

Witness Name: **Kit Malthouse**

Statement no: **First**

Exhibit: **KM31**

Date: 29 February 2012

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

Exhibit KM31 to the
Witness Statement of **Kit Malthouse**

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News

Pippa Crerar, City Hall
Editor
25 Mar 2010

Boris Johnson's deputy mayor for policing is to launch an investigation into corruption in the Met.

Kit Malthouse, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Authority, said he would "formally scrutinise" the anti-corruption systems within the force.

The move comes after Tim Godwin, the Met's deputy commissioner, admitted there would always be "rotten apples" within the police.



Admission: Kit Malthouse and Deputy Commissioner Tim Godwin, right

The force is investigating Enfield crime squad over allegations involving theft from property stores. A source said: "The Met is aware of a big corruption scandal within its own ranks and is going to come down on it like a ton of bricks."

But an MPA source denied the inquiry was in response to any particular case. Mr Malthouse is understood to be happy with the Met's 500-strong anti-corruption squad — dubbed the "Ghost Squad" or the "Sherlock Holmes team". But he has concerns over the internal structures in place to prevent corruption. Officials could investigate access to highly sensitive police computer systems and how seized property is recorded and stored.

A senior MPA source said: "We're very good on the Sherlock Holmes' side but we don't know if there are sufficiently robust internal structures to deter and detect and stop corruption happening in the first place.

"It's one area which is obviously critical in terms of police performance. It's not necessarily in response to any particular issues but it's obviously something the public are concerned about."

The inquiry is expected to begin this year and take three to four months to complete and make recommendations.

An MPA spokeswoman said: "The exact details have yet to be agreed but it will establish evidence that the Met has structures in place both to tackle corruption and to discourage corrupt practices from developing."

Mr Godwin has revealed that 40 per cent of the Met's corruption cases came from criminals approaching officers and staff to try to access police databases. He told MPs: "When you have an organisation that totals 55,000 people, there will always be rotten apples. There will be people who, for whatever reason, succumb to behaviour which is criminal.

"We have a dedicated command purely there to hunt them out. We have 26 convictions in the last 12 to 18 months and it is that sort of level we are operating at."

Ten officers from Enfield are being investigated over a allegations involving theft from property stores. The claims centre around flat-screen TVs and other electrical goods which went missing after being seized from criminals.

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Six of these officers are also being investigated over allegations of so-called "waterboarding" when suspects arrested in a drugs raid reportedly had their heads ducked in water. Seven officers have been suspended and three placed on restricted duties.

MPA member Jenny Jones said: "Corruption is a disease that the Met is never quite clear of. If you give an organisation so many extra powers, it's inevitable that some will abuse them and it's a condition that needs constant doctoring."
Mr Malthouse was understood to be setting out his plans to the MPA today.

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Reader views (8)

It is a problem that goes right through. A school friend of mine never paid for a restaurant bill when on the beat. Last I heard he was a Chief Super. I am sure that most of his colleagues at that level also managed to arrange such perks of the Job.

- Coylum, Vancouver, Canada, 26/03/2010 04:40

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If corruption takes place it should be dealt with but let's face facts how old is this incident ??? Why so long ago and still nothing done !!! It has been stated that 20 odd convictions in upto 18 months for a 500 strong squad where by own admission a significant percentage of information is through prisoners how can the extremely low results justify 500 officers wages per year !!! Surely it should be fair for the dps to disclose there detection rate as every other force or unit does but maybe it would highlight a IN HOUSE ISSUE and shock the public too much. Mmmm 500 officers 20 odd convictions in a year and a half the results speak for themselves.

- Mr Realist, London, 25/03/2010 21:17

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A bent cop is worse than a bent politician

- Dhan Raj, Basildon

I agree. At least we know that when a politician's lips are moving he/she is lying, but we need to know that our police officers are way beyond reproach.

- Nora Kane, london, 25/03/2010 16:58

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my eldest boy who was 16 at the time of an alledged offence was taken to crown court for a burgaly where the victim had learning difficulties and was led to pick him out and did. in our defence we asked for the arresting officers disiplinary record (as i knew of events relating to this officer) and they swerved the case by putting him on a 5 week course so we did nt get to see it. its the first time i have heard of an arresting officer who also charged him to not appear in court for a date that was set for 6 months. the corruption goes deep in the police force and also the cps as my son has blonde hair and the victim said black, also

when my son was arrested he was asked to account for a date over a month previous and not told what day of the week it was, as who, off the top of their head could recount a day 5 weeks earlier and especially if your only a kid.

- Owen Mulhall, london uk, 25/03/2010 16:46

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To solve all the problems in the police there MUST be an investigation into the changes made, introduced or inforced regarding recruitment, promotion and training systems. All the vast number of errors over many years are the direct (and only) result or caused by the changes that started, introduced or inforced in the middle and late eighties. Until this cause of the disgraceful changes in police are investigated and inspected there will never ever be a main and full cure of the vast mistakes, errors and crimes.

- Toldasitis, London, 25/03/2010 15:47

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Dhan Raj, I wouldn't go that far.

- Shallotman, Basildon, 25/03/2010 14:18

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Surely an investigation into Bojo Deputies would be more appropriate!!!

- Melvyn Windebank, Canvey Island, Essex, 25/03/2010 14:13

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A bent cop is worse than a bent politician

- Dhan Raj, Basildon, 25/03/2010 13:51

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