For Distribution to CPs

From:

Crockford Alan

Sent:

05 September 2010 18:40

To:

Fedorcio Dick; Stearns Ed; Yates John - SOHQ; Cheesley Sara; Haydon

Dean - SO15; Saleh Naz - DLS

Subject:

Statement re phone hacking investigation

Follow Up Flag:

Done

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Red

The following was added to the Press Bureau web site and emailed to media contacts at around 1835-1840 this evening.

Alan

Press Bureau

Statement by Assistant Commissioner John Yates re phone hacking investigation

Since further allegations in relation to phone hacking first emerged in the Guardian in July 2009, the Metropolitan Police has been very clear about its position and made this public on a number of occasions. The newspaper produced no new evidence for us to consider reopening the case - a position endorsed separately by the DPP and Leading Counsel. We have always said that this position could change if new evidence was produced.

The New York Times contacted the MPS about their investigation. Our stance remains as before. We have repeatedly asked them for any new material that they have for us to consider. We were never made aware of the material from Sean Hoare before the article's publication. We have sought additional information from them and will consider this material, along with Sean Hoare's recent BBC Radio interview, and will consult the CPS on how best to progress it.

Separately, we are aware of the current claims in the media from, amongst others, Lord Prescott about his view that his phone was hacked. There remains to this day no evidence that his phone was hacked by either Mulcaire or Goodman. This is a matter of public record.

Lord Prescott also alleges that the MPS has failed to disclose material to him in a timely way. Lord Prescott has been provided with the information the MPS has in its possession relevant to him. However, we are not permitted to supply the actual documents except under a court direction. This is because the material was obtained for the purpose of a criminal investigation and cannot be used for another purpose, i.e. a civil action. Lord Prescott and his solicitors will be aware of this.