

Witness Name: Peter James Vaughan

Dated: 19th January 2011

Filed in response to a notice dated 22nd December 2011

The Leveson Inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press

Witness Statement of Peter James Vaughan

Chief Constable of South Wales Police

I, Peter James Vaughan, of South Wales Police, Police Headquarters, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend CF31 3SU will state as follows:

1. I am the Chief Constable of the South Wales Police ("SWP"), a position which I have held since January 2010. I make this statement in response to the service of a Notice (the "Notice") by Lord Justice Leveson under section 21(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005 and the particular questions raised therein.
2. Save where the contrary appears, I make this witness statement from facts within my own knowledge and belief and which I believe to be true. In addition, the Notice has requested that I provide copies of any policies or procedures in my custody or under my control referred to in the Notice and/or which relate to a matter in question at the Inquiry. These documents have been collated in a bundle. There is now produced and shown to me marked "PJV1" the bundle of paginated documents. Where I refer to page numbers within this statement, it is a reference to pages within "PJV1".

Question 1: Who you are and a brief summary of your career history

3. I am the Chief Constable of South Wales Police, and was appointed in January 2010 from the position of Deputy Chief Constable. I joined South Wales Police (then South Wales Constabulary) in 1984, and have served in this Force in every rank, save that between 2003 and 2007 I served as Assistant Chief

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Constable of Wiltshire Police. I am the Chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers Acquisitive Crime Portfolio, the Chair of the Home Office Threat Reduction Board for Acquisitive Crime and the Chair of ACPO Cymru. In addition, I was previously chair of the ACPO Police Dogs Working Group.

4. South Wales Police covers an area of around 812 square miles, which although it represents 10% of the geographical area of Wales, is home to more than 42% of the total Welsh population. South Wales Police is structured around four Basic Command Units (BCUs) and incorporates seven unitary authorities. From the valley communities to the north, to Europe's fastest growing capital Cardiff in the east and the coastal city of Swansea to the west is a very diverse area. The Force employs 2,996 police officers, 1,782 police staff, 301 Police Community Support Officers ("PCSO") and 193 Special Constables.

Question 2: What were your first impressions, upon taking office as Chief Constable of South Wales Police, about the culture of relations with the media which you had inherited?

5. As I was appointed Chief Constable whilst serving within the same Force as Deputy Chief Constable, there were no sudden developments in my relationship with the media when I became Chief Constable. The Force's position is, and has always been, one of openness and transparency in our dealings with journalists.
6. We have, for many years, maintained registers detailing gifts and hospitality offered, received and declined, as well as documenting contact with journalists and the media. This is one of the key aspects of our policy on Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact (PJV1 pages 159 - 180), which aims to secure transparency and professionalism.
7. These principles of openness and transparency are at the core of our relationship with the media, and during my time with South Wales Police, and as its Chief Constable, this has always been maintained. Our dealings with the

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media are either in the interest of preventing and detecting crime, such as publicising campaigns or tracing witnesses; or to reassure the public by promoting successes in response to their concerns. At the heart of our dealings with the media is the Force vision of being the best at understanding and responding to the needs of our communities.

8. One of my first contacts with the media upon taking up the post of Chief Constable involved a telephone interview on the 4th January 2010 with Jane's Police Review publication. Following the interview, I was misquoted in the publication. I was quoted as saying that because I was now Chief Constable somebody else would have to do my shopping because I could not do it myself for security reasons. This was manifestly untrue. The broader media picked up on this matter and there was extensive coverage and repetition of the article in the local, national and international media in addition to extensive coverage on the internet.
9. This distortion of the truth presented a totally misleading impression to the public and the police service. I considered that this was an attempt to ridicule me and damage my reputation at the very outset of my time as Chief Constable of South Wales Police. I challenged the nature of this reporting and subsequently received a complete retraction and full written apology from the Publishers of Jane's Police Review. This apology was duly published in their magazine recognising the embarrassment that the mistake had caused. They also made a donation to the South Wales Police Youth Trust as a mark of their regret and made a contribution towards my legal costs.
10. Other national newspapers that had run with the storyline also published corrections and the posting was removed from their internet websites. Prior to this, I had been the subject of specific mockery by the Jane's Police Review whilst chair of the ACPO Police Dogs Working Group.

Question 3: Describe the personal contact which you currently have with the media. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of your contact with the media during your tenure as

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Chief Constable of South Wales. For the avoidance of doubt, the Inquiry would like to know about your contacts with the local media, Welsh media and national media.

11. My personal contact with the media, in the most part, consists of interviews on policy matters, comments in response to incidents and briefings to editors. From time to time I take part in meetings or events where journalists or the media are in attendance along with others. A register of these occasions entitled "Media Register" (PJV1 pages 212-218) is maintained in accordance with our policy.
12. From these registers, I can confirm that my Chief Officer colleagues and I have attended award presentations, very few sporting events and meetings at which journalists have been present. Often such occasions are also attended by leaders from other agencies and offer an opportunity for introductions to those newly appointed. The occasions when invitations have been declined are also recorded.
13. Generally, interview requests for print or broadcast use are received every few months. However, this can increase in frequency if the request relates to a national event, such as announcements in relation to police funding for example or following a major incident. These interviews generally last for around an hour and, in accordance with policy, are also attended by staff from our Corporate Communications department.

Question 4: Describe what you are seeking to gain for South Wales Police through your personal contacts with the media.

14. The Force's position is, and has always been, one of openness and transparency in our dealings with journalists. As such my aim for South Wales Police has been to develop a mutually beneficial working relationship based on these simple principles:-

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A) That co-operation with the media is vital to good communication with our public and the promotion of a positive image of South Wales and South Wales Police. Importantly, this approach helps to raise public confidence that South Wales is a safe place to live, work and visit.

B) That the Force has a responsibility to inform the public of matters of interest or concern, whilst abiding by reasonable standards of privacy and following Human Rights and Data Protection principles.

C) That we will be open, helpful and fair and treat all sections of the media in a consistent way. We do this by endeavouring to release timely, relevant and accurate information as early as possible.

D) The heart of our dealings with the media is the Force vision of being the best at understanding and responding to the needs of our communities. Our positive interaction with the media helps to achieve this.

Question 5: Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the local, Welsh and national media has been seeking from you in your personal dealing with them during your time as Chief Constable of South Wales.

15. As identified earlier within this statement, media calls and requests for interviews generally centre on major national policing issues or specific Force issues. The media has most recently been seeking our views on the election of the new Police and Crime Commissioners and the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review, a demand from both the Welsh and UK media.
16. The approaches made by the media tend not to be critical or to demand responses to negative issues except in exceptional cases such as the recent collapse of the trial of former South Wales Police officers for perverting the course of justice following their alleged conduct during the Lynette White

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Murder investigation.

17. Following a meeting with BBC Editors, the BBC Politics show requested the opportunity to spend a day with me shadowing my schedule and using it as an opportunity to ask relevant topical questions. The programme was pitched as an insight into a Chief Constable's views on modern policing. The types of questions are illustrative of the sorts of issues the media wish me to comment on including:
- Pressures of cuts in policing
 - English summer riots
 - Views on national speed limits following a fatal road traffic collision on the M5
 - Opinions on an all-Wales Force
 - Elected Police and Crime Commissioners
 - The mechanisms of delivering a real service – and the priorities?
 - Public confidence
18. Generally the media coverage that results from these interviews is very positive and the reporting is as anticipated. However, occasionally, the results can be unexpected. The local media recently requested an interview for a 'review of the year' highlighting the challenges of the past 12 months and the challenges to come. The piece eventually appeared as a front page 'exclusive' regarding the sensitive issue of police stations closures. Though the article itself was accurate and balanced, the more positive feature that was proposed to our Corporate Communications team, covering both wider successes and challenges, was not run. In addition, the headline sought to detract from the balanced content of the article.

Question 6: To what extent have you accepted hospitality from the media whilst Chief Constable.

19. Since becoming Chief Constable in January 2010, I have met with the media for numerous interviews and press conferences which either take place at

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Police Headquarters, at the scene of an incident or in a TV or radio studio. In addition to this I have attended fundraising events for charity at which the media were also present.

20. I have also attended sporting events within the Force area. For example, I attended as a guest of the BBC principally due to the relocation of the TV programme 'Crimewatch' to Cardiff and the appointment of a new editor. I have also attended the programme's recording. These are fully documented in the Force Media Register (PJV1 page 213). In addition, I have attended a sporting event as a guest of Media Wales along with a Chief Officer colleague. At this time, the Force was facing a considerable challenge from the media and its coverage of South Wales Police generally. This included their coverage of a number of suicides within the Bridgend area and followed the Jane's Police Review difficulties (as set out at paragraphs 8 – 10 above). I accepted this invitation with the aim of disabusing them of their coverage of me as a Chief Constable and to seek to engage with them to ensure fairer reporting of both South Wales Police and the issues affecting the communities of South Wales. I am pleased to confirm that we currently have good relationships with the media which result generally in fair and balanced reporting.
21. In addition to the above, I attended a buffet lunch with BBC Wales Heads of Department where in addition we discussed the challenges of being a chief constable. Following on from this, the BBC spent a day with me and interviewed me for the Politics Show.

Question 7: Insofar as you have accepted hospitality from the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted.

22. The nature of the hospitality includes those events where invitation as a guest requires no payment for admission and those at which drinks and refreshments are provided. On some occasions, such events may include

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Question 8: To what extent have you provided hospitality for the media on behalf of South Wales Police whilst Chief Constable

23. The provision of hospitality to the media extends for the most part to tea and coffee being provided during interviews at police premises. This is clearly outlined in our Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 - 180). Our annual Force awards night, on recent years, has been attended by a prominent local television presenter who acted as compere. We covered his expenses and he was given small gifts as a token of gratitude as he kindly made no charge for his services¹.

Question 9: Insofar as you have provided hospitality to the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted?

24. I understand that the last word of this question should be "provided" as opposed to "accepted" and answer that question accordingly. As indicated above, the nature of the hospitality provided to the media is of a minor or token nature, usually amounting to refreshments during interviews or meetings. On rare occasions, gifts have been given as a gesture of thanks for example at the Force awards a bottle of whisky and bunch of flowers was presented to the compere as a gesture of our thanks.

Question 10: What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record hospitality as between the Chief Constable and the media?

25. The Force policy on Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact (PJV1 pages 159 - 180) specifies that any hospitality offered, whether accepted or refused must be recorded, and a separate register exists for media issues. This register (PJV1 page 212- 218) details any occasions where hospitality is given,

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26. In accordance with Force policy, these registers are examined by the DCC twice a year and they are also presented for scrutiny and overview to the Police Authority Standards Committee.

Question 11: What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record meetings with the media generally?

27. Chief Officers and senior police staff are accompanied to interviews by a member of the Corporate Communications department. This is in accordance with the policy outlined in the Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 - 180).
28. All meetings and interviews are recorded within the Media register (PJV1 page 212- 218) held by the DCC which is used by ACPO Officers and senior police staff to record:
- Interviews with the media containing a brief note covering what was discussed and the outcome.
 - All meetings with journalists including purpose, time and place. This is outlined in the both the Media Policy and Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy.
29. In addition Senior Detectives and Senior Officers may, on occasions when investigating serious crime or other significant incidents, be required to maintain a policy book recording their main decisions on cases. That policy book would contain an outline of their media strategy and any intentions and objectives they had by engaging with the press.

¹ Please also see response to question 9 at paragraph 24.

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Question 12: Do you ever discuss the media, or media coverage, with politicians? If so, how important is such communication and why?

30. Discussions of media coverage with politicians are rare. During my tenure as Chief Constable, I can recall only a handful of occasions when this has taken place. We occasionally conduct stakeholder briefings to inform partner agencies, the media and politicians about significant events and as such some overlapping discussions are inevitable. These may occur in relation to high-profile crimes.
31. Prior to my appointment as Chief Constable, early in 2008, a great deal of media interest arose regarding a number of suicides of young people occurring in and around the Bridgend area. An intense national media focus on the issue led to discussions regarding the extent and nature of the problem, during which politicians were involved. A review of the circumstances surrounding the suicides determined that there was no evidence of a link between the deaths and after a few months, the media interest reduced. During the period when daily articles were being published suggesting a cult, or internet suicide pact was at work, discussions with local politicians took place to inform and engage with them and other partner agencies.
32. Local members of Parliament and Assembly Members worked in partnership with the police and other local agencies to ensure responsible reporting on the part of the media. This culminated in the chair of the Press Complaints Commission, Sir Christopher Meyer, attending Bridgend and holding a meeting with key stakeholders. This robust approach did lead to a noticeable change in the manner of future reporting of this issue.

Question 13: Have you any known, or sensed, that a politician has put pressure on you to take a particular course of action as a result of lobbying or influence exerted on that politician by the media? If so, please explain (although you need not identify the politician at this stage if you do not wish to do so).

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33. I can confirm that I have no knowledge of any such event occurring.

Question 14: Has the prominence which politicians have given to subjects ever given rise to pressure to alter policing priorities so as to allocate more priority to the subject being given prominence by the politicians? If so, please explain.

34. The Force will regularly receive letters from Politicians seeking to raise an issue or issues on behalf of their constituents. We seek to provide them with a response to their concerns or queries and we will consider carefully any issues that they may raise with regard to policing priorities however, I will always ensure that they are aware that the manner in which South Wales Police staff, resources and equipment are managed and tasked is a matter for me and my Chief Officer's and subject of oversight by the Police Authority and their various committees.

35. I can however confirm that I have no knowledge of any instance when a politician has attempted to pressurise any of my staff to allocate a greater policing priority to a particular issue.

Question 15: Set out your understanding of the type of contact which South Wales Police personnel have with the local, Welsh and national media covering nature, extent, frequency and (in general terms) topics/content

36. There is no restriction on the rank or grade of a person who may engage with the media. The Force Media Policy (PJV1 pages 3 - 11) requires however that that person must be the most appropriate person to speak about the issue in question.

37. Contact with the media is split between pro-active and reactive contact. In general terms, pro-active contact occurs where there is an opportunity to publicise a crime prevention or public reassurance campaign; where an opportunity to promote the Force and the work of its officers presents itself or

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38. Reactive contact, in general terms, occurs when officers and staff respond to questions from the media on a range of issues such as investigations, reputational issues, budgetary matters etc.
39. On average the Corporate Communications department takes 450 calls from the media per month. This figure does not include routine contact between the officers and staff media and officers and staff outside of the Corporate Communications department.
40. As set out above at paragraph 36, South Wales Police operates a policy of allowing any member of staff to speak with the media if they are the best placed person to do so. In practical terms, this means that a constable might provide a quote to the local press about parking problems in a particular street, but for any incident where a command structure has been established, such as a serious crime or major incident, it would be more appropriate for a senior officer to comment.
41. On this basis, local divisional contact with the local media regarding crime and anti-social behaviour issues goes on daily. Press statements are also issued on a daily basis to appeal for witnesses, provide information or advise of road closures. These are distributed widely to all news outlets rather than to specific organisations.
42. Outside office hours, media enquiries are in the first instance dealt with by the duty Inspector at the Force control room via a recorded line. An on-call press officer is available on a 24-hour basis for any matters requiring their attention.

Question 16: Are contacts with the media restricted to certain staff or are all staff able to deal with the media?

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43. As indicated previously, any police officer or member of police staff may speak to the media provided they are the most appropriate person to speak about the issue in question. Instances of serious crime or other significant incidents will often call for a specific and designated person or persons to deal with media enquiries and releases. This will be clarified within the individual policy file for that event or incident by the Senior Investigating Officer or Chief Officer (as appropriate).
44. In practice, within South Wales Police, all staff must consult with their line manager prior to liaising with the media. In addition, each basic command unit has a local corporate communications advisor. If officers or staff are in doubt as to the nature or content of the liaison required, they should refer the issue to their line manager or if appropriate direct the enquiry to the Corporate Communications department or, if out of hours, the Force Incident Manager.
45. In accordance with the Gifts, Hospitality & Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 - 180) referred to previously, Chief Officers and senior police staff should be accompanied to media interviews by a member of Corporate Communications.

Question 17: What do you expect South Wales Police to gain from such contacts with the media?

46. Generally, we attempt to fulfil the Force's responsibility to inform the public of matters of interest or concern whilst abiding by reasonable standards of privacy and following Human Rights and Data Protection principles. In addition, we hope to fulfil the following:
- To be the best at understanding and responding to the needs of the community (Force Vision) and to get feed back as to whether we are achieving this;

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- To provide public reassurance and to protect the reputation of South Wales and South Wales Police;
- To respond to an opportunity to promote the professionalism of the Force where appropriate;
- To gain support with lines of enquiry to investigations including the identification of witnesses and potential suspects;
- To utilise the media to promote issues of public safety and crime prevention to our communities;

Please also see my response to question 4 above.

Question 18: What do the media seek from such contacts with your personnel?

47. In most cases journalists are looking to establish or confirm the facts of a case, incident or any other matter of public interest; or they are seeking comment or opinion from a member of South Wales Police personnel in relation to the same. In addition, there are opportunities for our staff to participate in crime and police related documentary programmes e.g. the BBC programme Traffic Cops and Crimewatch. These programmes help to reassure the public and increase their awareness of the work that we do on their behalf.

Question 19: What hospitality are your personnel permitted to accept from the media? Inter alia, are they entitled to accept a meal or a drink from a journalist?

48. The very nature of policing requires members of the Force to interact with public businesses and organisations and there will be occasions when hospitality is offered. Hospitality is widely defined and includes offers of a

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working lunch, complimentary tickets to functions, sporting and entertainment
events.

49. Force policy states that the offer of hospitality of any kind must be treated with the utmost caution as acceptance may make it difficult to avoid the perception of some obligation to the party offering it and may be interpreted as having affected a staff member's impartiality. All such offers of hospitality are recorded in the local gifts and hospitality register together with reasons for acceptance or rejection.

Question 20: What hospitality are your personnel permitted to afford to the media?

50. The Force policy on Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact (PJV1 pages 159 - 180) states that occasionally the provision of light refreshments or meals may take place. Any provision of gifts must be approved by the department head and be met from existing budgets, thus being recorded. No alcohol may be provided without approval of the Deputy Chief Constable.

Question 21: What mechanisms are in place to record hospitality as between the media and your personnel?

51. The recording of any media hospitality will be carried out through the registers maintained at Police Headquarters and locally at departments and divisions. Any cost will also be logged through the budget system.

Question 22: How (if at all) is hospitality between South Wales Police (including yourself) and the media controlled and/or regulated?

52. As referred to previously a media register (PJV1 page 212 - 218), maintained by Chief Officers and other senior managers, is a record of all interactions and meetings with the media and accordingly provides the necessary regulation. This also records any details of hospitality offered. The experience within

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South Wales Police is that any hospitality provided is at a token level and would include light refreshments only.

Question 23: Are the hospitality rules governing contact between South Wales Police personnel (including yourself) and the media different from those covering contact with other third parties? If so, what are the differences?

53. The Force Policy on hospitality with the media or any other parties or agencies are the same and have the same aims; transparency and professionalism. The systems which exist are designed to remove the perception of any influence arising.

Question 24: What policies and procedures are in place to record contact between: (a) yourself and the media; (b) senior managers and the media; (c) other personnel and the media? For the avoidance of doubt please answer in relation to both formal and informal communications

54. I can confirm that in relation to (a) any contact that I or Chief Officers have with the media is recorded via the Media Register or the Gifts and Hospitality – Media Register maintained in accordance with policy. Departmental registers for gifts and hospitality are also maintained.

55. In relation to (b) copies of any press releases issued by senior managers are retained for future reference and are included in the Media Register. In addition, in the case of large major enquiries, all contact with the media is recorded e.g. on the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES) and any records of the contacts are considered disclosable and are regarded as exhibits.

56. In relation to (c), given that contact with the local press takes place regularly in relation to routine matters, the recording process for normal police practice applies, namely through incident logs and pocket note books. Any contact through the Force control room outside office hours is by recorded telephone.

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Question 25: Are records of hospitality and other contact with the media audited and/or policed and, if so, by whom?

57. The entries in both the Gifts and Hospitality and Media Contact Registers are countersigned by the Deputy Chief Constable and reviewed twice annually, on 1st May and 1st November prior to presentation to the Standards Committee of the Police Authority for independent scrutiny and comment.

Question 26: In your opinion are the policies and procedures described above: (a) working effectively; (b) sufficient and (c) capable of improvement.

58. In light of recent developments including the recent HMIC inspection "Without Fear or Favour" and knowledge of the issues which have led to the Inquiry, it is acknowledged that the Force Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 - 180), whilst suitable at the time of its introduction, now requires a review and re-development.

59. It is recognised that there is a need to provide greater clarity and prescription of terms which will support a consistent message and understanding across the organisation. It is also felt necessary to implement a recording process that allows a more dynamic and scheduled examination of recorded entries. Best practice within the U.K. has, with the assistance of H.M.I.C., been identified and is being scoped for implementation within South Wales Police. This best practice will include electronically held registers which will be more readily accessible for close scrutiny and review.

Question 27: What systems, policies and procedures are in place in South Wales Police to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

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60. The South Wales Police Media Policy informs our involvement with the media in providing information both proactively and reactively through the observance of ACPO's Communications Advisory Group guidelines.
61. In addition, the "A-Z of dealing with the Media" guideline (current version at PJV1 pages 389 - 471) is published on the South Wales Police intranet. This includes detailed procedures on the different scenarios and topics that the media may request information or comment upon or those areas where the Force may wish to communicate with the general public. In addition, documents providing internal guidance as to management of a media query are provided to Corporate Communications Department staff. Three Media Guidance documents entitled "Red Flag"; "Blue Flag"; and "Green Flag" are contained within the bundle (PJV1 pages 468 - 471).
62. There are also policies advising staff upon Gifts, Hospitality & Media Contact (PJV1 pages 159 - 180) and 'Use of Social Network Sites' (PJV1 pages 376 - 380). The Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact policy mandates the recording of all contact between ACPO Officers and senior police staff with the media to be recorded within a Media Register which is maintained by the Deputy Chief Constable. This policy also provides guidance in relation to the receipt of gifts and hospitalities and also the provision of such hospitalities and catering.
63. The Social Network Policy exists to highlight to all staff the potential areas of vulnerability associated with the use of such sites e.g. Facebook, Bebo. The use of such sites by the media is specified within the policy and robust guidance is given in relation to the dangers of information leakage and breaches of confidentiality and their consequences. These policies are made available to all officers and staff via the Force intranet system but additionally are focussed upon within several programmes of awareness training to staff. This training includes the discussion of relevant case studies where personnel have exposed themselves to vulnerabilities. I will refer to Standards and Values Training again in my reply to question 29.

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Question 28: Are you satisfied that the policies and procedures described above are sufficient and working effectively? Do you consider that they are capable of improvement?

64. All our policies are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure fitness for purpose. South Wales Police is an active member of the ACPO Communications Advisory group. This group constantly monitors and reviews the ACPO media guidelines and puts in place measures to make improvements or add additional guidance (e.g. around the use of social media) when appropriate.
65. As a direct result of the recent National H.M.I.C inspection and publication of the report '*Without Fear or Favour*', South Wales Police is undertaking a review of the key policies which relate to this area to ensure that they are fit for purpose and reflect national best practice. This is the HMIC review to which I refer in my response to question 26. The Force also recognises that in relation to policies which deal with the ever changing world of Social Networking and other methods of communication, these policies need to be under constant review to ensure that they reflect and are responsive to the current threats.

Question 29: What training is in place in South Wales Police to ensure that all member of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

66. Training with regards to staff interaction with the media is divided into two areas:-
1. The first area is mainly focused on an officer's performance and interaction with the media during the development of a media strategy on serious cases and significant incidents. This strategy may include interviews with members of the press and may also include public facing press conferences. This training mainly revolves around critical incidents including Senior Investigating Officer training, Detective training, Sergeant and Inspector

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training. This training takes place both in the classroom and also in the Hydra simulation suites

2. We also provide training around 'values and standards' which is more about the ethical conduct and interaction with other partners and agencies. It is not specifically focused on our interaction with the media although they could be classed as 'other agencies' and references to the media are included in that training. This training is given to a broader audience including initial recruits, PCSOs, Special Constables and Police Staff induction courses. We also provide Leadership Master Classes, coaching and mentoring which includes all aspects of values and standards. The Leadership Master Classes are designed to promote all aspects of the Force Leadership Charter

67. Examples of the categories of training and document types are set out in detail within the index to the bundle marked "PJV1" under side heading (b). I have not sought to include further information or documentation, such as lesson plans, the Leadership Charter and the simulated operations training logs as, in the main, only a very small part of the documentation touches upon media issues. Such documentation is available for consideration by the Inquiry if so required.

Question 30: To what extent have leaks from South Wales Police to the media been a problem during your tenure as Chief Constable?

68. During my tenure as Chief Constable one such investigation was commenced which related to an allegation of 'improper disclosure of information to the media'. That complaint was that the address of a serving officer who had been arrested for offences involving indecency had been released to the local media by South Wales Police. The allegation was not substantiated and it was confirmed that the information had been obtained by the media during the open court proceedings.

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Question 31: What systems and procedures are in place to identify, respond to and detect the source of leaks?

69. South Wales Police have a well resourced and dedicated Anti Corruption Unit who have high levels of capability and capacity to investigate issues of this nature. This capability is supported by the use of robust auditing software which allows:

- Auditing of all activity upon South Wales Police computer systems,
- Auditing of handheld portable devices e.g. Blackberry's
- Auditing of internal and external e-mails,
- Auditing of telephone calls made into and out of the Force estate
- Recording and auditing of texts and e-mails sent from hand held Blackberry's.

70. The Anti Corruption Unit in appropriate circumstances will also use other forms of covert tactics to support investigations where the unauthorised disclosure of information is suspected. These tactics will include lawful business monitoring of telephone calls from landlines and other covert monitoring surveillance methods.

71. The Anti Corruption Unit are proactive and conduct speculative auditing of our Force systems. This auditing can be directed at areas of vulnerability e.g. the auditing of which staff have accessed the computer details of a police incident which is likely to attract media attention e.g. the arrest of a local celebrity. It should be noted that the Anti Corruption Unit within South Wales Police have an excellent working relationship with the Independent Police Complaints Commission ("IPCC") and maintain structured communication with them at all stages of relevant investigations.

Question 32: How many investigations have been conducted into actual or suspected leaks from South Wales Police to the media been commenced during the last 5 years and how many have led to the successful identification of the source from the leak? What was the outcome of the other investigations?

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72. There have been three investigations into such matters within the last 5 years. All have been initiated after information was received to suggest that following the arrest of a serving or a former officer's arrest, certain information was leaked to the media. Two of the matters were unsubstantiated after investigation, whilst the third is currently under investigation. In terms of the matter currently under investigation, the delay in the progress of this investigation is attributed to subjudice ruling in respect of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Question 33: Has disciplinary action been taken against any member of staff (whether civilian or police officer) for leaking information to the media during the last 5 years? If so, please identify the number of cases and their outcome. There is no need to identify the person or persons the subject of the disciplinary process.

73. There have been no substantiated cases of any such event occurring within the last five years.

Question 34: What payments (if any) are considered to be legitimate financial transactions between South Wales Police personnel and the media?

74. No South Wales Police personnel are permitted to accept a payment from the media in return for information. This is outlined in the Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy. There have been occasions when the Force is offered an income generation opportunity to participate in filming. The Corporate Communications department, together with the Legal Services Department, work with the department in question to agree a suitable fee and ensure appropriate measures (which include a contractual agreement detailing the terms) are put in place to protect all parties. This is detailed in the Force Media policy.

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75. In line with the actions of many employers we utilise the media in order to advertise vacancies and invitations to tender which are paid for on a commercial basis. It should be noted that this area of business is reducing in line with the growth of internet based advertising.

Question 35: What policies and/or guidance are in place in relation to financial transactions between South Wales Police personnel and the media?

76. The Gifts, Hospitality & Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 – 180) and the South Wales Police Media Policy (PJV1 pages 1 – 11) are both published on our intranet. The Media Policy contains guidance in relation to financial transactions between South Wales Police personnel and the media.

Question 36: To what extent do you believe bribery of personnel by the media to be a current problem for South Wales Police (if at all)?

77. I have no evidence to suggest that this is a current problem for South Wales Police. I ensure however that we remain vigilant to this threat and its raised significance during this period of financial austerity.

Question 37: What steps are taken: (a) to educate your personnel about bribery; (b) otherwise to prevent the bribery of your personnel; (c) proactively to detect bribery; (d) retrospectively to investigate bribery; and (e) to discipline personnel (if any) who are found to have accepted bribes from the media?

78. In relation to part (a) of the question, I would again refer to my response to question 29 where I detail the Values and Standards training. In respect of the specific legislation, the Professional Standards Department staff, and in particular those in the Anti Corruption Unit will be receiving comprehensive training on this matter.

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79. In relation to part (b) of the question, South Wales Police recognise that staff will become more susceptible to the threat of corruption as the impact of the current period of financial hardship increases. In response the organisation has sought through focussed training sessions to key managers to raise the awareness of this threat, and how and where financial advice and support can be sought. South Wales Police recognises that personnel can find themselves with unmanageable debt very often resulting from unforeseen circumstances. To that end our policies and approach to such issues whilst protective of the organisation are supportive to the individual.
80. In relation to part (c) of the question, the Anti Corruption Unit are a proactive unit and have excellent established methods to gather intelligence which include close liaison with the Force Vetting Unit, the Force Financial Investigation Department and Force and area based Dedicated Source Handling Units. In addition we operate confidential reporting line for issues of integrity. Outside of the Metropolitan Police Service, South Wales Police has the highest number of cases within the remit of the Anti Corruption Unit. This is viewed very positively by the IPCC as an indicator of the Force's rigour in this area.
81. The Anti Corruption Unit also conduct speculative auditing of our Force systems. This auditing can be directed at areas of vulnerability e.g. the auditing of 'who and why' staff have accessed the computer held details of a police incident which is likely to attract media attention e.g. the arrest of a local celebrity. I refer back to my response in paragraph 71.
82. In relation to part (d) of the question, we have no current matters which require a retrospective investigation. If any such allegations did arise, these would be conducted by the Force Anti Corruption Unit. Any enquiry would be reported to the Independent Police Complaints Commission and we would work with them to agree the structure of the investigation.
83. In relation to part (e) of the question, whilst we have no such cases to consider, in the event that such a case did arise, the individual would be dealt

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Question 38: Does South Wales Police have a press office? What role does it fulfil? If you do have such an office, what is the media's attitude towards the press office? In particular, are they satisfied by the provision of information and the routing of communications through your press office or do they prefer direct contact with individual personnel within the South Wales Police?

84. South Wales Police has a Corporate Communications Department which includes the main South Wales Police press office, based at Police Headquarters and deals with corporate issues and queries that affect the whole Force. There are one senior and two press officers on the press desk. They take and respond to daily media calls and emails from local, national and sometimes international media.
85. They deal daily, both reactively and proactively, with all media issues and major incidents, as well as planning for future events and campaigns and dealing with filming and media requests and facilitating interviews etc. They also provide media training for various officer courses.
86. They are supported by five regional press officers based at four Basic Command Units at Pontypridd, Cardiff, Swansea and Bridgend/Barry. These press officers liaise with local media proactively and reactively on a daily basis.
87. All press officers, on rotation, provide an out of hours on call emergency press officer service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
88. In general relations between press officers and the media are professional and amicable and the media is believed to be generally satisfied by the service of the headquarters and divisional press officers. However, it is in the

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very nature of the work of the media that journalists will on occasion seek additional information that we are not necessarily able to provide. All press officers are aware of their responsibility to be open, honest and transparent and will always try to give as much information as they can. They will never withhold information because it is perceived to be 'negative' or unpalatable. If information cannot be released or queries cannot be confirmed or placed in context, they will use their professional judgment to respond accordingly and if necessary seek legal advice. Information could be withheld, for example, to ensure the integrity of investigations, to ensure the privacy and requisite considerations for victims or their families, or where there are concerns about safety of individuals or communities.

89. On the occasions where we are unable to service the needs of the media as fully as they would like this can sometimes lead to a perception that press officers are being unhelpful or obstructive. On these occasions, there will be sound operational reasons as to why the requested information can not be shared at that time. Accordingly, it is inevitable that many journalists will seek to speak to an officer directly about an issue or incident.
90. When possible and appropriate, the press officer will support the journalist in their request for direct interview with the appropriate officer by phone or in person. Direct contact occurs more often in policing areas where journalists have become familiar with local officers (such as Divisional Inspectors) with whom they speak to on a more regular basis. In practice, the press office facilitates the fluid release of information, ensuring responses are produced to meet deadlines and encouraging and helping busy police officers with competing demands to expand on issues and comment in a relevant way whilst also managing any impact upon the operational issues at hand.

Question 39: What limitations, if any, are there on staff from South Wales Police leaving to work for the media and vice versa?

91. There are no limitations upon staff from South Wales Police leaving to work for the media and vice versa. In practice, restrictive covenants are difficult to

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Filed in response to a notice dated 22nd December 2011 lawfully enforce. Protection is afforded in relation to official and sensitive information by the Official Secrets Act and the Data Protection Act amongst other legislative protections.

Question 40: Are records kept of those who join South Wales Police from the media, or go on to work for the media after leaving South Wales Police? If so, please describe the system in place.

92. There is no requirement for staff to tell us where or for whom they go on to work once they leave us. Whilst the Force may have some information from reference requests it is likely to be incomplete since we would have no way of knowing if they were successful in securing the role to which the reference refers. Moreover, staff may then move on beyond the subsequent employer. A record of each staff member's previous employment is held within their personnel file. The implication of their employment with any former employer is a consideration in the initial selection decision when appointing new staff. Within the Corporate Communications Department, previous experience in the media is valuable and indeed required for some roles. I am aware that three current members out of the twenty staff within the Corporate Communications Department previously worked for the local media.

Question 41: To the best of your knowledge are there any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into South Wales Police and vice versa?

93. There are no discernable patterns in the movement of personnel. Indeed, there does not tend to be a high turnover of staff within the Corporate Communications department. The average length of employment within Corporate Communications is six years. The longest serving member has been in the department for over thirteen years and the shortest less than 2 years.

Question 42: What levels of awareness and experience are there in South Wales Police of "media crimes" and in particular: (a) unlawful interception

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of communications (including the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act); (b) bribery of officials by the media; (c) blackmail; (d) harassment by paparazzi and journalists; (e) traffic and/or public order offences committed by photographers and journalists pursuing stories; (f) inciting officials to communicate confidential information held by South Wales Police/conspiring with them to obtain such information; and (g) crime within media organisations other than foregoing (e.g. dishonest expense claims).

94. South Wales Police does not record criminal offences as "media crimes" and our systems do not record the data in such a way that we can search for the requested information. However, I can confirm that the Detective Chief Superintendent (Specialist Crime), the Chief Superintendent (Specialist Operations), the Chief Superintendent (Territorial Policing) and Corporate Communications meet Monday to Friday at Force daily tasking and have confirmed that they have no knowledge of any 'media crimes' as listed in subsections A to G of the question occurring within the last two years.

Question 43: What sort of priority is given to, and what level of resources are available to deal with, the above.

95. If such crimes/incidents were reported, they would be prioritised via daily tasking and resourced accordingly having access, where necessary, to all the appropriate specialist skills at South Wales Police's disposal.

Question 44: What is your current impression of the culture within South Wales Police in relation to its dealings with the press?

96. In general officers and staff take great care in their dealing with the Press and follow the guidelines to which extensive references have been made in this statement. In the main, officers and staff refer any approach from the media to their supervising officer or to the press office.

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97. Indeed, as referenced earlier, during the period of international media interest in the Bridgend suicides there was evidence of financial incentives being offered by the media to representatives from the local community in order to continue to publicise these tragic events. It was reassuring that during this time where the media were actively seeking sources of information there was no evidence of any leakage of information from any police sources. This should be considered in the context of the large number of officers and staff within the organisation who became engaged in this critical incident.

Question 45: Do you consider that there are further steps which could/and or should be taken to ensure that relationships between the police and the media are and remain appropriate?

98. At this time, the South Wales Police have no significant issues of concern in relation to their current relationships with the media. I recognise however that whilst this is an important partnership, it is an area that carries a high degree of risk and requires continuous monitoring and review. This is supported by our procedure of periodic review of relevant policies at set intervals, auditing of contact registers and, where necessary, the identification of best practice to improve areas of potential vulnerability or weakness. The HMIC publication, "Without Fear or Favour", has been a valuable publication within this area of business. Finally, I would wish to draw to the Inquiry's attention the generally positive relationship that the South Wales Police enjoy with the local media.

Policies and Procedures

99. In addition to the questions set out above, I have been asked to collate together seven key sets of documents for the Inquiry's consideration marked as (a) through to (g) at pages 6 – 7 of the Notice. I can confirm that the documents requested are collated within the paginated bundle marked "PJV1" and to which I have made reference above. I would also draw your attention to my comments at paragraph 67 detailing additional training and other

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Filed in response to a notice dated 22nd December 2011 documentation that may make reference to media issues. These documents have not been included but have been listed upon the index. They can be made available to the Inquiry if necessary but are, at this stage, considered extraneous to the terms of the Notice.

100. By way of clarification, I can confirm that the key policies, procedures and registers that I have referred to throughout are as follows:-

- Gifts and Hospitality Policy (PJV1 pages 166 - 181)
This policy was in force (albeit in amended form) from February 2008 to March 2009 and provided guidance as to hospitality generally, the completion of the register and hospitality catering. This policy was superseded by that set out below.
- Gifts, Hospitality and Media Contact Policy (PJV1 pages 159 - 180)
This was created in March 2011 and covers all gifts and hospitality offered to or provided by any member of staff including contact with media personnel.
- Gifts and Hospitality Register (General) (PJV1 pages 182- 211)
This has been in existence since 2007 and details all gifts and hospitality offered to Chief Officers and senior staff and the subsequent response.
- Media Register – (PJV1 pages 212 – 218)
This is a register held by the Deputy Chief Constable since March 2011. It is a register of all media contact with ACPO Officers and Senior Police Staff and sets out the detail of all interviews along with a brief note indicating what was discussed including outcome and all meetings with journalists including purpose, time and place. This also includes details of gifts and hospitality offered by members of the media and the subsequent response with a rationale.

Statement of Truth

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

Dated the 19th day of January 2012



Signed:

PETER JAMES VAUGHAN