

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – STRICTLY ONLY FOR  
THE ATTENTION OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY  
Second Statement (First Statement Dated 7<sup>th</sup> October  
2011)**

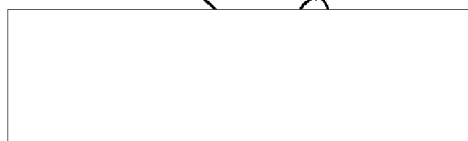
*This statement (consisting of 35 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything that I know to be false or do not believe to be true.*

I, Neil Wallis will say as follows:-

**Key dates to assist the reader:**

- December 1986: I joined The Sun as Chief Investigative Reporter, then progressed through the ranks to be Features Editor, News Editor, Associate Editor, until appointed Deputy Editor.
- 1993: Sir Paul Condon appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
- 1995/6: Inaugural Police Bravery Awards, supported by Sir Paul Condon.
- January, 1998: I became Editor of the Sunday People after three years as Deputy Editor of The Sun.
- 1998: Lord John Stevens appointed Deputy Commissioner of the MPS.
- Mid 1999: I was appointed as an Editor Commissioner of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) (served until I resigned as Editor of the Sunday People to become Deputy Editor at the News of the World).
- 2000: Lord John Stevens appointed Commissioner of the MPS
- January, 2003: I joined News of the World as Deputy Editor.
- Mid 2003: I was appointed a member of the Editors Code Committee of the PCC (served until mid 2009).
- 2003/2004: Lord John Stevens was the inaugural judge at Children's Champions Awards.
- January, 2005: Lord John Stevens resigned as Commissioner, succeeded by Sir Ian Blair.

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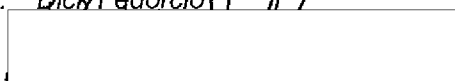
- Mid-2005: Ghost writer for Lord Stevens in the column titled 'The Chief' featured in the News of the World.
- Summer 2006-January 2007: Goodman/Mulcaire arrested and convicted. Operation Caryatid.
- Early 2008: Appointed Executive Editor of the News of the World (managerial as distinct from purely journalistic role).
- 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2009: Resigned from News of the World, and went on Gardening Leave until 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2009.
- July 2009: Guardian story regarding News of the World phone-hacking payments.
- 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2009: Signed MPS consultancy contract.
- March, 2009 (approx): Contract renewed by MPS.
- September, 2010: New York Times article.
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2010: Appointed Managing Director of Outside Organisation (PR company).
- September 2010: Offer to renew contract by MPS, but resigned.
- 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2011: Arrested as part of Operation Weeting,
- August, 2011: My contract was terminated by Outside Organisation as a result of police activity.

**Professional Contacts**

(1) *Please give full details of the level and the nature of the contact that you had with the following individuals whilst they were serving with the MPS (the Inquiry is interested in both professional and social contact and who would initiate the same):*

- a. *Sir John Stevens*
- b. *Lord Blair*
- c. *Sir Paul Stephenson*
- d. *John Yates*
- e. *Andy Hayman*
- f. *Dick Fodorcio* 

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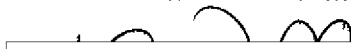
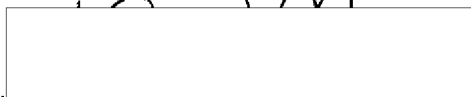
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The relationships which I forged over a number of years with the senior figures at New Scotland Yard were established by me in my capacity as an experienced journalist who I believe was respected by those I knew at the highest levels for my insight, knowledge and judgment over a range of issues which essentially fit under the discipline of public relations.

These were not relationships which were existent due exclusively to my holding the position of Deputy Editor of the News of the World; rather, these were relationships built in part off the back of my own personal and professional reputation and, as such, subsisted while my job or professional title took a number of different guises including those which preceded my time at the News of the World. Indeed my good working relationships with senior level officers at New Scotland Yard date back to the tenure of Sir Paul Condon (now Lord Condon) and his press office (Sarah Cullum and Bob Cox) from the mid-1990s. An example of me providing advice at this time concerned media coverage of the immediate aftermath of the devastation caused by the Canary Wharf bombings of 1996. Additionally, when Sir Paul embarked on a controversial anti-corruption drive within the MPS I secured an exclusive set piece interview with him in The Sun, at which I was the Deputy Editor.

It is important to bear in mind, during my tenure with News International newspapers between 1986 and 2009, that these titles were always pro-police, pro-army and pro-law and order. In addition, the News of the World had a long standing tradition of undercover investigative journalism that exposed major criminality and corruption. It followed therefore that there had been close links between the Metropolitan police and News of the World for many years.

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(1)(a) Lord John Stevens

I endorse Stevens' view that mine and his relationship was "totally professional".

I had known John Stevens in his capacity as Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner for about 12 months before he took the role as Metropolitan Police Chief. I believe I had been previously introduced to him by Dick Fedorcio.

He was Deputy to Sir Paul Condon at that time.

My relationship with Lord John Stevens therefore pre-dated his promotion to the role of Metropolitan Police Chief.

Through my contact with him I became aware of his intention to apply for the position of Metropolitan Police Chief. This was a competitive process thus, there were a number of applicants from senior positions countrywide; these included, as he was at that time, Ian Blair – the future Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

I advised Lord John Stevens throughout the application and interview process in which he was ultimately successful.

I recall having a number of discussions with him on the subject of his candidature. My input in this process was that he would be well advised to emphasise that he was a "coppers copper" or "thief taker" – in other words he was a man of action, rather than rhetoric. He was a consummate professional in his role as a police officer and had been for a number of years who was, therefore, highly respected in this role.

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This was particularly relevant in light of the low morale throughout the Metropolitan Police following the MacPherson report into the Stephen Lawrence case and also Sir Paul Condon's ending of tenure (jobs for life) within the Metropolitan Police and the cuts in wage levels which occurred while Kenneth Clarke was Home Secretary. He was encouraged to concentrate on this aspect of his candidature and not to seek to match the rhetoric of Ian Blair who was mounting a more politically correct campaign which, on the face of it, was more in step with 'New Labour'.

Once Stevens became Metropolitan Police Commissioner I maintained contact with him. This frequently took the form of telephone calls between the two of us.

I also dined or met over a drink with him on a number of occasions – probably on average about six times a year. I would pay the bill on each occasion.

I would pay the bill on each occasion which I would reclaim via an expenses claim, where appropriate, from News International from time to time, with the assistance of my PA.

Going back to the point made previously, the thrust of my contact with Stevens was in providing PR advice to him both in his personal capacity as Metropolitan Police Commissioner – i.e. with the emphasis on his personal reputation in this role and also for the Metropolitan Police Service as a whole.

Thus, I would be consulted as a barometer of how individual actions or policies would be received by the general public.

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It is important for me to stress that throughout this process it was not a question of me seeking to influence his individual decision making process, rather it was a case of him asking me how certain options would be perceived by the general public.

I can give an example. At the turn of the millennium due to a widespread display of dissatisfaction amongst the haulage industry with rising fuel costs drivers of articulated lorries sought to blockade Central London and I was asked my opinion as to how it would be perceived if these lorry drivers were prevented from entering Central London by the police and I gave my opinion, which was that I did not think that the public would recoil in protest at such an action.

Of course all the advices which I tendered at Lord John Stevens' were provided on an unpaid basis. I very much regarded it as part of my duties as the Deputy Editor of the News of the World to forge and maintain relations with senior police officers in the interests of my readership.

As part of this advisory role I introduced Lord John Stevens to Waheed Alli who was subsequently ennobled as Lord Alli some years later and who assisted New Scotland Yard on an informal basis in regards to PR matters.

This is referred to in the evidence presented by Stevens at Page 78 of his transcript:

**Q.** In October and November 2000, on the first occasion, there's a lunch with Lord Alli and Neil Wallis, on the second occasion, a short meeting with Lord Alli and Neil Wallis at New Scotland Yard. Could you help us with the purpose of those encounters?

**A.** Yes. Neil Wallis was a friend of Lord Alli, Waheed Alli. I wanted Waheed Alli to be an adviser -- a group of about 12 or 14 people, and I wanted him to be one, to be advisers, to actually say what we were doing wrong, in particular what the Metropolitan Police was doing wrong, what I was doing wrong, and what we could do to right that. So there were two meetings with Lord Alli and he then agreed to be one

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of the advisers who I used to meet up with once every three to four months for dinner at Scotland Yard.

It would be correct to say that the introduction of Waheed Ali provided Stevens with a more diverse audience and pool of ideas than he had been accessing up to that point.

(1)(b) Lord Blair

I did not really know Ian Blair. He made absolutely no effort to forge any relationship with me or anyone else at the News of the World or to my knowledge any other mass market editor or deputy editor at the time on Fleet Street.

I did not speak to him on the phone.

I met him for lunch on one occasion in company with Colin Myler and Dick Fedorcio. This was on the occasion of Colin Myler becoming the Editor of the News of the World early in 2007.

It is correct to say that Blair did not like the fact that at that stage his predecessor Sir John Stevens was featuring in the News of the World in a column headlined 'The Chief' which was ghost written by me.

On a number of occasions he was heard to comment on the fact that he could not understand how a column could be headlined 'The Chief' when it was factually incorrect as he himself was now the Metropolitan Police Chief and not John Stevens.

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(1)(c) Sir Paul Stephenson

My relationship with Sir Paul Stephenson essentially follows the same blueprint as my relationship with Sir John Stevens. I first came to know Stephenson when he was Deputy to Ian Blair and I had known him for about 12- 18 months before he became Commissioner.

By my reckoning I met Sir Paul approximately six times a year while he was the Commissioner; these occasions would be for dinner and also for the odd glass of wine.

I estimate that I spoke to him on average about once a month over the phone.

The basis of my contact with him would be again by way of the provision of informal PR advice, unpaid and often solicited by him.

That was during my time at the News of the World.

Once I left the News of the World and secured my contract with Scotland Yard I would speak to him on a more frequent basis.

(1)(d) John Yates

I had known Mr Yates for a number of years since he was initially staff officer to either Sir Paul Condon or Sir John Stevens, I am not sure which. When I first came to know him he was Staff Officer for one of these two Commissioners.

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Mr Yates was an extremely bright, highly regarded officer from a comparatively young age who was, in many people's eyes, destined to become Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

As such, I would provide him with PR advice to a certain extent. For example, he was the ACPO representative dealing with crimes of rape and he enlisted my PR advice to formulate an anti-rape campaign sponsored by the News of the World in order to publicise the good work which he was carrying out in this role.

However, I also had contact with Mr Yates on a more specific level when dealing with a couple of high profile undercover investigations run by my newspaper into the sale of a 12 year old girl's virginity by her own mother and also, the sale of a baby by a heroin addict and numerous other investigations in which my newspaper was proactively involved.

This was in Mr Yates's capacity as Head of the Specialist Crime Directorate at Scotland Yard.

It is correct to say that over the years John Yates came to be regarded by me as a good friend. We socialised together by attending football matches and we shared in common a keen interest of sport in general, lived in a similar area of West London, we had families of a similar age and we got on very well.

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(1)(e) Andy Hayman

I first met Mr Andy Hayman at the leaving do for Sir John Stevens in 2005.

His job specification and title was Assistant Commissioner (Special Operations) a position he occupied until 2008.

I met him for a drink about six times a year and spoke to him on the telephone on a sporadic basis.

Mr Andy Hayman was the ACPO representative in charge of press relations countrywide. He was anxious to improve relations between the police and the press beyond simply the Metropolitan Police.

He was the most senior Anti-Terrorist Officer in the United Kingdom.

He was firmly of the belief that the general public should be given more information about the terrorist threat and kept more readily informed in direct contrast to the prevailing mood of secrecy which had existed up to that point. To this end, he sought to benefit from my input.

This was at a particularly sensitive time in anti-terrorist operations post the 2005 outrages and also the incidents involving the "shoe bomber", airline bomb plot amongst others.

I can recall on one occasion in late 2005 that I was instrumental in the release of footage which was broadcast on the News of the World website of the effect that the

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"shoe bomb" which failed to detonate would have had in the event of it being successful.

I was persistent with my advice to Hayman that this footage would have a profound affect if released into the public domain as a result of which he provided to the News of the World.

(1)(f) Dick Fedorcio

He was Director of Public Affairs (DPA) at Scotland Yard from 1997 until today (he is presently under suspension).

Previously he had a long standing and distinguished career in public relations but to my knowledge had never worked in the national media.

In this capacity I would speak to him on the phone on a frequent basis, often with weekly frequency.

I met him for dinner or a drink about six times every year.

I would also refer to him if I needed to speak to someone in relation to an undercover investigation being run by my newspaper.

I would use him as a point of contact to enlist the support of senior officers from the Met for, for instance, the Children's Champions Awards or, more consistently, the Police Bravery Awards. It is important to emphasise that in an average year the News of the World may be actively involved in as many as ten undercover

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investigations in which we involved New Scotland Yard. As such, Dick Fedorcio would normally be the focal point although, as indicated above, on occasion I would go to Sir John Stevens.

I can recall specifically involving Dick Fedorcio with the Dome jewellery robbery and also with the so-called dirty bomb plot.

(2) *To what extent do you agree with John Yates' description to the Inquiry of the nature of your relationship with him (see pages 15 to 20 of the transcript of his evidence on 1.3.12)*

Relevant extract from John Yates transcript pages 17-20:

Q. It sounds as if Mr Wallis was, at least at that stage, a close friend of yours. Is that fair?

**A. He was -- I've always been completely open that he's a good friend. He certainly was a good friend. I haven't seen him for nigh on a year.**

Q. Inevitable, wasn't it, Mr Yates, that on these social occasions if you're travelling up from London, whether it be to Manchester or Liverpool, you're with Mr Wallis for at least a couple of hours on the train either way?

**A. Yes.**

Q. There's going to be discussion around what you do professionally and around what he did professionally. Would you accept that?

**A. In the margins, yes, but, seriously, it was far more about domestic life, family life, football and, you know, there was a life outside the Met, and I'm sure there's a life outside of News International for him.**

Q. So there was no, as it were, seeping in to professional or work issues during these social interactions, is that right?

**A. As I say, completely in the margins. Of course there must have been, but, you know, nothing of a -- you know, I can -- I know a number of lawyers, and count them as good friends, and we can talk about the legal system without talking about particular cases. I know bankers, you can talk about banking systems and not talk about individual accounts. You'd have to accept there's a sort of element of professionalism and sound judgment that stops you going into areas where you shouldn't go into, and I think it's -- you know, the inferences shouldn't be there.**

Q. Are you assuring us that Mr Wallis kept to the proper boundaries and did not share with you matters which related to his work?

**A. Well, you'd have to ask him himself, but I certainly didn't hear anything from him that caused me concern, no.**

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Q. To go back to your diary, 9 September 2009, another private appointment: dinner with Neil et al, and then it says "spk", which must be speak, and then the initials KB at a restaurant called --

**A. She's my PA.**

Q. Pardon me?

**A. KB is my -- was my PA.**

Q. Thank you. At a restaurant called Scott's, which I think is in Soho. Again, obviously it doesn't feature in the -- actually, I think on this occasion it does. Just bear with me. No, it doesn't feature in the gifts and hospitality register, I suppose because this was a private appointment; is that correct?

**A. Yes. For all private appointments, read private.**

Q. Again, it's the same points that you would make that there was no improper discussion with Mr Wallis at any stage?

**A. No, absolutely.**

Q. Just bear with me. 1 October 2009 is another private appointment, dinner with Nick Candy and Wallis at a place called Cecconi's, this time in Burlington Gardens. It exactly the same point, is it?

**A. It is, yes.**

Q. A lunch with Mr Wallis organised for 14 September I assume was cancelled. He was a very close friend of yours, wasn't he?

**A. He was a good friend, yes.**

I agree entirely with Mr John Yates's description of the nature of my relationship with him, as I have indicated above.

(3) *To what extent do you agree with Sir Paul Stephenson's description to the Inquiry of the nature of your relationship with him (see pages 31 to 32 of the transcript of his evidence on 5.3.12)?*

In his evidence to the enquiry Sir Paul Stephenson stated that I was "a good contact insomuch as a commentator on how the Met looked -- because the one thing that I didn't mention when we were talking earlier about the purpose of engaging with the media was also to continually seek feedback on how does the Met look. How do you see us at this time? I think that is part and parcel of the leadership, to ask people outside the Met, including media and people who have a long experience of the media of how they view the Met so that you can reflect on it". This is the more apt

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description of the relationship which I had with Sir Paul Stephenson rather than the label of "acquaintance" or "friend" or indeed "light friend".

(4) *Did you ever have the personal mobile telephone number or home telephone numbers of the people listed at a-f above?*

I had the mobile phone numbers of Stevens, Stephenson, Yates, Hayman and Fedorcio and I had the home numbers of Stevens, Yates and Fedorcio. They had all relevant phone numbers for me.

(5) *In respect of each, please give full details of your motives for establishing and maintaining relationships with these individuals. What were you seeking to obtain and what did you obtain from these relationships? In particular, were you seeking to obtain information from which, for whatever reason, they were not authorised to divulge?*

My answer under Point (1)(a) – (f) above covers the basis of my maintaining relationships with these individuals.

With the exception of the very occasional odd exclusive interview given to the News of the World by Sir Paul Condon and Sir John Stevens I was not provided with any information as a result of my relationship with these officers which they did not seek to be published. I was never provided with information from them which they were not authorised to divulge.

Information would be given to me as part of their soliciting of my PR advice on various matters. An example of them providing information on a particular issue to me

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which then led to me placing a story in the News of the World is with the prevalence of young murders in South London from knife crime which led them to brief me as to the steps which were being taken on the ground to flood these areas with uniformed officers in order to reassure the public. I was also directed to local politicians who were fully aware of the extent to which the police were increasing officers' levels on the street to combat these activities at the time. These politicians were supportive of the Metropolitan Police's stance and tactics in this regard.

(6) *At page 28 of your witness statement to the Inquiry dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011, you stated that "informality generates a healthy robust, frank and honest exchange of views". In your experience do meetings with the media informal settings encourage or result in police officers and civilian police staff being indiscreet? If yes, please give illustrative examples.*

The answer to this is a firm "No".

The context of the "healthily robust, frank and honest exchange of views" would be in relation to ideas of policy or public perception. It would not relate to individual cases or investigations into particular crimes.

(7) *What do you consider that they were seeking to obtain from you from their relationships with you? Did you get the impression that they were seeking to pursue personal agendas? If so please give details and illustrative examples.*

I have covered this in my answer to (1)(a) – (f) above.

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This covers the extent to which I advised the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on matters viewed from his personal standpoint – personal but only in the context of his individual role as Metropolitan Police Commissioner as well as from the standpoint of the Metropolitan Police as a whole.

In terms of personal agendas, on the contrary to the tenor with which this question is asked, the only occasion when a personal agenda was or became an issue was when Sir Ian Blair publicly supported the Labour governments attempts to extend the period of time for which terrorist suspects could be held in custody to 42 days. This was a hotly contentious party political issue and I did advise senior Metropolitan police officers that I believed it was an area into which the Metropolitan Police Service should not become ensnared due to its party political nature. The individuals who would have been receiving this advice at the time would have included Sir Paul Stephenson, John Yates and Dick Fedorcio.

(8) *You said at pages 27 to 28 of your witness statement to the Inquiry dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011 that: "On occasions, for political reason, [ police officers] may feel that the elected politicians chose to ignore, conceal or distort an issue in such a way as their genuine concerns are not aired. As a consequence they seek their own forum for expressing their views through the media." To what extent do you consider that the police officers referred to above were using contact with you and/or other journalists/editors to secure such a forum for their views? Please explain your answer.*

I can give two examples of issues over which senior Scotland Yard figures felt that their views were not being correctly represented by Westminster politicians.

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- (i) The operational independence of the police.

In other words, whereas the Metropolitan Police Authority may inform the Metropolitan Police Commissioner that it wished the police to place renewed emphasis on, for example, knife crime the MPA could not dictate to the Commissioner that he must increase the number of officers on the streets by a specific number. This was particularly prescient at the time of the debate over whether the Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority should be an elected post and, even, whether the post of Metropolitan Police Commissioner should be an elected post which was a contentious topic at the time of the last London Mayoral Election.

- (ii) Budgetary cuts and the impact on the battles against specific types of crime e.g. terrorism.

On both these issues I can recall running stories in the News of the World which conveyed the view of the senior figures at Scotland Yard.

However, equally, I may also refer the officers' concern to other figures within the industry who I knew would be more readily sympathetic through their newspaper than myself, for instance Richard Littlejohn at the Daily Mail.

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I accept that this sounds unusually altruistic on my part but that is the way I operated – these were figures that I knew over a period of years and if I could point them in the right direction and that was someone other than myself then so be it.

(9) *Did you ever know or sense that any of the individuals referred to above or other senior MPS police officers, were putting pressure on you to dilute or to not publish articles were unfavourable to them or the organisation as a whole. If so, please give full details and illustrative examples.*

No.



(10) *When there was contact over lunch/dinner/alcoholic drinks, who paid for the same? What was the approximate financial value of this hospitality.*

By and large I would foot the bill and claim it back.

The value would approximate at between £50 and £100 per head.

(11) *Did you provide any hospitality to these individuals other than lunch, dinner and alcoholic drinks? If so, please give full details and approximate financial value of the same.*

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No.

(12) *Did they provide any hospitality to you? If so, please give full details and the approximate financial value of the same.*

I was served dinner in New Scotland Yard on a couple of occasions within the Commissioner's own suite under the stewardship of Stevens and Stephenson.

I also attended various functions for example CrimeStoppers functions at Scotland Yard which were formal black tie occasions at which alcohol and dinner were provided.


(13) *What matters were discussed during the range of meetings with these individuals? Were there "off-the-record" conversations? When answering this question please set out what the "off-the-record" means to you in this context.*

All the conversations were "off the record" by which I mean no stories would be published following these meetings without the expressed consent of the individual participants.

I refer again to my answer under Point (1)(a) – (f) in which I explain the purpose behind these meetings.

In other words, I was not having meetings with senior figures in New Scotland Yard to find out about ongoing criminal investigations so that I could print unattributed details and run stories within the News of the World.

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(14) *Were there occasions when any or each of these individuals gave you information where it appeared to you that they should not have done (whether because the information appeared to be given in breach of a legal obligation or simply because they were talking about matters which fell outside their areas of professional responsibility). Please interpret 'information' broadly, to include, but not limited to, information about police operations: police policy and decision-making: and 'gossip' about colleagues.*

No.

(15) *To what extent did you provide hospitality to other officers within the MPS? Please give full details including the approximate financial value of the same.*

I did not provide such hospitality to other individuals.

(16) *To what extent did you accept hospitality from the MPS other than from these individuals? Insofar as accepted such hospitality what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted and what was the approximate financial value of the same?*

As indicated in Point (12) I was invited to certain functions at New Scotland Yard.

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(17) *What is your reaction to the evidence of Lord Condon at paragraph 20 of his witness statement and at page 32 of the transcript of his evidence to the Inquiry on 6.3.12, namely that hospitality can be the start of a grooming process which leads to inappropriate, unethical and criminal behaviour. Is this something that you recognise as taking place/having taken place? If so, please give illustrative examples.*

I refer you to the entirety of Lord Condon's remarks on Page 32 from which this is taken.

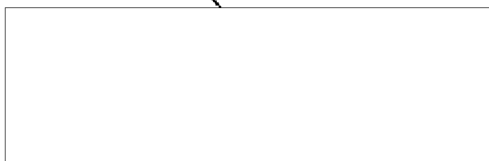
Lord Condon was referring to hospitality being used as part of the grooming process "in the sporting world" and not during his tenure as Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

If I am asked whether these remarks could equally apply to hospitality being used as part of a grooming process when this hospitality is shared with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner then the answer is "No".

However, I believe it is important that evidence such as this is not taken out of its proper context and misquoted inaccurately.

I have read the extract from Lord Condon's statement at Paragraph 20 but his evidence to the Inquiry at Page 32 makes it clear that his reference to "grooming" was in the international sporting arena and not in the context of the Metropolitan Police Service.

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(18) *What, if any, involvement did you have in Lord Stevens securing a contract with News International for his autobiography to be serialised in the News of the World and the Times?*

We, at the News of the World, became aware that Sir John Stevens was writing his autobiography.

From recollection, Stuart Kuttner approached and negotiated with his publishers and secured the serialisation rights to the autobiography for the News of the World.

***Dick Fedorcio and the Directorate of Public Affairs***

19. *In your experience as a journalist/editor do you consider that the DPA gave preferential treatment to some titles over others, whether in terms of the information provided or access to senior officers? Do you consider that you personally and/or the News of the World received such preferential treatment? If so, please give details and explain why you and/or the News of the World received such preferential treatment.*

20. *Insofar as you have not already done so in answering the questions in the section above, describe the nature of your relationship with Dick Fedorcio.*

21. *The Inquiry understands that Mr Fedorcio attended your leaving party from the News of the World. In what capacity and for what reason was Mr Fedorcio invited?*

22. *As the best you can remember please describe the process by which Chamy Media came to secure a contract with the MPA. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:*

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- a. *Who told you that the DPA was seeking to engage external advice and support?  
When did they tell you?*
- b. *Whose idea was it for Chamy Media to apply for this contract?*
- c. *What do you believe Mr Fedorcio knew about the nature of your relationship with John Yates, before Chamy Media secured the contract? Did he gain a fuller understanding once you began working for the MPS?*
- d. *What, if anything did you tell Mr Fedorcio about the nature of your relationship with John Yates, both before and after Chamy Media secured the contract.*
- e. *What, if any assurances did you give that you were not implicated in any criminal behaviour at the News of the World? If you did give any assurances, who did you give them to and when?*
- f. *To your knowledge, what involvement, if any, whether direct or indirect, did John Yates have in the process?*
- g. *To your knowledge, what involvement, if any whether direct or indirect, did Sir Paul Stephenson have in process?*

23. *Please describe the process by which your daughter, Amy secured work at the MPS. To your knowledge did Dick Fedorcio, John Yates or Sir Paul Stephenson (or any senior police officer) encourage the offer of work to your daughter? To your*

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*knowledge, did Dick Fedorcio, John Yates or Sir Paul Stephenson (or any senior police officer) influence, directly or indirectly, the decision to offer her work?*

(19) No the DPA did not give preferential treatment to some titles over others.

(20) I have covered this in Point(1)(f).

(21) There were approximately a hundred people at my leaving party which took place at a private members club in the West End.

Mr Fedorcio was invited.

He was invited in both a personal capacity – I had developed a relationship with him over the best part of 15 years and also in a professional capacity since his profession was in public relations and I was about to launch my own business in the PR industry.

(22) Chamy Media

After leaving the News of the World I formed two companies – Neil Wallis Media Ltd and Chamy Media Ltd. Both were registered for VAT and had significant turnovers.

Having left the News of the World in the summer of 2009 through Neil Wallis Media Ltd I applied my trade as a freelance journalist selling tips and stories to news media organisations.

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Through Chamy Media Ltd I provided PR advice which could be described as in some cases sensitive due to the identity of the client – for instance a number of senior politicians, also PR agencies and corporate bodies received my advice on PR matters through Chamy. Ultimately, the onerous demands of my workload led me to accept a less demanding, better supportive role as an employed Managing Director of a media company.

I should make clear the fact that I was engaged by New Scotland Yard due to my unique expertise in the area for which they had a desperate need of advice. Thus, in July 2009 there was no-one with my very up-to-date experience, expertise combined with my seniority and track record on the market; nor had there been such an individual on the market for years.

I am aware that a comparison has been made with two former senior executives from the newspaper industry – Phil Hall and Stuart Higgins. Although completely capable Phil Hall's hands on experience was somewhat dated, he left News International in the year 2000; Stuart Higgins' experience was even more dated – he left News International in the late 1990's. However, more to the point, having left News International their PR companies had moved away from the home affairs areas in which I continued to specialise; they had mainly moved into the market of PR advice to celebrities and sports stars primarily speaking.

In any event, home affairs was my area of speciality as represented by the relationships which I had formed over the years with the named individuals from New Scotland Yard.

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My skills were recognised by my workload – I was permanently engaged full time. My wife was my PA and she assisted me with my paperwork.

(22)(a) It was following my informing Dick Fedorcio that I was to leave the News of the World that he made me aware that Scotland Yard were looking to recruit someone to provide PR advice.

I believe I said to him that although I was leaving the News of the World if he wanted to continue to avail himself of my advice he was free to do so. I stated that this would be on a "pro bono" basis.

I mentioned that I appreciated that he was under pressure of work due to the long term absence of his Deputy Chris Webb.

Some weeks later he contacted me by phone and made me aware that Scotland Yard were seeking to contract with someone for these PR services.

(22)(b) Mr Fedorcio asked me whether I, through my company, wanted to be an applicant for this contract. I was interested but only on a part-time basis; with my work commitments I could only manage one or two days a month. I do recall at some stage reference being made that the Metropolitan Police Service would now be paying me for the service which I had been providing free of charge for many years.

(22)(c) + (d) Mr Fedorcio would know that I was a close associate of a number of senior figures past and present at New Scotland Yard including Commissioners, officers of other senior rank and civilians such as himself.

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I would not discuss with Mr Fedorcio the number of occasions when I met Mr Yates and on what terms or in what context i.e. whether social or professional. Consequently, I do not recall having a specific conversation with Mr Fedorcio and telling him that Mr Yates was a friend of mine.

Mr Fedorcio would have been aware that I had an ongoing friendly relationship with Mr Yates in common with a number of other senior figures at Scotland Yard.

(22)(e) John Yates has already given evidence about an assurance that he was given by me in August 2009.

I do not disagree with this evidence.

(22)(f) To my knowledge John Yates had no involvement in this process.

(22)(g) At the time I had no knowledge of any involvement by Sir Paul Stephenson in this process. I have read Dick Fedorcio's evidence of a conversation which he had with Sir Paul Stephenson, according to him, and this is the first time that I have gleaned such information.

(23) Amy Wallis

The process by which my daughter secured her employment with the Metropolitan Police Service has been investigated by the Parliamentary Select Committee into Home Affairs and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC have formally exonerated her and John Yates of any impropriety in this matter on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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It is regrettable that these matters are raised again within this Section 21 Notice. However, I am quite willing to place in the public domain that which has already been made known to the Select Committee and the IPCC and which details the application process.

In early 2009 I became aware that there were unfilled low grade casual clerical positions within the MPS. I cannot remember who made me aware of this vacancy or whether it was more than one person but it was someone within New Scotland Yard at that time. These positions were on a fixed six month contract and effectively covered the work of a filing clerk within the Human Resources Department of the MPS. The location of the position was at Empress State Building in Earls Court which was geographically convenient to my family home.

The work was generally regarded as "dull" and there was a high turnover of staff employed in these positions due to its mundane nature.

My daughter was a 2:1 graduate in Sociology and Politics who had previously held established positions within the PR industry.

I sent Amy's CV by email to John Yates who submitted it again by email to the Human Resources Department. Following receipt of her CV my daughter was vetted and interviewed by the MPS prior to taking up employment in June 2009.

None of the people mentioned or any other senior police officer encouraged the offer of work to my daughter and likewise no such individual had any direct or indirect influence in the decision to offer her a position.

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I do feel aggrieved that despite the previous enquiries into this matter by the Select Committee and the IPCC, and the formal finding of exoneration on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 these matters have again been aired in public at this Inquiry and John Yates, Dick Fedorcio, myself and John Stephenson have been asked questions about this.

**Relations with Forces other than the MPS**

24. Please give full details of the level and the nature of the contract that you had with senior officers from forces other than the MPS.

25. Did you have personal contract with officers holding the rank of Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable or Assistant Chief Constable? If so, please give full details of the nature, frequency and purpose of the same.

26. As for your assertion in pages 27 to 28 of your witness statement to the Inquiry dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (set out in question (8) above), to what extent do you consider that police officers of the rank of Assistant Chief Constable and above were using contact with you and/or other journalists/editors to secure such a forum for their views? Please explain answer.

(24) & (25)

As a crime reporter on the Manchester Evening News in the 1970's I established a professional relationship with the then Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police James Anderton and other senior police officers – John Stalker and Peter Topping.

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Likewise, I grew to know Sir Ken Oxford, then Chief Constable of Merseyside Police.

Of course at that stage of my career I was in a more junior position but it is correct to say that they were contacts of mine and I would meet them at formal police functions and, occasionally, at crime scenes.

(26) As a young man and junior reporter at the time I was not in a position where I would dine with these senior ranking officers.

However, even in the 1970's I was engaged by Greater Manchester Police to lecture on police training courses at the regional training centre in Crewe on the subject of police/press relations. Thus, my expertise was recognised and called upon even during my mid twenties.

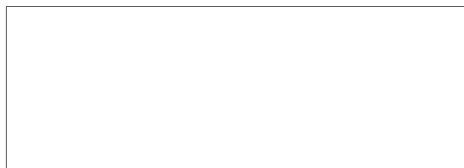
I was a high flyer.

Throughout my career I have been invited to lecture to Home Office organised disaster planning courses, senior officer courses, police press officer courses, Superintendent and Police Federation conferences.

**General Matters**

27. *What are your views of "off-the-record" communications? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the same?*

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28. *In your experience, in what circumstances do reporters/editors attribute information to a 'police source'? Do you consider that this description of a source can be misleading?*
29. *On how many occasions, if any, have the police given you (or the title for which you working at the time) prior notification about the proposed arrests; searches of premises; or other police action? In relation to each occasion please identify: (i) which force was involved: (ii) whether you were notified formally/officially or informally/secretly and (iii) the nature of the police operation concerned.*
30. *What are your views of the utility (in the public interest) or otherwise of the media shadowing the police whilst on patrol or during specific operations?*

I have outlined extensively the nature of my professional contact with senior police officers within New Scotland Yard.

This details in its entirety the basis upon which I dealt with such officers.

On occasion, throughout my career, I would be approached by the crime reporter or the news desk of the newspaper on which I was working at the time and asked whether I could help with a particular story or, more accurately, the detail of a particular story. Without exception, I would state that I could not assist the news desk or crime reporter with such an enquiry.

I did so because I was aware that the person who made the request knew that I was "well connected" at New Scotland Yard and was encouraging me to use my connections to probe for further information to include within the story something

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which I steadfastly refused to do. This would occur on practically a monthly basis where I was the subject of such a request.

I respected both my own integrity and the integrity of the senior officers and individuals at New Scotland Yard with whom I had a continuing relationship.

(27) Where I was approached by the senior officers mentioned and my opinions canvassed on a particular matter, to which I have referred extensively above, I would never run a story without the detail being expressly sanctioned and approved by the individuals concerned. As such, I considered all such conversations to be "off the record".

The advantage of me adopting such an attitude was that they could seek my advice and opinions openly and without the ensuing debate and discussion being broadcast across the media.

This, naturally, meant that I was privy to information which was frequently not in the public domain.

(28) The description "police source" applies to the source of information who wishes to remain anonymous but is within a particular police service. The source will be unidentified and will attract the generic label "police source".

In my experience such information is placed in the newspapers domain deliberately by the police in such circumstances. In other words, it is a calculated act undertaken

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in furtherance of the investigation e.g. to focus on a particular individual or a particular aspect of the evidence which may yield the benefit to the police through it gaining publicity, e.g. via members of the public coming forward with additional information on that particular point.

(29) Over the years the newspaper with which I have been employed at the time has been informed on a number of occasions by the Press Office of New Scotland Yard of a specialist operation targeting and cracking down on certain types of crime e.g. drug dealers. On such circumstances my newspaper was invited to attend and witness the searching and arrests of particular suspects in particular geographical areas. However, I must stress that at all times the contact would have been established with my newspaper by the Press Office of the MPS.

As a consequence in other words, it was always done formally through the Press Office concerned.

The number of occasions that this took place over a 40 year career is far too numerous to mention. In more recent times, i.e. over the past 10 – 15 years such occasions have always included the television and radio news media reflecting the motivation which was one of gaining widespread publicity.

(30) So far as I am in a position to be able to answer this question, I can see the publicity advantages of such shadowing activities. Whether this is in the public interests is a question best answered by others.

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Conclusion

It should not come across that my involvement in advising the senior police officers from Scotland Yard was entirely altruistic.

There was something in it for me and my newspaper.

When we were running a particularly highly public campaign e.g. Sarah's Law and anti-bullying campaign, senior officers would make set piece speeches, write exclusive articles or give quotes in support of such campaigns which would go into our newspaper.

Similarly, when we set up the Police Bravery Awards and the Children of Courage Awards they would provide high level and vocal and public support which we were able to further publicise through the paper.

When I conceived the idea, whilst at the Sun newspaper, of the National Police Bravery Awards in 1994 by garnering the support of Sir Paul Condon who was Metropolitan Police Commissioner at the time I was able to approach ACPO and Sir Fred Broughton the Chairman of the Police Federation which elevated the concept to a level which ensured that the project came to fruition. Sir Paul Condon agreed to sit on the judging panel which was a critical element of this success.

Due to the fact that we received the wholehearted support of the Metropolitan Police the remainder of the 42 regional police forces soon followed.

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Additionally, I would receive exclusive access to occasional set piece interviews with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner e.g. Sir John Stevens.

However, I did not receive leaked information from these officers at New Scotland Yard, or through these relationships, which led to the publication of stories in the newspaper.

If I am asked about whether senior figures in New Scotland Yard used press and media connections to "brief" against each other e.g. against Sir Ian Blair in his time as Metropolitan Police Commissioner then I can say categorically that such "briefing" did not take place through me.

If they pursued such an agenda then they did so through other contacts within the newspaper industry and not through me.

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