

Witness: Lord Condon QPM DL
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The Leveson Inquiry into the Culture Practices and Ethics of the Press

Witness: Lord Condon QPM DL

Address: c/o Metropolitan Police Service, New Scotland Yard

1. I have been asked to provide a statement for the purposes of the Leveson Inquiry. In doing so, I repeat each of the questions asked of me in the s.21(2) Notice and beneath each one set out my response.

Q1 - Who you are and a brief summary of your career history.

2. I joined the Metropolitan Police Service ("MPS") as a Constable in March 1967 and served in all ranks up to and including Chief Superintendent. I was a beneficiary of the 'special course', which sought to identify future leaders of the Police Service and spent one year on a residential leadership programme at Bramshill Police College in 1970/71. I read jurisprudence at St Peter's College, Oxford, on a Bramshill Scholarship, from 1972 to 1975.
3. In 1984 I moved from the MPS to Kent Police as Assistant Chief Constable in charge of Operational Policing. In 1987 I returned to London as Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC), in charge of West London. In 1988 I was

appointed Assistant Commissioner (A/C) Personnel and Training. From 1989 to 1993 I returned to Kent Police as the Chief Constable. I was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1988 and Knighted in 1994.

4. I was the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis from 1 February 1993 until I retired from the Police Service on 31 January 2000.
5. Since leaving the MPS at the age of 52, I have remained active in a variety of roles. I was appointed as an independent member of the House of Lords in 2001. I represent Her Majesty the Queen as a Deputy Lieutenant, in the County of Kent. From 2000 to 2010 I was the Director and then the Chairman of the Anti Corruption and Security Unit of the International Cricket Council. I created this unit following a major review of match fixing in world cricket. I have also provided sports integrity advice to other sports governing bodies and the International Olympic Committee. I am Sports Integrity Advisor to the Olympic Games in London.
6. I have served on a number of commercial boards and advisory boards in Europe, North America and Australia. I am past Deputy Chairman of G4S plc and continue to serve as the Senior Independent Director.

About your time with the Metropolitan Police Service

Q2 - What were your impressions, over the years, about the culture of relations between the MPS and the media?

7. The MPS and the media have a mutually dependent relationship. It is in the public interest for the MPS to be as open and accountable as possible and the

media has a voracious appetite for all things relating to crime and policing. The culture and relationship has, in my experience, worked reasonably well. I have been retired for 12 years and am aware that I am out of touch with how it has developed recently, against the backdrop of transformational technological changes. The Police Service I joined had no computers, email/internet communications, mobile phones or personal radios. The relationships at a senior level were, in my opinion, during my time generally professional and worked in the public interest.

Q3 - Describe the personal contact which you had with the media at the various stages of your career. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of your contact with the media.

8. Until I reached senior rank my contact with the media was episodic and totally event driven. Throughout my service in the junior ranks of the Service, I was aware of rules and policies restricting and guiding contact with the media.
9. As Chief Constable of Kent, my contact with the media was still relatively episodic. Occasionally, it would dominate my professional life. So, for example, the bombing of the Royal Marine barracks at Deal in Kent in 1989, in which 11 people were killed, understandably meant I was the public voice and face of Kent Police to the world's media for an intense few days.
10. As I expected on taking over as Commissioner, my professional relationship with the media became a significant part of my life and at times would completely dominate it. London is one of the great cities of the world. It is also one of the most important media hubs in the world. It is the centre of our

political life. The Commissioner is not only responsible for the policing of London but is also seen as the senior figure in British policing. The Commissioner is also personally responsible for the safety of Her Majesty the Queen and senior members of the Royal Family, wherever they are in the world. Since Sir Robert Mark's time as Commissioner, the post has become irreversibly a very public post and the Commissioner has become, and is expected to be, a 'public figure'.

11. I tried to be an open, professional, accountable and accessible Commissioner. I inherited and developed a very good and professional Directorate of Public Affairs ("DPA") department. Sarah Cullum, my first Director of Public Affairs, was a well respected person within the MPS and the media. My contact with the media operated in a number of ways and at a number of levels. Event-driven press conferences would follow the most serious events. So, the murder of a police officer, a terrorist bombing and many other events could lead to a press conference at New Scotland Yard (NSY) before a large media audience, followed by one to one interviews with me, followed sometimes by me going to TV and radio studios for interviews.

12. Secondly, there were campaign-driven media events. So, 'Operation Bumblebee' for example was a campaign to reduce domestic burglary and it ran throughout my time as Commissioner and reduced reported burglary to an eighteen year low. Similar campaigns reduced street robberies. I frequently championed these campaigns through personal briefings and interviews.

13. In many ways confidence in the MPS was linked to confidence in me as Commissioner and that meant, in my opinion, that the media and the public needed to know who I was, what I was doing and what I stood for and valued. That led to the third important strand of my media contact – ‘relationship building’. This was achieved in a number of ways. So, for example, on a monthly basis I would brief the members of the Crime Reporters Association (CRA) at NSY. These fairly informal gatherings allowed those present to range across all the topical events which were of interest to them. I would also occasionally brief members of the Foreign Press Association based in the UK.

14. Relationship building with editors was a very important part of my interaction with the media. I achieved this by inviting print, television and radio editors to individual and group meetings at NSY or occasionally going to meetings at their offices.

15. I did not retain any significant documentation from my time as Commissioner and archived all material with the MPS when I retired. However, from memory of events, some going back now almost 20 years, and from retrieval by the MPS of such limited documentation as it still holds, I can say with reasonable confidence that, say between 1993 and 1996, I would have briefed editors, primarily individually, on a combined total of about 8-12 times a year at NSY. In addition, in each of those years perhaps another total of 3-5 meetings occurred at their offices and very occasionally, and not at all in some years, a meeting at some other venue. The meetings from 1997 to the end of 1999 were more frequent as a result of the importance of the Public Inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the subsequent police investigation.

16. The editors' meetings at NSY were mainly working lunches in the senior officer's dining room or a cold buffet supper in my office in the early evening. I would be joined by the Director of the DPA and often by another senior or junior MPS colleague, if the event had a theme such as 'terrorism' or 'organised crime' or 'combating corruption'. The editors sometimes brought their deputies or a leader writer. The editors of all national newspapers were invited individually or collectively to these events, as were editors of the BBC, ITN, LWT and London radio stations. I felt it was important to develop professional relationships with editors across the spectrum of ownership or political bias.

Q4 - Describe what you were seeking to gain for the MPS through your personal contacts with the media.

17. My relationship with the media was an extension of my role as Commissioner and through being open and accountable I could inform and reassure the public, be accountable to the public and engender trust and confidence in me and more importantly the MPS. Over time, the relationship I had built with editors allowed me to brief them in confidence about issues relating to combating terrorism or combating police corruption or other issues which were not fully in the public domain.
18. An example of the value of building such relationships occurred in about 1996 - 1997. We were conducting investigations into threats to London posed by the PIRA. At a critical stage, I was concerned that information relating to our investigations might reach the media. Because of the trust that had been built up between them and my office, we were able to invite editors of national

newspapers into NSY and provide them with a confidential briefing. The result was that they were better informed of the context of events and we were able to complete our investigations without any damaging leak of information.

Q5 - Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples what you consider the media has been seeking from you in your personal dealing with them during your career.

19. Clearly, the media generally, and editors specifically, had mixed motivation in their contact with me. They were at their most bored during group briefings because they were all getting the same information. Occasionally, this was enlivened by the subject matter, say 'terrorism' or 'police corruption'. They were more animated in the individual briefings as they could seek information on matters of interest to them and their target audience. I was not unaware they hoped to get an advantage over their competitors and I tried to be scrupulously fair and even handed in my dealings with them.

Q6 - To what extent did you accept hospitality from the media?

20. Throughout my time as Commissioner and beyond I have been involved in championing integrity and fighting corruption in policing, international sport and the commercial world. In my view hospitality can be the start of a grooming process which leads to inappropriate and unethical behaviour. Therefore I have tried, and hopefully succeeded, in conducting my professional life in a way which did not leave me vulnerable to accusations of inappropriate hospitality. Equally, the Commissioner of the day is an ambassador for the Service and should not lead a monastic or anti-social professional life. On a small number of occasions in seven years, I had working lunches or dinners at media offices

and on an even smaller number of occasions working lunches or dinners in a restaurant or London club. These are the occasions I refer to at paragraph 15.

Q7 - Insofar as you accepted hospitality from the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted?

21. Over my seven years as Commissioner I would have the occasional working lunch or dinner at media offices (again as described in paragraph 15 above). On every occasion I would be joined by my Director of Public Affairs and sometimes my Deputy Commissioner or another senior officer. The host would invariably have a number of editors or senior colleagues. Sometimes the dinner might be linked to seeing how the news was prepared at, for example, ITN. On a handful of occasions I was persuaded to have a lunch or a dinner in a restaurant or club. I remember having lunch or dinner with Max Hastings who always moaned about the quality of the food at NSY. I remember a couple of dinners at restaurants with Stuart Higgins, the then editor of The Sun Newspaper. I had lunch at a restaurant on a couple of occasions with Peter Burden, the 'doyen' of the Crime Reports Association, as he was approaching retirement. However, my preference was always for meetings with the media to be on police premises.

22. Through an acquaintance at the BBC, Will Wyatt, my wife and I attended one BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, in a personal capacity, and through the same acquaintance, visited the Wimbledon Tennis Championships on one occasion to lunch and to watch a tennis match.

Q8 - To what extent did you provide hospitality for the media on behalf of the MPS?

23. The only hospitality I provided to the media related to the working lunches or dinners at NSY, which I have described above. In my early years as Commissioner I hosted an annual horse show for police and military equestrian units at the Imber Court Police Sports Ground. Outside guests were invited and media figures may have attended. Similarly, I hosted an annual MPS concert usually at the Barbican. Again, outside guests were invited to this musical concert of police related choirs and individuals and media guests may have been invited. Occasionally, my wife and I would host a dinner at NSY for a mixed group of guests drawn from political, diplomatic, military and ceremonial backgrounds. This enabled us to reciprocate hospitality linked to my official role in state visits and the ceremonial life of London. Senior media figures may have been invited to one or more of these dinners.

Q9 - Insofar as you provided hospitality to the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you provided?

24. The hospitality provided was within the range of food and wine provided by the catering department at NSY.

Q10 - What mechanisms were in place to monitor and record hospitality as between the Commissioner and the media?

25. As my meetings with the media were working meetings for a purpose, and never purely social events, I never considered them to be an acceptance of hospitality per se. However, I was very aware of the standards of propriety I should set. I monitored closely the development and promulgation of the

'Nolan' seven principles of public life (a summary of which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle) and after wide consultation within the MPS published Special Notice 28/97 on Friday 29 August 1997, a Code of Practice for Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality (which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle). This gave comprehensive guidance and instructions, including the maintenance of 'hospitality registers'. The DPA was required to maintain such a register and because, invariably, I was accompanied by my Director of Public Affairs, a combination of his hospitality register, the Commissioner's private office diaries and correspondence recorded my movements.

Q11 - What mechanisms were in place to monitor and record meetings with the media generally?

26. My two Directors of Public Affairs, Sarah Cullum and Dick Fedorcio, were very professional senior colleagues and it was primarily their task, in conjunction with my private office staff to monitor and encourage an appropriate annual cycle of meetings with senior media figures and to record details of them. I was always anxious to ensure that I briefed and developed relationships across the spectrum of printed and electronic media without fear or favour. I believe I achieved that.

Q12 - Did you ever discuss the media, or media coverage, with politicians? If so, how important is such communication and why?

27. Policing is a highly charged political issue. However, I was determined to be a non-party political Commissioner. I briefed ministers and opposition spokesmen alike. Throughout my time as Commissioner, the Home Secretary

was the Police Authority for the Metropolitan Police and I briefed him formally on a monthly basis in addition to event-driven briefings. These briefings included more sensitive issues relating to live operational matters such as disrupting terrorist threats to London. The way the media was responding to a particular event or issue may have been discussed because fear of crime can be as debilitating on some occasions as actual crime.

Q13 - Did you ever know, or sense, 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).

28. I understand the pressures on politicians to respond to public and media pressure. However, throughout my time as Commissioner I did not feel under improper pressure to take a particular course of action as a result of lobbying or influence exerted on that politician by the media.

Q14 - Did the prominence which politicians have given to subjects ever give 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.

29. The Home Secretary had a statutory power to set objectives for policing and they were referred to as Ministerial Priorities. These applied to all police forces, and in particular the MPS, which retained the Home Secretary as Police Authority until the creation of the MPA in 2000. My Policing Plan for 1999/2000, (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) illustrates how they were incorporated into the priorities for the MPS.

Q15 - Set out your understanding of the type of contact which MPS personnel have had with the media covering nature, extent, and (in general terms) topics / content.

30. Historically, there has always been policy, guidance and cultural aspects to contact between MPS personnel and the media. In Special Notice 24/98, 21 August 1998, Corporate Communications Strategy (which can be found at tab A of the MPS Master Bundle) the ground rules were re-established and Appendix C set out the media policy. On most occasions contact with the media would be through the DPA Press Bureau, Area Press Offices or Divisional Press Liaison Offices. No doubt, at a more informal level, MPS personnel in specialist units in regular contact with the media would develop professional and social contact with the media.

Q16 - Were contacts with the media restricted to certain staff or were all staff able to deal with the media?

31. The Special Notice referred to above and other guidance before and after sought to strike a balance between a desire to be open and accountable whilst maintaining ethical and professional standards. The overwhelming majority of MPS personnel would have little daily contact with the media.

Q17 - What did you expect the MPS to gain from such contacts with the media?

32. In the Special Notice 28/97 (which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle) we summarised this in Appendix C as follows:

“It is our policy to be open and honest in dealing with the media and respond to their enquiries within their deadlines as far as possible. We will tell the media things which: -

- *are in the best interests of the public to know about*
- *help to show the public the way in which the police go about their work; and*
- *help to build public confidence in the police*

Q18 - What did the media seek from such contacts with your personnel?

33. The media legitimately sought information about crime and events of interest to their target audiences. They also sought exclusive information for their personal or organisational commercial advantage.

Q19 - What hospitality were MPS personnel permitted to accept from the media? Inter alia, were they entitled to accept a meal or a drink from a journalist?

Q20 - What hospitality were personnel permitted to afford to the media?

Q21 - What mechanisms were in place to record hospitality as between the media and MPS personnel?

Q22 - How (if at all) was hospitality between the MPS (including yourself) and the media controlled and/or regulated?

34. The rules about gifts and hospitality were set out and restated in the Code of Practice for Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality published in August 1997 (which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle).

Q23 - Were the hospitality rules governing contact between MPS personnel (including yourself) and the media different from those covering contact with other third parties? If so, what were the differences?

35. In general terms the same rules applied.

Q24 - What policies and procedures were in place to record contact between: (a) the Commissioner 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.

36. The Code of Practice for Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality (Special Notice 28/97) (which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle) and the recording of these events applied to all MPS personnel. The media were not allocated some particular status demanding the noting of every casual contact. So, if a police officer of any rank bumped into someone from the media, in the margins of some other event, unless there were reasons to record it, it would go unnoticed and unrecorded.

Q25 - Were records of hospitality and other contact with the media audited and/or policed and, if so, how and by whom?

37. The MPS had an internal audit and inspection programme across all departments. These geographic and thematic inspections embraced all aspects of the service. In addition, the HMIC had a programme of force and thematic inspections. In June 1999 it published a report, 'Police Integrity - Securing and Maintaining Public Confidence' (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports). Chapter 7 was about gifts and gratuities etc. It spent

a considerable time monitoring how these issues were dealt with by the MPS, as well as other services.

Q26 - In your opinion did the policies and procedures described above: (a) work effectively; (b) were they sufficient; and (c) were they capable of improvement.

38. In the context of all I was trying to do to deal with police corruption and to encourage the highest standards of ethical behaviour and integrity they seemed adequate, proportionate and effective.

Q27 - What systems, policies and procedures were in place in the MPS to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) knew what was and what was not appropriate contact with the media?

39. The Special Notices referred to above, together with guidance and advice from the DPA, Press Bureau and Area Press Offices, promotion courses, briefings for events and the culture of the organisation I believe all served to make clear the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

Q28 - Were you satisfied that the policies and procedures described above were sufficient and worked effectively? Did you consider that they were capable of improvement?

40. At the time I was satisfied, otherwise I would have taken remedial action.

Q29 - What training was in place in the MPS to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) knew what was and what was not appropriate contact with the media?

41. The DPA and the Personnel and Training Department were aware of the need to explain, monitor, and reinforce guidance and training on these issues and did so. I have no recollection of the specific training in place given the passage of time since I held the office of Commissioner.

Q30 - To what extent were leaks from the MPS to the media a problem during your career with the MPS?

42. Leaks to the media were never tolerated or accepted but were recognised as being inevitable in such a large and complex organisation. They were not seen as a major or endemic problem and involved a small minority of MPS personnel.

Q31 - What systems and procedures were in place to identify, respond to and detect the source of leaks?

43. The procedures were subsumed within measures taken to prevent and detect criminal or disciplinary allegations generally against MPS personnel as explained earlier.

Q32 - Whilst you were the Commissioner, how many investigations were conducted into actual or suspected leaks from the MPS and how many led to the successful identification of the source of the leak. What was the outcome of the other investigations?

AND

Q33 - Was disciplinary action been taken against any member of staff (whether civilian or police officer) for leaking information to the media whilst you were the Commissioner? 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.

44. For the majority of my time as Commissioner I was the appeal authority for the MPS and was quite properly kept apart from specific disciplinary enquiries. Accordingly, detailed knowledge of specific allegations normally resided with the Deputy Commissioner. I cannot remember the outcome of any specific leak enquiries. However, I remember in early 1998 Kelvin Mackenzie, the former editor of The Sun, writing articles and broadcasting that I was attempting to 'gag the media' by preventing leaks to the press by MPS personnel, an example of which I exhibit as PC/1. I cannot remember if this followed action against MPS personnel for leaking information.

Q34 - What payments (if any) were considered to be legitimate financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media?

Q35 - What policies and/or guidance were in place in relation to financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media?

45. Guidance was provided within the Special Notice 28/97 Code of Practice for Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality (B/1). The Code of Practice made it clear that the acceptance of gifts for services rendered is not consistent with the values of propriety and professionalism which the MPS expected from its staff. Officers were advised that such gifts should in most instances be declined.

46. In respect of payments for interviews or broadcasts the Code of Practice provided that such payments must be declared and paid into the Metropolitan Police fund. They could be kept only if: -

- the subject was unconnected with normal police duty
- membership of the MPS was not integral to the interview

- it was reported to a supervisory officer and approved.

Q36 - To what extent do you believe bribery of personnel by the media was a problem for the MPS (if at all)?

47. To the best of my recollection, I never had any evidence of bribery of MPS personnel by the media.

Q37 - What steps were taken: (a) to educate your personnel about bribery; (b) otherwise to prevent the bribery of your personnel; (c) pro-actively 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?

48. History suggests that corruption in the MPS is cyclical. Sir Robert Mark as Commissioner confronted this issue and 20 years later I was confronted with a similar challenge. Within days of taking office I was made aware by my senior team of the challenges we faced. It took until 1997/98 successfully to lobby for changes to the police disciplinary regulations to make it easier to deal with corrupt officers.

49. In December 1997 I gave evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee and they reported favourably on my concerns. I also briefed editors extensively on this issue. I remember one particular week early in 1998 when, with warrants, we raided the homes of about 30 former and serving police officers. No one in the MPS in 1996 - 1999 could have been ignorant of my determination to deal with corruption and unethical behaviour in all its manifestations. All of this culminated in the launch of an anti corruption strategy in December 1998 -

Special Notice 36/1998, 'Corruption and Dishonesty Prevention Strategy', (which can be found at tab C of the MPS Master Bundle).

50. This was a huge initiative within the MPS involving all MPS personnel under the banner of 'Integrity is Non Negotiable' and a confidential whistle-blowing hotline was established.

51. At that time this programme of education, prevention and detection to deal with corrupt, dishonest and unethical behaviour had no peer in the world of policing. It embraced integrity testing and auditing all aspects of MPS activity. It reinforced our 5 year Policing Plan - The London Beat (this can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) which set out how we would have the right people, doing the right things in the right way

Q38 - What role did the MPS Directorate of Public Affairs (especially the Press Bureau) fulfil? What, in practice, did it do?

52. The Directorate of Public Affairs and Internal Communications was responsible for the press, public relations and publicity functions of the MPS as well as for internal communication. Special Notice 24/98 of 21 August 1998 (which can be found at tab A of the MPS Master Bundle) restated the MPS Corporate Communications Strategy and the role of the Press Bureau.

Q39 - How, in practice, did the media get access to you? Did the Head of Public Affairs act as a gatekeeper?

53. The DPA, and for me that was Sarah Cullum for 4.5 years, and Dick Fedorcio for my last 2.5 years, were the principal gatekeepers for access to me. They and their staff planned and arranged press conferences, press briefings and editors' briefings. They were assisted by my Commissioner's private office staff.

Q40 - To what extent did the Press Bureau exist to manage the MPS's corporate image in the media?

54. Special Notice 24/98 of 21 August 1998 (which can be found at tab A of the MPS Master Bundle) sets out the Corporate Communications Strategy.

Q41 - Why was it necessary for the MPS to have a Press Office, and what was your view as to its utility and role?

55. The Press Bureau was a 24/7 operation and the first contact point for information about events involving the MPS. The MPS' first internet website was not established until the mid to late 90s. The Press Bureau answered and responded to a voracious appetite for information on the part of the media. During my time I was proud of the quality of the staff and the service they provided.

Q42 - What was the media's attitude towards the MPS Press Office? In particular, were they satisfied by the provision of information and the routing of communications through your press office or did they prefer direct contact with individual personnel within the MPS?

56. The media's attitude to the Press Bureau varied over time and in accordance with events. It could never truly satisfy the media's appetite for more and more information or for the need for exclusivity and competitive advantage which every journalist would like.

Q43 - What role did the Metropolitan Police Authority play in relation to oversight of the MPS' relations and communications with the media? Did you consider that it would be in the public interest to make any changes to this role? If so, what changes?

57. I argued for the creation of an MPA from 1993 onwards having worked with a police authority in Kent. I also argued for a Mayor for London. However, the MPA did not come into existence until 2000 after my retirement. From 1997 I had a non-statutory Metropolitan Police Committee as a forerunner to the MPA and I regularly briefed them on important media issues.

Q44 - What level of contact and oversight was there from the MPA in relation to the MPS' relations and communications with the media?

AND

Q45 - What level of contact and oversight was there from the MPA in relation to the MPS' policing of offences committed, or suspected as having been committed, by the media?

58. I did not have an MPA as it was not formed until 2000.

Q46 - What limitations, if any, were there on staff from the MPS leaving to work for the media and vice versa?

59. It never really appeared as an issue to me. I personally declined all offers to write a book about my time as Commissioner. Similarly, I declined all offers to

be a columnist or retained commentator for particular newspapers, television or radio. Since retiring, I have similarly declined all offers. In 2011 I wrote an article on 'cricket corruption' for the Sunday Telegraph (which I exhibit as PC/2) and they paid the notional fee direct to a children's hospital. Also, I was not aware of any of my senior team leaving to work for the media during my time as Commissioner.

60. At a senior level in the DPA I had stability and was not aware of much movement in and out of the department. However, I would have encouraged some movement both ways, if asked at the time, to refresh and stimulate ideas and experience.

Q47 - Were records kept of those who joined the MPS from the media, or went on to work for the media after leaving the MPS? If so, please describe the system in place.

61. It did not appear to be an issue and I would be surprised to be told that separate records were kept beyond normal personnel records. I would have expected CVs of applicants for work in the DPA to indicate relevant experience and media backgrounds.

Q48 - To the best of your knowledge were there any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into the MPS and vice versa?

62. I was not aware of any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into the MPS or vice versa.

Q49 - What levels of awareness and experience were there in the MPS of "media crime" and in particular: (a) unlawful interception of communications; (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 the MPS / conspiring with them to obtain such information; and (g) crime within media organisations other than the foregoing (e.g. dishonest expense claims).

63. I was not aware of 'media crime' as a distinct policing concept. However, in my role of being responsible for the protection of the Royal Family I was aware of the role of the paparazzi in relation to the late Diana Princess of Wales and the Royal Family more generally. I was also aware of the media pressures more generally for scoops and exclusives.

Q50 - What sort of priority was given to, and what level of resources are available to deal with, the above.

64. Resources would have been allocated on a case by case basis within the priorities set for the type of crime or the local priority.

Q51 - Was there a policy and/or guidelines in place relating to the investigation of such offences?

65. I am not aware of any specific guidelines relating to the investigation of such offences.

Q52 - Whilst you were the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis did contact with the Police Complaints Authority and/or the Surveillance Commissioner and/or the Information

Commissioner ever give rise to questions about the leakage of information to the media and/or private detectives? If so, please explain?

66. The PCA was a more limited body than the IPCC which was not established until several years after I retired. Similarly, the Data Protection Registrar was a more limited role than the Information Commissioner and again this post was not established until after my retirement. To the best of my recollection neither of the earlier posts raised with me questions about the leakage of information to the media.

Q53 - 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?

67. I read with interest the report by Elizabeth Filkin into the ethical issues arising from the relationship between police and the media (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports). Since my time as Commissioner there have been transformational advances in personal communications and the ability of the police service and the media to interact ethically and unethically. However, some things are enduring and transcend technology or ephemeral crises. The setting of standards and leadership by example are vital. I would caution against a massive box ticking or bureaucratic approach to any reform. A good working relationships between the police and the media is essential and in the public interest.

Q54 - From your own experience of HMIC, is the HMIC sufficiently equipped to provide sufficient oversight of relations between the police and the media? What improvements might realistically be made to the system in this regard?

68. The HMIC report in 1999 'Police Integrity - Securing and Maintaining Public Confidence' by Colin Smith (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) was a good report with valuable recommendations. I recently gave advice to the Chief Inspector of Constabulary in the preparation of the report 'Without Fear or Favour' (which can also be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) and I think this report is a valuable contribution to the debate.

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed.....

Dated..... *27th January 2012*