

Mr Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable  
Strathclyde Police  
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21 June 2011

Dear Mr House,

I enclose a copy of the response I have received from the Information Commissioner regarding a complaint submitted about News Group Newspapers.

As you will see, Mr Graham has asked News Group Newspapers a number of detailed questions about the apparent discrepancies between oral evidence presented to the courts, and comments on the same circumstances reported in the press, in relation to the trial of Mr Tommy Sheridan.

In particular, Mr Graham has requested information on the alleged 'loss' and apparent subsequent 'recovery' of a number of emails, which Mr Bob Bird, editor of the Scottish News of the World, made reference to during Mr Sheridan's trial.

You will recall that Mr Bird informed the jury he had done his best to supply information requested, as part of Mr Sheridan's prescribed court order for any information News of the World held concerning phone hacking, or payments or offers of payments to witness, but that "many emails had been lost when they were being moved to an archive in India".

You will also note that the Information Commissioner himself says he has "continuing concerns about certain aspects of the evidence submitted to the courts".

Now that the Information Commissioner has confirmed that News Group Newspapers did not lose emails when archiving their records with a company in India, it is almost impossible not to draw the conclusion that the jury were misled in the trial of Mr Sheridan.

Although we do not know the contents of the missing emails, neither did the jury when they concluded their deliberations into Mr Sheridan's guilt. These emails could

have materially affected the outcome of the perjury trial. The jury could have reached a different conclusion. Regardless, they were misled. Even if this was inadvertent, it warrants investigation by Strathclyde Police.

Should you need to discuss this matter further, I would be happy to speak with you. My office can be contacted on [redacted] or you can email me at [watson@parliament.uk](mailto:watson@parliament.uk).

Thank you in advance for your help with this matter. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Tom Watson  
Member of Parliament for West Bromwich East