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SPECIALIST OPERATIONS

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Mr Tom Watson MP  
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Your ref:  
Our ref: AC50/00a/2011

18th February 2011

Dear Mr Watson

I am writing further to your letter dated 18th January 2011, entitled 'Data storage and News International phone hacking investigation'.

The Metropolitan Police Services' (MPS) position at that time was that the investigation relating to 'phone hacking' which led to the convictions of Glen Mulcaire and Clive Goodman remained closed. The MPS did consider fresh allegations made in the media in September 2010 and, following inquiries, submitted a file to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS advised that there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against any person identified in the New York Times article and that it considered that the available evidence fell well below the threshold.

However, due to the outstanding public, legal and political concerns I had invited the Director of Public Prosecutions on Friday 14th January 2011 to further re-examine all the material collected in this matter. As you will have noted in his subsequent statement, the DPP then asked Alison Levitt QC, who has had no previous involvement in the case, to take a robust approach in this with a view to advising us as to whether we should carry out any further investigation or, from a CPS point of view, whether any prosecutions could be brought.

In the course of the following week, as you will now be aware, significant new evidence was passed to the Metropolitan Police Service in relation to this matter. We have always been clear that, should this be the case, we would investigate accordingly. To that end, and in light of my additional duties as Acting Deputy Commissioner, all issues relating to this matter have been delegated to DAC Sue Akers in our Specialist Crime Directorate to lead on and your letter has referred to her office to consider.

Yours sincerely,

John Yates  
Acting Deputy Commissioner