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Tom Watson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Tom

Thank you for your letter of 2 September to the Deputy Prime Minister, about reporting in the *New York Times* on phone hacking at the *News of the World*.

I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Government.

This matter was discussed in the House on Monday 6 September when I responded to your urgent question on this issue and updated the House on the latest developments. This included the fact that the previous investigation into phone hacking at the *News of the World* had been looked at afresh, including by the previous Government, around July 2009 and no further action was deemed necessary then.

As I made clear on Monday, at present, a series of allegations have been made by a newspaper. The Metropolitan Police have indicated that they are making enquiries of the newspaper in an effort to elicit any fresh material in relation to these allegations. They have also indicated that it is their intention to see Mr Sean Hoare at some stage in the near future about his comments.

This is a police operational matter in which neither the Government, nor individual ministers, have any remit.

With regard to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), this is entirely an independent body, and it is therefore for the IPCC itself to determine whether there are any issues in the case falling within its remit, or how it should deal with any complaints that it may receive.

As I said on Monday the most appropriate course of action is to await the outcome of the further police inquiries, and that is what the Government intends to do.



Rt Hon. Theresa May MP