

Ms Sue Akers
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

14 June 2011

Dear Sue,

I am sorry to write to you again regarding the conduct of the investigation into hacking at News International.

Not knowing the finer details of the investigation, it may be that what I tell you is in hand. However, it would be negligent of me not to pass on what one of the News International insiders has recently told me.

I have been informed that News International employees are sifting through their data and sharing what they see as relevant information with an independent third party who, in turn, is sharing information with investigating officers. This is because the MPS have accepted an argument that a form of journalistic privilege exists. If this is indeed the system you have agreed I cannot help thinking it is flawed. My concerns were exacerbated when the insider told me that there is a second, covert operation underway at the company.

They have alleged that a "cleaner" has been brought in to eradicate evidence that may help you bring criminal charges. They say this is with particular regard to financial payments that may have been made to journalists who were then paying informants for information. They believe that the evidence shows that officers of the Metropolitan Police were paid for information. They say that the work to destroy evidence is happening now and that if urgent action is not taken it will be successful.

To repeat: this is an allegation and not based on hard evidence but in light of its seriousness, I feel duty bound to copy this letter to the Home Secretary.

I will, of course, keep the contents of this letter confidential.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Tom Watson
Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East

Cc The Rt Hon. Theresa May MP, Home Secretary