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

22 March 2011

Dear Theresa,

#### PHONE HACKING INVESTIGATION

Since Monday 7 March, a number of extremely serious revelations have emerged in the media in relation to the phone-hacking investigation. As Home Secretary, these matters cannot simply be ignored, or given the excuse that this is the responsibility for the Metropolitan Police Service. Instead, they warrant the launching of an immediate Home Office inquiry.

Firstly, it was revealed on Panorama earlier this month, in a secretly recorded confession, that the then editor of the News of the World's Irish edition, Alex Marunchak, was sent ex-British intelligence officer Ian Hurst's private emails in 2006. Mr Hurst is believed to have been targeted as he had worked in British Army intelligence running IRA informers in Northern Ireland.

While making unauthorised modifications and gaining unauthorised access to someone's computer is illegal under the Computer Misuse Act, I am sure you will want to immediately investigate whether a former serving British intelligence officer illegally had his private emails accessed. The fact that intelligence officers may have been targeted takes this inquiry to a new level knowing that our national security may have been compromised.

The revelations that Mr Hurst was targeted are truly damning. They also show that this investigation is no longer solely about telephones being hacked. For private emails to be obtained and accessed, it clearly shows that the Metropolitan Police Service must take the hacking of computers into account as part of their investigations. As Home Secretary, you must ensure that the Metropolitan Police is provided with the necessary tools and resources to do so by the Home Office.

Panorama also revealed new evidence that claimed Mr Marunchak, while at the paper, paid private investigator Jonathan Rees, through his firm Southern Investigations, £150,000 per annum for a number of exclusive stories based on

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confidential police material. Again, this is a staggering revelation and raises questions over whether national security may have been compromised. As Home Secretary, I know you will want to immediately investigate whether police officers have illegally been paid by News International for stories that have appeared in their newspapers.

The naming of Mr Marunchak now brings the total number of News International journalists and executives known to have been named as being associated with the illegal hacking of phones and emails to six. Once again, this completely blows away News International's defence that a "single rogue reporter" (Clive Goodman) was solely responsible for the activities that went on at News of the World. As Home Secretary, I am sure you will want to satisfy yourself that this latest lead will be followed up by the Metropolitan Police Service, and that Mr Marunchak will be interviewed.

Finally, you will no doubt be aware of the very public spat that appeared in *The Guardian* newspaper at the weekend between the Metropolitan Police's Assistant Commissioner, Mr John Yates, and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Keir Starmer QC. In a letter to the newspaper on 13 March, in response to a letter from the Assistant Commissioner of 12 March, The Director of Public Prosecutions claims it is "regrettable that John Yates has taken one sentence of my evidence to the culture, media and sport select committee out of context" before detailing his own counter views on the situation. Again, as Home Secretary, I am sure you will agree that is wholly inappropriate for an ongoing police investigation into telephone hacking, between two of the most senior people in the justice system, to be allowed to spill over into the national press, and trust that you will want to speak to those concerned.

Given the seriousness of the matters that I have outlined to you in this letter, I would be grateful for your early response. Thank you in advance for your assistance and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Tom Watson  
Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East