also from the Mirror Group, the Observer and Associated Newspapers. The Daily Mail alone made 985 requests, more than any other paper.

After the conviction of Whittamore, the Information Commission, which is responsible for policing confidential databases, urged the Press Complaints Commission to issue "a clear public statement warning journalists and editors of the very real risks of committing criminal offences." Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the PCC, which is funded by newspapers, resisted doing this and finally produced guidance which the Information Commission has publicly described as "disappointing".

Leader comment, page 30 >>

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The law

Phone hacking, private data and the public interest defence

Hacking into messages on mobile phones is covered by the same law which now regulates phone tapping and other forms of covert information-gathering, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, known as Ripa.

This makes it a criminal offence to intercept phone calls unless it is done by a member of the police or intelligence agencies acting with a secretary of state's warrant, which can be granted only to protect national security, to prevent serious crime or to safeguard the economic wellbeing of the UK.

It also makes it an offence to gain access to material which is stored on a communication system, such as a voice message, without a search warrant or a "production order", either of which has to be approved by a judge.

The act makes no provision for anybody outside the intelligence agencies and the police to obtain any kind of authority to intercept phone calls or messages. Specifically, there is no public interest defence for anybody caught breaking Ripa.

The former News of the World reporter Clive Goodman was jailed for four months and the private investigator with whom he had been working, Glenn Mulcaire (right) for six

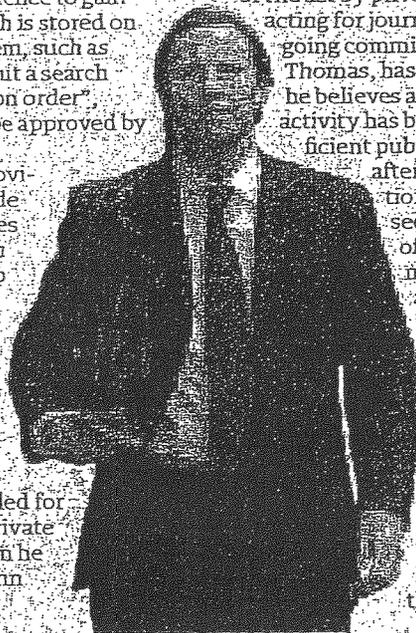
months for hacking phone messages in breach of Ripa.

Access to confidential databases, such as telephone accounts, bank records and information held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, is covered by a different law, the 1998 Data Protection Act. Section 55 makes it an offence to gain unauthorised access to such data, punishable by a fine. However, unlike Ripa, this offence carries a public interest defence.

The Information Commission, which is responsible for policing the Data Protection Act, has twice published reports about the widespread breach of the act by private investigators

acting for journalists. The outgoing commissioner, Richard Thomas, has made it plain that he believes almost all of this activity has been without sufficient public interest. In 2007,

after a lengthy consultation, the commission secured the agreement of the government to make such breaches an imprisonable offence. However, a lobby by leading figures from News International, the Telegraph group and Associated Newspapers, which publishes the Daily Mail, persuaded Gordon Brown to overrule the plan.



Public figures whose privacy apparently was illegally violated included, from top: Gwyneth Paltrow, Tessa Jowell, Nigella Lawson, Boris Johnson and Lenny Henry

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Press and privacy

Secret spies

The world is waking up to the extent to which modern technologies can destroy privacy. Any citizen with a mobile phone, car or computer is open to surveillance by a broad range of agencies. Newspapers have taken the lead in fighting against state intrusions into privacy - resisting ID cards, databases and the mindless spread of CCTV. Editors inveigh against Google and its potential to intrude into our lives.

More hidden is the way some of the same newspapers have systematically pried into the lives of people in rather repellent ways. It has emerged that one of Rupert Murdoch's news organisations in the UK has quietly paid out huge sums to settle three cases, thereby suppressing details which threatened to expose its involvement in the use of criminal methods to get stories. In return for a secrecy agreement, they paid damages of £400,000 or more to one victim - dwarfing the previous record £60,000

breach of privacy payment to the Formula One boss Max Mosley. The total paid in damages and costs tops £1m.

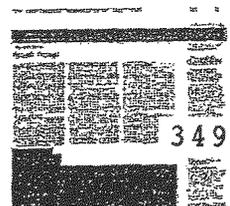
Most of the work was subcontracted to private investigators. A senior Metropolitan police officer claimed to have evidence that thousands of people in public life had had their phones hacked by agents working on behalf of papers. The victims included MPs, cabinet ministers, minor celebrities and sportsmen. The Scotland Yard files mirror parallel evidence compiled by the information commissioner, who uncovered thousands of examples of activity which was "certainly or very probably" illegal.

That detailed evidence has never been requested or seen by the Press Complaints Commission, nor by the Commons media commit-

tee, currently investigating press regulation. Both bodies have hitherto been content with the reassurances of News International executives,

who claimed that Clive Goodman - the News of the World reporter jailed for hacking into royal phones - was a rogue operator. The PCC never called evidence from the newspaper's editor at the time, Andy Coulson, who is now working as David Cameron's director of communications, nor demanded to see paperwork or invoices. Both the PCC and the committee look incurious if not plain gullible. It is awkward for Mr Cameron to have at his side a man who, in a previous life, was responsible for journalists who were breaching the privacy of MPs.

The Murdoch organisation is a powerful one, with tentacles into many areas of public and political life. Individuals working for one of its UK companies have demonstrated their ability to jettison civilised standards of behaviour to attack targets. These allegations should be examined in daylight, not dealt with by means of secret cash payments.



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1. NEWS OF THE WORLD: PHONE TAPPING CLAIMS - FRIDAY

Three inquiries into hacking claims as new victims emerge

● **MPs summon Murdoch chiefs over dirty tricks**

● **Targeted public figures consider suing tabloid**

● **Scotland Yard refuses to reopen tapping probe**

James Robinson

News International was last night facing three fresh inquiries into the conduct of its journalists and executives following the Guardian's disclosures that Rupert Murdoch's newspaper empire paid £1m to keep secret the use of criminal methods to get stories.

The director of public prosecutions, Keir Starmer, announced he was intending to launch an urgent review of the evidence relating to phone hacking in the case of the News of the World reporter Clive Goodman, who was jailed for obtaining information illegally.

His intervention came after a powerful Commons select committee said it would be calling senior managers from News International to give evidence as early as next week to clarify what they knew about malpractice by journalists at the News of the World. Andy Coulson, the former editor of the paper and now the Conservative party's director of communications, will be asked to appear. He has always denied he knew reporters working for him had hacked into the mobile phones of politicians and celebrities.

The Press Complaints Commission also announced it was conducting an inquiry.

At Westminster, senior Labour figures continued to call for Coulson to resign and the prime minister said that there were "serious questions" to answer.

Gordon Brown was responding after the Guardian revealed that News Group, the publishers of the News of the World, had made the £1m payout to secure secrecy over out-of-court settlements in three cases that threatened to expose evidence of journalists using private investigators

to illegally hack into the mobile phone messages of numerous public figures. It is also alleged journalists gained unlawful access to confidential personal data, including tax records, social security files, bank statements and phone bills. Targets included John Prescott and Tessa Jowell.

The chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, was one victim and last year he received £700,000 from News International in compensation and legal costs. He agreed not to discuss the case as part of the deal.

However, hundreds of other public figures may also have been targeted. Yester-

day, some of those thought to have been caught up in the affair said they were seeking legal advice. Among them were the celebrity publicist Max Clifford and TV presenter Vanessa Feltz.

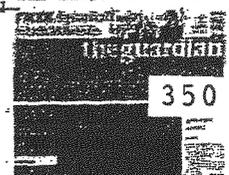
Lawyers told the Guardian that News International could face a series of expensive legal actions if it was proved that reporters working for the group were engaged in behaviour that breached privacy.

The Met's assistant commissioner John Yates said yesterday that Scotland Yard would not be reopening its files on the case because no new evidence had come to light and the original inquiry had con-

cluded phone tapping had occurred in only a minority of cases. "I therefore consider no further investigation is required."

Legal experts made it clear that the Yard's decision would not affect the ability of alleged hacking victims to sue the News of the World for breach of privacy.

The parliamentary inquiry will focus on executives at News International, including Rebekah Wade, the outgoing Sun editor who has been promoted to News International chief execu-



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-executive; Stuart Kuttner,
the News of the World's outgoing manag-

Continued on page 5 »



Sir Alex Ferguson's messages were intercepted on PFA chairman Gordon Taylor's phone Photograph: Chris Jackson/Getty

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Three inquiries launched into hacking claims

« continued from page 1

ing editor; Colin Myler, the current News of the World editor; and Les Hinton, the former chairman of News International.

John Whittingdale, the chairman of the committee, said he was particularly keen to question Hinton, who told a previous hearing Goodman had been acting alone.

The Conservative leader, David Cameron, was forced to defend Coulson following calls that he should be sacked.

Cameron told reporters outside his home in London: "It's wrong for newspapers to breach people's privacy with no justification. That is why Andy Coulson resigned as editor of the News of the World two and a half years ago.

"Of course I knew about that resignation before offering him the job. But I believe in giving people a second chance. As director of communications for the Conservatives he does an excellent job in a proper, upright way at all times."

The Tories also pointed to Scotland Yard's decision not to reopen its inquiry.

Nevertheless, the DPP said he was setting up a team to review the evidence

and the decision taken over the material discovered during the police inquiry into Goodman and Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who was also jailed.

"In the light of the fresh allegations ... I have now ordered an urgent examination of the material supplied to the CPS by the police," he said.

He was taking this action "to satisfy myself and assure the public that the appropriate actions were taken in relation to that material". He said the evidence was extensive and complex, "but it has all been located and a small team is rapidly working through it ... It will necessarily take some time. I am only too aware of the need for urgency."

News International broke its silence last night. But the company did not address any of the specific allegations made by the Guardian, saying: "News International is prevented by confidentiality obligations from discussing certain allegations made in the Guardian newspaper today." It said its journalists had complied with relevant legislation and codes of conduct since February 2007, after the Goodman case and Coulson's resignation.

Alan Rusbridger, the editor in chief of the Guardian, said: "We note that News International has not contested any part of the Guardian coverage - including the central assertion that the company had paid a record £1m to ensure secrecy over damages paid to victims of illegal phone-hacking."

guardian.co.uk

News of the World phone hacking more widespread than claimed, MPs told

Guardian presents evidence to MPs that conflict with tabloid's claims on extent of phone hacking

James Robinson and Caroline Davies
guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 14 July 2009 18.21 BST

The Guardian today produced evidence for MPs that shows the News of the World's practice of using private investigators to hack into phones was more widespread than its owner News International had claimed.

The paper passed documents to the House of Commons culture, media and sport committee, which is investigating allegations of phone hacking at the paper, at a hearing today.

Guardian reporter Nick Davies showed MPs copies of an email written by a News of the World reporter on 29 June 2005, to Glenn Mulcaire, a private investigator who was on the paper's payroll, referring to another News of the World journalist – understood to be its chief reporter, Neville Thurlbeck.

The email, sent by a junior reporter whom Davies would not publicly name, contained "a typed-up transcript of 35 messages which Mulcaire has hacked from the telephones of Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, and Jo Armstrong, a legal adviser at the PFA."

"At the top it says 'Hello, this is a transcript for Neville'", Davies said. He told MPs this was Neville Thurlbeck.

Davies also produced a second document he said was a contract issued "a couple of months before that email" and signed by the then assistant editor in charge of news, Greg Miskiw. The contract is between Mulcaire and the News of the World "offering him a bonus of £7,000 if he will deliver the story they are after about Gordon Taylor," Davies said. But, rather than using Mulcaire's name, it used a false name of "Paul Williams".

Mulcaire was jailed in January 2007 after he admitted to hacking into voicemail message left on mobile phones belonging to three members of the royal household.

Mulcaire was used by the paper's former royal editor, Clive Goodman, who was also jailed along with Mulcaire. Executives at the NoW's owner, News International, have always maintained that Mulcaire and Goodman were acting alone and without the knowledge of managers or executives at the paper.

Andy Coulson, who was editing the paper at the time, resigned when Goodman was jailed. He is now the Conservative party's director of communications.

Both documents produced by the Guardian today were seized by police during the Goodman case.

MPs were also shown a record of payments made by News International to private investigator Steve Whittamore for work carried out for News Group Newspapers, which publishes NI's tabloid titles, the Sun and the News of the World, dating back to 1998.

The Guardian was called to give evidence to the committee after it revealed last week that the News of the World paid a total of £1m to three people, including Taylor and Armstrong, who had their phones hacked into after they sued on privacy grounds.

The actions were settled out of court last year but were not made public and documents

relating to the case were subsequently sealed.

John Whittingdale, the Conservative MP who chairs the Commons committee, said the revelations, "raised questions" about the extent of phone hacking at the tabloid.

"When the committee saw these stories it did raise questions. It appeared there might be some contradiction between [them and] the evidence given by Les Hinton two years ago".

Hinton, the former chairman of News International, told a 2007 culture committee hearing into self-regulation of the press, that the paper had conducted an internal inquiry and was satisfied that Goodman was a rogue journalist.

Whittingdale said he had received a letter from Hinton saying he did not want to change the evidence he gave to the earlier inquiry, which also examined claims of phone hacking at the News of the World.

Hinton wrote that the answers he gave in 2007 were "sincere" and "comprehensive" and that he declined to appear.

The Guardian's editor, Alan Rusbridger, who was also giving evidence, said that Davies's original story "wasn't a campaign to oust anybody. It wasn't a campaign to reopen the police inquiry, or to call for prosecutions or to force anybody to resign. We have not called for any of those."

"I'd like to emphasise as a paper we do believe in effective self-regulation and we don't want a privacy law. We have stated that. When it comes to effective self-regulation, it seems to me it can only work if newspaper groups are truthful and open with the regulators."

He added the Guardian rejected the claims by Rebekah Wade, who will become chief executive of News International in September, that the newspaper had "mised the public – far less deliberately [so]".

"They [NI] are trying to position this as a spat between two newspapers."

Rusbridger said News International had claimed Clive Goodman was the "only person at the News of the World who knew what was going on", and described that as a "bad apple" defence.

He said Nick Davies's story showed this was not the case.

"One or two groups, for example, [Daily Mail publisher] Associated Newspapers, have conceded past patterns of behaviour and put a stop to them. The question is whether News International has been so frank," Rusbridger said.

"The three key questions are: whether self-regulation was effective in this case; whether the PCC had the full and accurate picture at the time they decided against rigorously investigating the Goodman/Mulcaire case themselves; and whether given the reassurances and as further facts came out, they, and perhaps you, should have been kept informed of those new facts."

Tim Toulmin, the director of the Press Complaints Commission, which has reopened a 2007 inquiry into the use of subterfuge on Fleet Street, earlier told MPs the watchdog would be "writing to the paper [NoW] once we have as much information as we can possibly lay our hands on".

He said the board of the PCC, which meets next week, will ultimately decide whether further action should be taken. "If there is any evidence we have been misled, we will be straight on it."

Toulmin added: "People had raised eyebrows that Andy Coulson did not know what was going on. I would say – having been exposed as not knowing – he then resigned because he did not know what was going on. For that reason he resigned and paid a high price."

He said that the Guardian's revelations "gave us cause for concern. We're going to ask further questions [to discover] whether there was any evidence we were misled."

"The fact that Gordon Taylor had sued the paper and the suggestion that another reporter at the NoW knew about Mulcaire's activity – I think that's new, and we will be chasing that with the Guardian."

Labour MP Paul Farrelly asked Toulmin what aspects of the case the PCC would investigate. He suggested the PCC should ask "how far up the chain of command a settlement of the Taylor case went? Did it go to the board of NI?"

Farrelly also asked whether the PCC regretted its decision not to call former News of the World editor Coulson during its 2007 investigation into the extent of phone hacking and "blagging – the practice of obtaining information by deceit – on Fleet Street".

Toulmin said "maybe it would have been better for the PCC to have done so".

"If Andy Coulson has any evidence ... he may come into it as a relevant party. That is a decision for the [PCC] board. We are going to test what they said to us two years ago with what [we] now know."

He added the PCC board will meet next week to decide which further questions that should be put to News of the World executives.

Toulmin added that he was convinced such practices were no longer commonplace on Fleet Street because of the amount of publicity they received in the wake of the Goodman trial and that papers had cleaned up their acts.

The committee is due to hear evidence from Colin Myler, the current editor of the News of the World, and Tom Crone, the paper's lawyer, next week.

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Newspaper phone hacking: MPs handed new evidence

James Robinson, Caroline Davies and Alan Travis
guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 14 July 2009 21.51 BST

MPs investigating allegations of widespread use of private investigators by the News of the World to hack into phones were handed documents today revealing that more journalists were involved in the practice than the paper's owner, News International, has previously admitted.

During testimony to the Commons committee on culture, media and sport, the Guardian investigative reporter Nick Davies produced previously unseen records which showed that two senior figures on the paper as well as a junior reporter had a role in obtaining the contents of private voicemail messages through a private investigator.

News International has previously insisted that only one of its journalists, the royal editor, Clive Goodman, had used this illegal method. He was jailed for four months in January 2007, along with a private investigator, Glenn Mulcaire.

Yesterday Davies handed over copies of an email from an unnamed junior News of the World reporter to Mulcaire that also referred to the paper's chief reporter, Neville Thurlbeck. In the email, the reporter says: "Hello, this is the transcript for Neville." Davies told the committee that the email, dated 29 June 2005, contained "a typed-up transcript of 35 messages which Mulcaire had hacked from the telephones of Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, and Jo Armstrong, a legal adviser at the PFA".

The second document handed to MPs was a contract dated February 2005 between the News of the World assistant editor Greg Miskiw and Mulcaire – who was using an alias, Paul Williams. In the document, Miskiw promises Mulcaire a bonus of £7,000 if he delivers a specific story about Gordon Taylor.

The Guardian revealed last week that Taylor, Armstrong and a third person were paid a total of more than £1m in costs and damages by the News of the World's parent company, News Group, to settle a lawsuit for breach of privacy and to keep it secret. Davies told the committee: "It is hard to resist the conclusion that [News International] have consistently admitted only what has been dragged into the public domain and is indisputable."

The Guardian's editor, Alan Rusbridger, who was also giving evidence to MPs, said the Taylor story was significant "because it undermines the assurances given both to you and the PCC [Press Complaints Commission] about the sole reporter and the sole detective – the so-called rotten apple defence". He continued: "News International have known about the involvement of other journalists, including at senior level, for at least a year. It is believed the case [Gordon Taylor] was settled last September. So that begs the question: why they did not tell the PCC, the regulators, or this committee, of the new facts that have come to light."

The Conservative party's director of communications, Andy Coulson, who was editing the News of the World at the time of the Goodman case, resigned when Goodman was convicted.

Both documents produced by the Guardian today had been seized by police during the Goodman case.

Rusbridger said the Guardian story was not "a campaign to oust anybody".

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"It wasn't a campaign to reopen the police inquiry, or to call for prosecutions or to force anybody to resign. We have not called for any of those.

"As a paper we do believe in effective self-regulation and we don't want a privacy law. When it comes to effective self-regulation, it seems to me it can only work if newspaper groups are truthful and open with the regulators."

He suggested to MPs that a possible way forward for newspaper editors would be to draw on a definition of the public interest proposed by the government's former security co-ordinator Sir David Omand.

John Whittingdale, who chairs the culture committee, said the Guardian's revelations "raised questions" about the extent of phone hacking at the tabloid. News of the World editor Colin Myler and Tom Crone, the paper's in-house lawyer, will give evidence to the MPs next week.

It also emerged today that the Home Office questioned the decision by Scotland Yard's assistant commissioner, John Yates, not to reopen the Met's phone-tapping investigation.

An exchange of letters placed in the House of Commons library discloses that Stephen Rimmer, the Home Office's director general of crime and policing, wrote to Yates last Friday asking what the Met was doing about the allegations about the involvement of 27 other journalists and whether the police would be informing all those allegedly targeted.

Yates's reply, sent the same day, said that he had not conducted a review and said he had only been asked by the Met commissioner to establish the facts in the light of the Guardian's articles in connection with the 2005 police investigation.

Yates's confirmation that the original investigation did not cover any other journalists has fuelled demands at Westminster that Scotland Yard reopen its investigation. Its understood the Commons home affairs select committee is also likely to open its own investigation into the police failure to look into the wider allegations unless it receives a satisfactory explanation by the end of this week.

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Tabloid hacking hearing

Documents, denials and the public interest on day of drama in Committee Room 8

Evidence that three more journalists were involved
 Guardian editor calls for clear public interest test

James Robinson
 Caroline Davies

There was standing room only in House of Commons committee room No 8 at midday yesterday, when the Guardian's Nick Davies handed documents to MPs that revealed the extent to which tabloid journalists have used private investigators to obtain information by illegal means.

The oak-pannelled chamber was crowded with MPs, journalists and lawyers, who had gathered to hear the Culture select committee take evidence about allegations of involvement in phone hacking by the News of the World.

When Davies presented previously unseen copies of an email and a contract naming senior News of the World reporters to MPs, a hush descended on the room. He produced three separate documents he said showed how the News of the World had leant heavily on private investigators, and the suspect methods they employ.

The Guardian revealed last week that the News of the World had secretly paid £1m to three people who had their phones hacked by private investigators working for the paper. They included Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association.

Earlier, Tim Tuleman, director of the Press Complaints Commission, in evidence to MPs, said: "The fact that Gordon Taylor had sued the paper and the suggestion that another reporter at the NoW knew about [private investigator Glenn] Mulcaire's activity - I think that's

new, and we will be chasing that with the Guardian."

In addition to two documents relating to phone hacking activities which involved three News of the World journalists, the Guardian handed over a third document, a copy of a record of payments made by News International to Steve Whittamore, another private investigator, for work carried out dating back to 1998. The payments were for obtaining information requested by 27 News of the World journalists and four Sun journalists.

Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger told the committee: "It is common ground that journalists on many newspapers and for many years have been making widespread use of dubious methods. I think it is common ground that in some cases where there is a high public interest, those methods may be justified."

He said a reasonable definition of public interest was "notoriously difficult to pin down". A good checklist of guidelines, he said: "needs to take into account the potential harm this intrusion can do, the intrusion should be proportionate, there should be no fishing expeditions and it needs to be overseen".

He said the three key questions were "whether self regulation was effective in this case; whether the PCC had the full and accurate picture at the time they decided against rigorously investigating the Goodman/Mulcaire case themselves; and whether given the reassurances and as further facts came out, they, and perhaps you, should have been kept informed

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of those new facts”.

Davies said he had the names of 31 journalists from News Group who had used a private investigator, according to information that is only in the possession of the Information Commissioner. The list demonstrated other newspapers had also used the same services, he told MPs. Many of those were requests that are perfectly legal, including searches of the electoral register and company director searches.

But “several hundred” were clearly requests for information from databases where there would be have been a breach

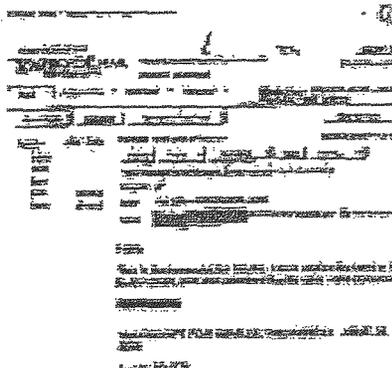
of the Data Protection Act, said Davies.

Davies said he would not name the journalists, who have not been charged with any offence, many of whom may not even know their names are on the list. But he revealed there were “a number of senior editorial executives” listed. They include Greg Miskiw, who was assistant editor at the News of the World at the time of the Goodman case.

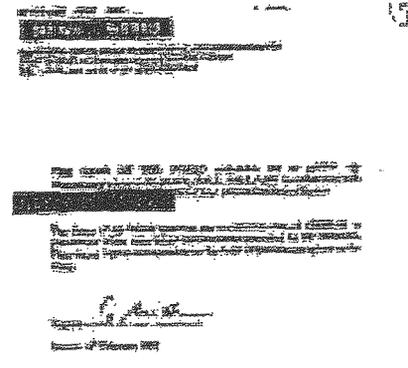
“[He] is recorded making 90 requests, 35 of those directed at confidential databases,” Davies told MPs. Miskiw is also named on a News International contract dating from early 2006 between Mulcaire and the News of the World, which offered him a £7,000 bonus for standing up a story about Taylor.

John Whittingdale, who chairs the committee said: “There might be some contradiction between [the Guardian stories] and the evidence given by Les Hinton two years ago,” he said.

Hinton, former chairman of News International, told a 2007 Culture committee hearing into self-regulation of the press that the paper had conducted an internal inquiry into allegations that journalists had used private investigators to hack into mobile phone messages. The inquiry concluded the practice was not widespread and Goodman had acted alone. Whittingdale said he had received a letter from Hinton saying he did not want to change the evidence he gave to the earlier investigation carried out by the Culture committee. He wrote that the answers he gave in 2007 were “sincere” and “comprehensive” and that he declined to appear.



Document one
 This is an excerpt from an email sent from the News of the World to private detective Glenn Mulcaire on 29 June 2005. Mulcaire's own account name appears at the top, in the middle of the page shadowmenuk@yahoo.co.uk. Below the date appears the name of the News of the World reporter who sent the email, which we have redacted. The message contains a copy of a transcript that the News of the World has made of Mulcaire's illegal tape recording. The recording was of voicemail messages on the hacked phones of Gordon Taylor and his legal adviser Jo Armstrong. The transcript was made for Neville Thurlbeck, chief reporter, News of the World. The message says: "This is the transcript for Neville"



Document two
 This document is a signed contract sent to Mulcaire by Greg Miskiw, former News of the World assistant editor (news), on 4 February 2005. In it, he offers Mulcaire a £7,000 bonus if he can obtain information to help construct a story about Gordon Taylor. Mulcaire goes on repeatedly to hack into the phones of Taylor and those connected to him. The contract is on the headed notepaper of the News of the World. In the second line of the contract, Miskiw has used a false name for Glenn Mulcaire. This suggests he was aware of the need for exceptional secrecy. In the third line, the Guardian has redacted a phrase describing the angle the News of the World was pursuing. It was never substantiated.

‘The fact that another reporter knew about [hacking] is new and we will be chasing that’