

Witness Name: **Kit Malthouse**

Statement no: **First**

Exhibit: **KM8**

Date: 29 February 2012

THE LEVESON INQUIRY

Exhibit KM8 to the
Witness Statement of **Kit Malthouse**

Mail Online

Scotland Yard anger at Tory claims they are 'running the Met'

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

Last updated at 1:17 PM on 3rd September 2009

Scotland Yard reacted with fury today to claims that the Tories had seized control of the running of the Met.

Mayor Boris Johnson's deputy Kit Malthouse claimed today that Tories had 'elbowed the Home Office out of the picture and that he and Johnson 'have our hands on the tiller' of the Metropolitan police.

The deputy mayor for policing said that he and the Mayor had 'decided to be more influential' and would no longer rubber stamp the ideas of senior officers without question.



We're running the Met: Boris Johnson, atop City Hall with his team of advisors (left to right) Munira Mirza, Sir Simon Milton, Kit Malthouse, Richard Barnes and Ian Clement

Senior Yard insiders angrily rejected the allegation and the Home Office accused Mayor Boris Johnson of using the police as a 'political football'.

One top Yard source said: 'This is nonsense. If you look at what the police have delivered in the past year that is all down to [Commissioner] Sir Paul [Stephenson] and nothing to do with politicians.'

'Paul has been very robust with Mr Malthouse in recent months. It is ridiculous to say he has wrested control away from the police.'

'He is a local politician thinking he is a national politician. We recognise the Metropolitan Police Authority has a role to play but he is very full of himself.'

The Home Office - which clashed with Mr Johnson last year over the removal of the former commissioner Sir Ian Blair - also responded defiantly by declaring that 'nothing had changed'.

It said that the long-standing arrangements under which the Home Secretary has ultimate responsibility for the Met remained in place.

It added that Mr Malthouse's claims were 'incorrect' and in a further swipe at City Hall warned that policing in London was

'far too important to be used as a political football'.

The Labour chairman of the Commons home affairs committee, Keith Vaz, also hit out at the Mayor's team, describing Mr Malthouse's claims as an "astonishing" and "remarkable" outburst that flew in the face of the facts.

Mr Vaz added that any attempt by City Hall to alter the way in which the Met was run would risk damaging consequences for policing in London and said that his committee would be seeking an explanation from Mr Malthouse of his comments.

The new controversy was prompted by a Guardian interview with Mr Malthouse in which he declared that he and Mr Johnson "have our hands on the tiller" of the Met.

He suggested that top officers who failed would be removed, saying that "it is self-evident there is a sanction" for inadequate performance, as he and the Mayor used their electoral mandate to ensure that the Met responded to the needs of Londoners.

'We do not want to be a passenger on the Met cruise,' said Mr Malthouse.

Mr Malthouse added that he believed the police should be under as much political control as the NHs or education. 'I don't know why we reserve a special place for policing ... we are a mature democracy.'

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Well, then hold on I am sure there will be more brain eating killers right up your alley!! I think you should leave the REAL JOBS up to Inspector's Morse, Boyd, Lynley, Rebus, and even Rosemary and Thyme...they always do much better than the rest of you! Yeah, I am sure you truly get the idea...lol!

- Tess Poulos, Chicago,U.S., 03/9/2009 18:56

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Cannot see why The Met are annoyed , they regularly are involved in politics and have forgotten they are meant to serve the public not the politicians. That is the problem with all senior officers in most police forces, they all want the next promotion so pander to politics

- Ian, Berkshire UK, 03/9/2009 18:28

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Whether true or false the police need someone to kick them up their complacent backside. We need more police patrolling the streets on FOOT, not cruising in cars. They are useless at preventing and solving crime but if there is a road accident or an "incident" roads are closed and herds of police appear out of the woodwork. Where were they before? Go to it Mr Mayor.

- Earl lavender, Cirencester England, 03/9/2009 18:18

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All chief constables are part of the undemocratic Association of Chief Police Officers, a private limited company. Please do not believe for one moment that local accountability exists, it is plain nonsense. Policing should be by the people on behalf of the people, not to keep washed up senior officers in the pay of the overburdened taxpayer. Any one who believes in freedom should demand that this organization is disbanded and policing taken back into truly democratic control. There are good officers, but recent years have shown that the acceptable have been appointed at the expense of the competent.

- Wills, Southampton, 03/9/2009 18:12

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So my comment got 7 adverse ratings! Well, if you don't believe me, then look at the first five comments which were shown when I first sent mine in. Let's hope the Daily Mail will encourage better thinking and literacy in its readers who send in comments. Quite a lot of these commentators don't even live in the Met area, let alone know the policing here.

- james de la Mare, London UK, 03/9/2009 17:54

Click to rate __ Rating 8

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JAMES del a MARE of LONDON refers disparagingly to the intellectual standards of Dail Mail readers! But isn't JAMES del a MARE obviously also a Daily Mail reader...? Glass Houses and all that...!! Any shaking of the MET. is worthwhile after the past 12 years spent willingly as the enforcer for the PC obsessive New Labour commissars and their various "weirdo" client groupings that the general public couldn't give a toss about! Now that both Blairs are history, perhaps this partisan Police Service can now be forced to return to what most citizens want - PROPER POLICING!!

- John Smith, Birmingham, England, 03/9/2009 17:50

Click to rate __ Rating 5

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Boris and co. may be controversial but can their attitudes to law and order be inferior to those of Vaz, considering the latter's track record? Perhaps Boris's influence could be used for more rigorous investigation of Vaz's activities, including his expenses claims, which would help restore public confidence in the law and the pursuit of justice being applied fairly and equally to everyone.

- Jim Wroe, Claremorris, Ireland, 03/9/2009 17:00

Click to rate __ Rating 6

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Looks like another deputy is on the way out. Doesn't really indicate good judgement on Boris's part, but nobody thought it would.

- AI, UK, 03/9/2009 15:24

Click to rate __ Rating 4

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It doesn't matter which wing of the Lib-Lab-Con party has 'the tiller' of the Police. They're all totally wet and useless. Only the BNP will ever crack down on the criminals - there really isn't anyone else with the political will.

- A Richards, London, England, 03/9/2009 14:55

Click to rate __ Rating 4

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Well done Boris and Co.! It was an anomaly that the Met. used to be run by the Home Office, though that arrangement had its financing and, sometimes, political advantages. I recall well that working conditions under Baroness Thatcher improved significantly. However, now that Blair and Broon have run down the UK generally, increasing crime levels too, it is no bad thing that the Met. is run by a party that professes a belief in law and order. Again, well done Boris. Ex-Met. police officer, W/No. 27/184133

- David G, Toronto, ex-Brum, 03/9/2009 14:44

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