

JMY/3

WITNESS STATEMENT OF FORMER  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER JOHN YATES

1. I have been asked about my relationship with Neil Wallis (NW), my knowledge of the Chamy Media contract with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS); and my dealings with Dick Fedoricio (DF).
2. NW had had a relationship with the MPS for a number of years, as had did a number of other senior executives within the newspaper industry, and I first encountered him in about 2000 when I was Lord Condon's Staff Officer.
3. My recollection is that I met NW from then until roughly 2006 once or twice a year on a purely professional basis.
4. A friendship then developed which was based around football (we are both keen football fans) and from 2006 I would go occasionally to matches with him or meet him for a drink or a meal two or three times a year. We also continued to mix in the same professional circles and our paths still crossed on a regular basis.
5. DF ~~then~~ approached me sometime in, I believe, August 2009, although I cannot remember the exact date, and suggested that NW (whom we had known for years through his dealings with the News of the World) should be employed to assist with the MPS media strategy.

6. I thought this was a very sensible proposal not least because I had just started my new post as Head of Counter-Terrorism and I needed support with my media strategy, particularly in the light of the probable change of government which clearly could affect the whole terrorism landscape.
7. I do not recall any discussion with DF as to whether NW should be appointed in the light of the MPS investigation into phone hacking. By this time (September 2009), the investigation into phone hacking had concluded and my decision not to reopen the investigation had been endorsed by the DPP, Keir Starmer and David Perry QC.
8. I was not involved in vetting NW and I presume that he was security vetted by the appropriate department in the usual way. Also, I did not carry out any due diligence on NW although I did speak to him as I detailed at the Home Affairs Select Committee, and I stand by what I said to the Committee in that respect.
9. However, I was absolutely clear to DF that NW would need to take part in a competitive tendering process and that ultimately any decision to grant him a contract would have to be made by the relevant Procurement Department.
10. I had nothing to do with the process which I understood involved tenders from three organisations. When NW's company Chamy Media was successful his fees of £2,000 per month were split 50:50 between my department and DF's department and I felt (and

still do) that was good value for money, given NW's years of experience and networks within the media industry and the political world.

11. Once employed NW assisted me with strategic media support; advice on speech writing for major set piece speeches; and generally as a sounding board for media issues. Much of his advice was immediate and given face to face or on the phone when an issue arose and I would act on his advice (or not) straightaway. I therefore kept no records of the work that he completed for me, nor would I have seen the need to do so.

12. I worked with DF for 13 years until I left the MPS recently. I have never socialised with him outside the work environment but we had a good working relationship.

**I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.**

Signed .....

John Yates

Dated 24 day of November 2011