

Witness: Tim Godwin
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The Leveson Inquiry into the Culture Practices and Ethics of the Press

Witness: Tim Godwin

Address: c/o Metropolitan Police Service, New Scotland Yard

1. I have been asked to provide this statement for the purpose of assisting the Leveson Inquiry. In preparing this statement I have sought to address all the questions asked of me in the Notice served pursuant to s.21 (2) of the Inquiries Act 2005. Where the answers to the questions are outside my personal knowledge, I have relied upon specialist departments within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to provide the responses.

Question (1) Who you are and a brief summary of your career history.

2. I am Tim Godwin. I set out below a brief summary of my career history:
3. I joined Sussex Police in 1981. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1986, to Inspector in 1989 and then to Chief Inspector in 1991. Shortly after becoming a Chief Inspector I was made Acting Superintendent, and then a full Superintendent and Head of Personnel in 1992. In 1993 I became Divisional Commander. I held this post for three years and then moved to become Head of Crime at Sussex Police in 1996.

4. I transferred to the MPS in 1999 and was promoted to Commander (Crime), with specific responsibilities for South London. In 2001 I was promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing and in 2002 I was promoted again to Assistant Commissioner. I became Acting Deputy Commissioner in 2008 and was appointed as Deputy Commissioner on a permanent basis in July 2009. I have been Temporary Commissioner on two occasions: in 2010, when Sir Paul Stephenson took time off due to illness, and again in 2011, when Sir Paul Stephenson resigned. I remained in post until his replacement, Bernard Hogan-Howe, was formally appointed on 12th September 2011.
5. I retired from the MPS on 5th January 2012.

(2) What were your first impressions, upon taking office for the first time in the Metropolitan Police Service, about the culture of relations with the media? How have those impressions changed over time (if at all)?

6. Upon taking office in the MPS as South Area Commander, my first impression was that there was a great deal of interest in the MPS from the national media, both print media and broadcasting media (TV and radio). This was the key difference between the MPS and Sussex Police. The main focus of media interest and relationships whilst I was at Sussex Police was with the local media, such as the *Evening Argus* and other local newspapers, together with local broadcasters, radio and TV.
7. At the time I joined the MPS, the relationship with the media was changing. Following the Macpherson Inquiry the MPS was perceived by the media and the public as a closed and secretive organisation.

Strategically it was thought necessary to be far more open and transparent as an organisation. One of the ways to achieve this was to have an open and honest relationship with the media. From my recollection, one effect of this shift was that MPS personnel were empowered to speak on a particular policing issue, provided they felt qualified to do so. However, there would be occasions when it would not be appropriate to speak to the media, where to do so would damage the integrity of an investigation or the operational effectiveness of the police.

8. At the beginning of my career with the MPS the media's focus was on the organisation as a whole. They reported on what the MPS had collectively achieved in terms of tackling and reducing crime or the reverse if crime rose. Everything was therefore seen by the media and the public as very much a team effort. Any media criticisms about rising crime, or other policing issues, focused on what the MPS as a whole had or had not done. Over time this changed.
9. In 2000/2001 the focus appeared to shift far more towards individuals, predominantly senior police officers. This replicated in my opinion the rise of the "celebrity police chief" in the USA, where individual police chiefs were being credited with significant crime reductions in certain cities. Most professional police officers and commentators realise that crime cannot be reduced by an individual. It requires a team effort, with effective policing by many personnel and often many other agencies coming together in a coordinated fashion.

10. In my view tackling crime is done through investment in people (which includes local authorities, TfL, the probation services and community partnerships) and a more effective use of the criminal justice system to enforce the law.
11. In the UK I believe we started to follow the trend where the emphasis was far more on individual police chiefs, rather than on the overall workings of the service. It seemed to me that this was the result of the press having greater access to individual high profile police officers rather than being limited to obtaining information through press releases and statistics from the Directorate of Public Affairs (DPA) and the Home Office.

(3) Describe the personal contact which you had with the media at the various stages of your career. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of your contact with the media during your tenure as Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

12. As Deputy Commissioner I had limited direct contact with the media and this was the same with my previous roles as Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Assistant Commissioner and South Area Commander. I probably had a little more contact as South Area Commander, as I would attend briefings and provide interviews to the press about criminal activity in London and what the MPS were doing about it.
13. The contact I had with the media was managed by the press officer allocated to my business group from the DPA. Press contact would generally relate to the following: responding to events or incidents that

had occurred within my command; dealing with specific issues that I needed to contextualise; and announcing new initiatives on behalf of the unit I was responsible for.

14. These events would be arranged by the DPA and would take place predominantly within my working day. They were relatively infrequent, but on occasions I also attended the monthly Crime Reporters Association (CRA) briefings with the Commissioner.

(4) Describe what you are seeking to gain for the Metropolitan Police through your personal contacts with the media.

15. As I have explained, my contacts with the media were arranged by the DPA. I did not have what I would describe as personal contacts with members of the media. My objectives were solely to answer concerns that were being raised in the media about police operations or criminal activity. I also wished to inform the public about some of the key strategic challenges that the MPS faced. This achieved the aims of ensuring both that accurate reporting took place and that the public were kept up to date about recent and important police activity.

(5) Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the media has been seeking from you in your personal dealing with them during your career.

16. In general terms, the media seemed most interested in finding out from me what was being done to tackle street crime. For example, along with other agencies (including the Home Office), I set up Operation Safer Streets to tackle robbery. Part of the initiative was to publicise how the police were tackling robbery and to provide information to the public

concerning: what items were being targeted by the thieves; what were the methods employed; and what preventative steps people could take.

17. More recently I was very keen on the concept of justice reinvestment in tackling the problem of recidivism. This involved, in my view, a waste of public resources arising from short-term prison sentences. I set up a programme called the Diamond Initiative in partnership with the Probation Service and the Ministry of Justice together with the Mayor and local authorities. This partnership sought to tackle recidivism given the high volume of offenders in certain estates in London.
18. I had various meetings with a Channel 4 reporter. These were arranged by the DPA, who were also present. My objectives were to publicise the issues, to gain support, and thereafter to counter the popular argument that prison is the best and often only solution for offending. I could achieve these objectives, in part, if I publicised the issues to encourage public debate.
19. As a result of my meetings with the Channel 4 reporter, a report was produced for Channel 4 News to demonstrate the valuable work that was going on in London to tackle repeat offending. As part of this report, I identified the challenges that we faced and what the MPS were doing, in partnership with others, to try and keep London and Londoners safe.
20. These are just two examples of my personal dealings with the media.

(6) To what extent have you accepted hospitality from the media whilst a senior officer in the MPS?

(7) Insofar as you have accepted hospitality from the media, what has been the nature of the hospitality that you have accepted?

21. I very rarely accepted any form of hospitality from the media. I did attend the annual CRA Christmas party together with other police officers from across the country. I have also attended the following events: Police Review Community Policing Awards; The Sun Bravery Awards; Evening Standard 1000 Most Influential Londoners event. These were also attended by other police chiefs from across the country. All these events, and others, are recorded in my hospitality register, which I exhibit as TG/1.

22. All these events were invitation-only large events with lots of attendees. The CRA event was an annual event held at Christmas time and was again by invitation only. The purpose from the MPS' point of view was to build and maintain relationships.

(8) To what extent have you provided hospitality for the media on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service?

(9) Insofar as you have provided hospitality to the media, what has been the nature of the hospitality that you provided?

23. I cannot recall providing hospitality to the media on any occasion in the 12 years I was employed by the MPS. I am aware that the DPA used to host a reception after Christmas for the media. I can only recall having an alcoholic drink with a reporter on a couple of occasions. The first occasion was with an *Evening Standard* reporter in relation to the

publication of the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative. This was arranged by the DPA and a press officer was present.

24. The other was with a Channel 4 reporter in relation to the Diamond Initiative when a press officer was again in attendance from the DPA. Both meetings took place in the early evening and they were not accompanied by any further hospitality. I did not claim expenses for the refreshments that I purchased.

(10) What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record hospitality as between senior officers and the media?

25. Hospitality is recorded in a published hospitality register. The entries relating to me are attached to this statement (as mentioned above).

(11) What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record meetings with the media generally?

26. All meetings I had with the media should have been recorded in my diaries. Since July 2011, the record of all media contacts by members of the Management Board (senior officers) has been the subject of an auditing process through the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Professional Standards. I do not believe there was any policy for formally monitoring records of meetings with the media before then.
27. The MPS Media Relations Policy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Notice 23/2008 (which can be found at tab A of the MPS Master Bundle) requires that the 24-hour Press Bureau at New Scotland Yard (NSY) or the relevant local Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) are made aware of any interviews given to national

newspapers, TV and radio, or regional media. I believe Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe has dealt with this (along with many of the other questions below about the policies and procedures in place at the MPS) in more detail in his statement.

(12) Have you ever discussed the media, or media coverage, with politicians? If so, how important is such communication and why?

28. Both the media and media coverage were predominantly discussed publicly at Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) meetings. This was as a result of the members quoting from media articles when asking questions about policing issues. Politicians understandably use the media as a way of raising awareness and encouraging debate about the health and wellbeing of London. These public meetings provided the MPS with a platform to put some of the media stories quoted by the members in context and where necessary comment upon them and correct any inaccuracies.
29. Equally, a number of stories that appeared in the media resulted in police officers appearing before the Home Affairs Select Committee and indeed other Committees. Again the context, accuracy and/or inaccuracy of those stories could be debated publicly and this gave the MPS an opportunity to correct the record or provide context.
30. I do recall having conversations about media stories with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and individual members of the MPA. Most of these conversations were in relation to the accuracy or otherwise of the items reported in the media. They provided an opportunity to put the reports

in context and on occasion provide comments on any reputational damage to the MPS and any organisational response.

(13) Have you ever known, or sensed, that a politician has put pressure on you to take a particular course of action as a result of lobbying or influence exerted on that politician by the media? If so, please explain (although you need not identify the politician at this stage if you do not wish to do so).

31. I cannot personally recall any individual politician ever putting pressure on me to take a particular course of action as a result of lobbying or influence by the media.

(14) Has the prominence which politicians have given to subjects ever given rise to pressure to alter policing priorities so as to allocate more priority to the subject being given prominence by the politicians? If so, please explain.

32. The key politicians involved in setting priorities for the MPS are the Home Secretary, the Policing Minister, the Mayor of London, and Members of the MPA (now the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC)). There is always considerable debate between the politicians and the police about what policing priorities should be. The vast majority of these debates were conducted in the public forums of the MPA. Members of the MPA did apply pressure on the police to alter policing priorities because that was the nature of their role.

(15) Are contacts with the media restricted to certain staff or are all staff able to deal with the media?

33. The DPA staff deal with the media on a daily basis and other officers and staff less frequently, depending on their role. I believe the DPA provide training to officers and staff who have fairly regular contact with

the media. This again will vary according to the rank and the role of the police officer and the specifics of their work within the MPS.

34. The Media SOP sets out that officers of Inspector rank or above can speak to the media without prior approval from senior officers. Often more junior officers will speak to the media about a specific issue or event, especially if they have a specialist role. However, they will require authorisation from a more senior officer to do so.

(17) What do you expect the Metropolitan Police to gain from such contacts with the media?

35. The aim of media contact is to ensure that the MPS is seen to be accountable, open, transparent and honest. This will also provide for the correct context to be given for the events that are to be reported. I believe that, by explaining what we as an organisation are doing, we will give reassurance and confidence to the public that we are tackling crime and keeping the streets of London safe.

(18) What do the media seek from such contacts with your personnel?

36. The vast majority of the media want to understand the professional reasons and the strategic intentions of what we are doing and why we are doing it. On occasion they wish to obtain information where something is perceived to have gone wrong, or indeed has gone wrong, in order to understand why it occurred.
37. There are also instances where a few members of the media seek contact from MPS staff for less appropriate reasons. These can range

from attempts by the media to either embarrass or attack MPS staff to apportion blame, or get operational information that is at that time confidential and, if disclosed, may be harmful to ongoing police operations.

(19) What hospitality are your personnel permitted to accept from the media? Inter alia, are they entitled to accept a meal or a drink from a journalist

(20) What hospitality are your personnel permitted to afford to the media?

(21) What mechanisms are in place to record hospitality as between the media and your personnel?

(22) How (if at all) is hospitality between the MPS (including yourself) and the media controlled and/or regulated?

(23) Are the hospitality rules governing contact between MPS personnel (including yourself) and the media different from those covering contact with other third parties? If so, what are the differences?

(24) What policies and procedures are in place to record contact between: (a) yourself and the media; (b) senior managers and the media; (c) other personnel and the media? For the avoidance of doubt please answer in relation to both formal and informal communications.

38. The current Gifts and Hospitality SOP Notice 05/09 (which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle) does not prevent a meal or drink being accepted from the media, but any such gift or offer of hospitality must be very carefully considered and it should be recorded on the hospitality register (as previously mentioned). There is no distinction that I am aware of made in the hospitality rules between contact with the media and any other third parties.

39. Contact with the media more broadly is recorded by the DPA. There is no difference between senior officers/managers and more junior

personnel (apart from the Inspector-level and above prior authorisation distinction mentioned above). As far as I am aware, the rules apply equally to formal and informal (or 'on the record' and 'off the record') communications.

(25) Are records of hospitality and other contact with the media audited and/or policed and, if so, how and by whom?

40. As noted above, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Professional Standards has audited the record of all media contacts by members of the Management Board since July 2011. When I was Deputy Commissioner the upkeep and review of Management Board hospitality registers was delegated to the Head of Human Resources, who had ownership of the hospitality policy to ensure that it was complied with.

(26) In your opinion are the policies and procedures described above: (a) working effectively; (b) sufficient; and (c) capable of improvement?

41. The Filkin Report (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) has rightly highlighted areas where the MPS must look to improve. This can be achieved by the MPS changing their current policies and accepted practices in relation to the media.

42. Historically, the MPS is an organisation which has always been willing to respond positively to critical reports and look to initiate change where it is needed. I am confident that the MPS will respond to the Filkin Report appropriately and address the areas of concern.

(27) What systems, policies and procedures are in place in the Metropolitan Police to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

(28) Are you satisfied that the policies and procedures described above are sufficient and working effectively? Do you consider that they are capable of improvement?

(29) What training is in place in the Metropolitan police to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

43. As mentioned above, there is a SOP for both Gifts and Hospitality and Media Relations. These are available on the MPS intranet and provide guidance to officers and staff. I am also aware that training is provided by the DPA to staff, depending on how much media contact different officers and staff are likely to have. I believe Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe has addressed this in greater detail in his statement.

(30) To what extent have leaks from the Metropolitan Police Service to the media been a problem during your tenure as a senior officer?

44. Leaks within the MPS have been a problem because on a number of occasions a 'police source' has been quoted in the media as commenting on a police investigation, which has resulted in embarrassment to the MPS. As I discuss below, it is open to debate whether the "police source" is a police officer at all. The current MPS policy sets out that if you are qualified to give a view on a police matter then you should. In order to foster transparency and openness comments made to the media should not be anonymous, unless it is an incidence of whistle blowing or there is a strong public interest in doing so.

45. The problem for the MPS is that it is often impossible to identify the source of a leak. This is because of the large number of people that had access to particular information or had been aware of an event. On occasion it was not only MPS personnel who had access to information, but also people from outside the MPS i.e. Metropolitan Police Authority members or officials and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).
46. Given the large number of people who have access to information, through various internal and external departments, it is often difficult to control the dissemination of information or subsequently ascertain where any leak originated. Journalists were also loath to support leak investigations by identifying their sources, for obvious reasons.
47. I launched a number of leak enquiries within the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS), but for the reasons outlined above they were extremely difficult to pursue and prosecute. I also understand that on occasions where it was suggested that the leak had come from the MPS, this was sometimes not the case. This appears to be supported by comments in the Filkin Report where journalists have told Ms Filkin that they sometimes claimed information had come from a 'police source' when in fact it had not, in order to protect their real source or to attach credence to their story.

(31) What systems and procedures are in place to identify, respond to and detect the source of leaks?

(32) How many investigations have been conducted into actual or suspected leaks from the Metropolitan Police Service to the media been commenced during the last 5 years and how many have led to the successful identification of the source of the leak. What was the outcome of the other investigations?

(33) Has disciplinary action been taken against any member of staff (whether civilian or uniformed) for leaking information to the media during the last 5 years? If so, please identify the number of cases and their outcome. There is no need to identify the person or persons the subject of the disciplinary process.

48. I believe Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe has dealt with these questions in some detail in his statement. Briefly, I am aware that all employees who access police databases are liable to have their usage of such databases audited. I am also aware that the DPS conduct a daily media review, whereby any media content concerning the MPS which appears to be based on unofficial sources (i.e. not from the DPA, authorised individual officers/staff or FOIA requests) is identified and investigated. Further, any complaints or tips from internal or external sources about potential leaks are also investigated.

(34) What payments (if any) are considered to be legitimate financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media?

(35) What policies and/or guidance are in place in relation to financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media?

49. My initial reaction is that there are no legitimate financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media. I think there may have been occasions where individuals had a registered business interest, which allows payment but only in certain defined situations. I have no knowledge of such procedures, as I have never had cause to declare or

record any such payment. I can confirm that I have not received payment at any point whilst an MPS employee outside the boundaries of my contract of employment.

(36) To what extent do you believe bribery of personnel by the media to be a current problem for the Metropolitan Police Service (if at all)?

50. I believe that it is inevitable that in an organisation of around 53,000 people there will be "bad apples". Historically, police officers have been and will always be approached for information due to the nature of their job. Often such approaches will be from the criminal fraternity in support of criminal activity and these will always be investigated thoroughly by the Anti-Corruption Command of the DPS. Any bribery allegations connected to leaks to the media will also be pursued.

51. We are less likely to pursue leaks if they are simply embarrassing because, firstly, it is unlikely to be a proportionate use of public money and, secondly, because of the probable lack of success in establishing the perpetrator. The DPS also engages in proactive operations to prevent bribery or corruption, which is predominantly based around monitoring of computer systems (e.g. as mentioned above in relation to databases). Overall, I do not believe that bribery of personnel, by the media or in general, is a significant challenge.

(37) What steps are taken: (a) to educate your personnel about bribery; (b) otherwise to prevent the bribery of your personnel; (c) pro-actively to detect bribery; (d) retrospectively to investigate bribery; and (e) to discipline personnel (if any) who are found to have accepted bribes from the media?

52. The issue of corruption and how to avoid it, or the appearance of it, is covered with student officers, Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables in training. I believe the DPS also provides further training on various aspects of corruption including bribery and the circumstances in which it may arise.

(38) What role does the Metropolitan Police Service Directorate of Public Affairs (especially the Press Bureau) fulfil? What, in practice, does it do?

(39) To what extent does the Press Bureau exist to manage the Metropolitan Police Service's corporate image in the media?

53. The DPA provides professional communications services and media relations expertise to support the full range of work carried out by the MPS. The Press Bureau is open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week and handles calls constantly from journalists from all over the UK and the world. It also provides responses to major incidents and assistance to other police officers and staff in responding to media questions and inquiries. I have had regular contact with the DPA during my career at the MPS and I see its essential role as assisting all police officers, regardless of rank, with its contact with the media.

(40) Why is it necessary for the MPS to have a Press Office, and what is your view as to its utility and role?

54. There is a huge amount of local, national and international interest in the work that the MPS does. This is due to the number of high profile events that occur in London (and the scale of many of them) and the fact that we police the capital city. The MPS also has a national responsibility for Royalty and Diplomatic Protection, and is a lead for

counter-terrorism. It accounts for nearly a quarter of English policing resources overall.

55. The MPS would simply be unable to cope with the demands of policing the capital city without a fully operational press office.
56. It is a core part of our constitutional freedoms to have a free press who can ask questions and hold organisations like the police to account. Consequently the MPS needs a press office to be able to deal with those questions and provide appropriate and accurate answers. This ensures that the press are informed when events are occurring, and are able to assist in appeals for witnesses and other important public announcements.

(41) What is the media's attitude towards the MPS Press Office? In particular, are they satisfied by the provision of information and the routing of communications through your press office or do they prefer direct contact with individual personnel within the MPS?

57. This is probably a question which the media would be best placed to answer. A number of journalists have asked me for my mobile phone number over the years. Save for very few occasions, where a follow up conversation was necessary to clarify a point, or where I have returned a call with my caller ID on, I have always declined.
58. The fact that I was asked suggests that they would prefer direct contact rather than having to go through the DPA. I think one of the reasons for this may be a perception that if a piece of information is with the DPA another newspaper or journalist might get wind of the story that they are pursuing. I am aware of the pressures that journalists are under to

obtain news stories and therefore contacting specific officers would bypass the DPA and increase their chance of obtaining an exclusive.

59. I personally have not supported or encouraged direct contact with journalists. I have on occasion received telephone calls on my mobile from journalists to whom I have not given my mobile phone number or indeed given permission to anyone else to do so. When this did occur I generally batted off the journalists' questions as best I could, without giving away any inappropriate information.

(42) What role does the Metropolitan Police Authority play in relation to oversight of the Metropolitan Police Service's relations and communications with the media? Do you consider that it would be in the public interest to make any changes to this role? If so, what changes?

60. The MPA ceased to exist on 16th January 2012; its functions are now being carried out by the MOPC. I think that it is important that police chiefs have the right to talk to the media. This allows the MPS to brief the media on crucial and up to date police activity and to set the context for events and incidents.
61. The current legislation reinforces the operational independence of the police. This means that the police chief has to be held accountable for their force's operational activity and that will require contact and dialogue with the media.
62. I believe that relationships will change with the advent of the Police and Crime Committee and the MOPC, although I cannot be more specific at this early stage.

(43) What level of contact and oversight has there been from the MPA in relation to the MPS' relations and communications with the media since you took up your present post?

63. There has been a lot of contact and oversight by the MPA in relation to the media since I took office. As I mentioned above the MPA took a great deal of interest in how we were dealing with the media and responding to criticisms or challenges. They were also interested in how we were getting the message out to Londoners about the good work that the MPS were doing. There would be a number of conversations in a week with the Chair of the MPA, but it naturally depended very much on what was going on.

(44) What level of contact and oversight has there been from the MPA in relation to the MPS' policing of the media since you took up your present post?

64. Since the *Guardian* articles in relation to phone hacking, there has been significant interest in relation to the policing of the press. Predominantly these were briefings to MPA meetings and public debates at full MPA meetings, which were on occasion live broadcasts on TV and are a matter of record.

(45) What limitations, if any, are there on staff from the Metropolitan Police Service leaving to work for the media and vice versa?

(46) Are records kept of those who join the MPS from the media, or go on to work for the media after leaving the MPS? If so, please describe the system in place.

(47) To the best of your knowledge are there any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into the MPS and vice versa?

65. I am not aware of any MPS generic policy imposing any restrictions on MPS staff leaving to work for the media and vice versa. I am aware

that all police officers and staff are subject to a duty of confidentiality, once their contract of employment has been terminated. The MPS is a huge organisation and therefore recording the movement of all employees to "media" organisations would, in my opinion, detract from front line policing. I am not aware of any current practices in this regard.

(48) What levels of awareness and experience are there in the Metropolitan Police Service of "media crime" and in particular: (a) unlawful interception of communications (including the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act); (b) bribery of officials by the media; (c) blackmail; (d) harassment by paparazzi and journalists; (e) traffic and/or public order offences committed by photographers and journalists pursuing stories; (f) inciting officials to communicate confidential information held by the MPS / conspiring with them to obtain such information; and (g) crime within media organisations other than the foregoing (e.g. dishonest expense claims)?

(49) What sort of priority is given to, and what level of resources are available to deal with, the above?

66. The MPS has had to deal with 'media crime' of the sort described in these questions in recent years, and has developed significant expertise as a result. The DPS will investigate offences where MPS personnel are involved. These allegations are taken very seriously. I understand that the role of the DPS is set out more fully in the witness statement of Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe.

(50) During the phone hacking investigation and the subsequent prosecution of Messrs Goodman and Mulcaire in 2006/7 what contact and/or communications did you have on the subject (if any) with: (a) any person in or connected with the media; (b) senior management colleagues? Please cover both formal and informal contacts and communications in your reply.

67. I had no contact with any person in the media in relation to the first phone hacking investigation and the subsequent prosecutions of Mr

Goodman and Mr Mulcaire in 2007. Further, I cannot recall it being discussed at a senior management level either formally or informally.

(51) Whilst you have been a senior officer in the MPS has contact with the IPCC and/or the Surveillance Commissioner and/or the Information Commissioner ever given rise to questions about the leakage of information to the media and/or private detectives? If so, please explain? (ie. did the IPCC or Information Commissioner ever discuss Leaks with you?)

68. During my time as Deputy Commissioner these conversations would have predominantly fallen to the head of the DPS or, in the case of the Surveillance Commissioner, the head or deputy of Serious Crime Command. I cannot ever recall having a personal conversation with the Surveillance Commissioner and I cannot recall any specific discussions with the IPCC.

(52) What is your opinion of the recommendations contained in the HMIC's recent report "Without Fear or Favour"?

69. I have read the recommendations made by Sir Dennis O'Connor (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports). They accord with those contained with the Filkin Report and I believe them to be sensible in light of the recent experiences.

(53) Do you consider that there are further steps which could and/or should be taken to ensure that relationships between the police and the media are and remain appropriate?

70. Yes, I think there should be greater transparency between the media and the police. The relationship the MPS has with the media is vital for the reasons I have set out above. There should also be consideration of having an arrangement with the media to enable the MPS to pursue

leaks that are damaging to the operational effectiveness of the police in protecting citizens, as opposed to legitimate whistle blowing.

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed

Dated.....*27.01.2012*.....