

contained problem than it was? That we have an open mind on, and that is one of the points that we are going to be looking at.

Q1152 Paul Farrelly: Can I just ask you what information you are going to be asking News International? Can I ask you a few points? Will you be asking how Mr Mulcaire was paid for his 'phone hacking activities in the Taylor and the other two cases; whether it came out of the retainer that they paid to Mr Mulcaire or did it come from a separate slush fund as was alleged to have operated at the time of Goodman? Will you be asking that question?

Mr Toulmin: I can see why you are going down that line, but I think I have to be quite clear that this is an ongoing issue. The Board of the PCC must meet and decide precisely what questions to put to the *News of the World*. In the meantime, we are gathering material from those people who are making the allegations. Nick Davies has kindly said he will answer our questions after he has spoken to you, and the Information Commissioner is giving us some further information as well. At that point, we will decide, as a body, what questions are right to ask to discover what we want to find out. If you have got a specific list of questions you think we should ask then, of course, we will take account of that.

Q1153 Paul Farrelly: Chairman, with your permission, might I just give you four more? I have suggested one that might be relevant. It is directly relevant to the evidence they gave you about Mr Mulcaire's retainer.

Mr Toulmin: Absolutely. We want to hear them yet.

Q1154 Paul Farrelly: Will you be asking them what submissions they made to the court in the Taylor case, and whether they were accurate or not? I think you might wish to ask for the transcripts of the 30 recordings that are alleged to have been made from Taylor's 'phone, and the journalists and executives who were involved. You might ask who knew about what

dealings with Whittamore and for copies of the alleged itemised account department records, and whether those were accompanied by statements that the searches were for the public interest. You might also ask, perhaps, how far up the chain of command the settlement of the Taylor case went, and whether indeed it went to the Board of News International and perhaps ask for board records and minutes. Clearly, the record was not corrected as far as the PCC was concerned because you were not told of the case. Is that correct?

Mr Toulmin: We were not told about?

Q1155 Paul Farrelly: The Taylor settlement.

Mr Toulmin: We were not told about the Taylor settlement, no.

Q1156 Paul Farrelly: I have one final question, if I might, Chairman. With Mr Coulson, we made a criticism in our last report of the PCC, that you did not invite him to give evidence regardless, even though he had resigned. Since then, Tim, on our visit to the PCC you have been brave and independent enough to say that, actually, thinking back, the PCC had missed a trick in that and should have called him. Have you got any plans now to put to your Board a recommendation to call him to ask exactly what was going on on his watch and what he has denied knowledge of and what he has not denied knowledge of?

Mr Toulmin: I am happy to repeat what I said to you at the PCC when you came over, and just for the record that was that although I did not think we needed to call Andy Coulson because I do not think it would have, in fact, added anything to the information we were given by the *News of the World*, which had conducted its own inquiry, of course, maybe, there is an argument presentationally that it would have been better to have been to have done so, and of course, as I recall, this Committee did not call him either, although you may be about to change that as well. The focus of this is on whether we were misled. If Andy Coulson has any evidence or if there is any evidence that Andy Coulson knows about whether we were