


IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY,
AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

FURTHER WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOHN YATES

Further to my witness statement of 22nd February 2012 and my appearance at the Inquiry on 1 March 2012, I, John Yates, c/o Finers Stephens Innocent LLP, 179 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5LS will say the following:-

 12.3.12

I wish to clarify certain aspects of Mr Quick's evidence to the Leveson Inquiry on 7 March 2012. It is not my intention to address every inaccuracy and I understand that some areas of the evidence may well not be relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference. However, where his evidence directly impinges on integrity, and I have not had the opportunity to comment then I consider it appropriate to submit evidence in rebuttal. The Inquiry, if it is thought relevant, can also be provided with a number of contemporaneous documents that relate to exchanges of correspondence between the two of us where some of these issues were raised.

I was particularly concerned to hear Mr Quick's account in which he stated that I was reluctant to assist a potential leak inquiry regarding the so-called 'Cash for Honours' investigation. This has been reported prominently in various media outlets as a refusal by me to hand over my phone records. The way that this came over in evidence – and was subsequently reported – suggested that I had in some way prevented or obstructed his proper enquiries into the facts.

This is a very serious and damaging allegation and is not true. The facts are as follows: the phone did not belong to me and was the property of the MPS. Had Mr Quick, or anyone with lawful grounds, needed to examine my phone records then of course they could and should have done so. It was confirmed by Mr Quick in his evidence to the Inquiry that he found no evidence to support any allegation that either I or any members of my team were responsible for any leaks.

Furthermore, the verbal exchange he reported in his evidence did not take place. I would never use a phrase such as "I am very well connected." This is simply not something I would say. I would be grateful if this could be made clear to prevent further repetition of these damaging allegations.

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

Signed ... 

... Dated 12. 7. 12 .