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Tom Watson MP  
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Dear Mr Watson

**The News of the World and telephone hacking**

Thank you for your letters dated 6 and 25 January 2011.

As you will know, on 14 January I announced that the Crown Prosecution Service would conduct a comprehensive assessment of all material in the possession of the Metropolitan Police Service relating to phone hacking arising from the Goodman and Mulcaire trial, following developments in the civil courts. The purpose of this assessment is to ascertain whether there is any material that could now form evidence in any future criminal prosecution relating to phone hacking.

That process is being conducted by my Principal Legal Adviser, Alison Levitt QC. She is an extremely experienced and senior criminal practitioner. I appointed her to carry out the assessment as she has had no prior involvement in the case. As part of her assessment she will consider any evidence resulting from new or recent substantive allegations. I can assure you that this will be a comprehensive exercise.

I have asked her to carry out the assessment as soon as possible. As I am sure you will appreciate, it would not be appropriate for me to make any further comment until the process is complete. I shall ensure that you receive a response when that work has been done.

Yours sincerely



KEIR STARMER QC