



ASSOCIATION OF  
CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

# Managing media relationships

## Security Classification

Unrestricted

## Disclosable under FOIA 2000

Yes

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## Date Created

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A successful working relationship between the police service and the media is vital. The police must have a relationship with the media, both at the top level, to communicate what the police are trying to do strategically, and at the operational level, to work with the local press to help solve crimes. It is appropriate to have such a relationship between police and media, but it must remain transparent and professional at all times.
- 1.2. With this in mind, we must be careful not to let recent events impact on proper professional relationships with media. As such, chief constables and staff may wish to take note of the following advice, based upon a recent updated policy adopted by the MPS management board.
- 1.3. We would encourage you to refer to the ACPO Communications Advisory Guidance, available on the ACPO [website](#). These guidelines aim to widen the shared understanding between the media and the police service, outlining the kind of information and cooperation the media can expect.

## 2. ADVICE

### 2.1. ACPO officers and senior police staff should:

- Ensure that a record is made of any interviews with the media. A brief note should be taken of what was discussed and the outcome
- All meetings with journalists should be a matter of record (of taking place). Such a record should include purpose, time, and place
- Senior officers should be accompanied to interviews by a member of their media department

- Senior officers and staff should utilise the hospitality register fully to record any hospitality received from media
- Senior officers may also wish to refer to the ACPO Guide to Police Service Publication Scheme, which provides advice when looking at hospitality and the information required for the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act requests. This provides a good overview of what is required by the Information Commissioner's Office.