

Witness: Cressida Dick
Statement No: 1
Exhibits Referred to: CD/1
Date Statement Made: 2 February 2012

The Leveson Inquiry into the Culture Practices and Ethics of the Press

Witness: Cressida Dick
Occupation: Assistant Commissioner
Address: c/o Metropolitan Police Service, New Scotland Yard

1. I have been asked to provide this statement for the purpose of assisting the Leveson Inquiry. In preparing this statement I have sought to address all the questions asked of me in the Notice served pursuant to s.21 (2) of the Inquiries Act 2005.

Question (1) Who you are and a brief summary of your career history.

2. I am Cressida Dick. I am currently an Assistant Commissioner with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), heading up the Specialist Operations department. My current areas of responsibility include counter-terrorism, diplomatic, VIP and Royalty protection and counter-terrorism and security for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
3. I joined the MPS in 1983, serving as a Constable (PC), Sergeant (PS) and Inspector in Central, South West and South East London.

4. In 1993 I was seconded on to the staff of the Accelerated Promotion Course at Bramshill. I then transferred in 1995 to Thames Valley Police as Superintendent Operations at Oxford and subsequently spent three years as Area Commander at Oxford. After attending the Strategic Command Course, I took a career break and studied full time for an M.Phil. in Criminology at Cambridge University.
5. In June 2001 I returned to the MPS as a Commander and was appointed Director of the Diversity Directorate and Head of the Racial and Violent Crime Task Force, a post I remained in until August 2003. I then spent four years in the Specialist Crime Directorate, responsible for Organised and Cross Border Crime. I had been trained as a hostage negotiator in 1998 and I became the UK police lead for hostage negotiation. I also undertook command roles in the UK police response to 9/11, the Tsunami and the terrorist attacks in London in July 2005 and 2007.
6. In February 2007 I was promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner and moved to Specialist Operations in charge of protection and security in London. In July 2009 I was promoted again to Assistant Commissioner and moved to the Specialist Crime Directorate, leading the teams investigating the majority of serious, sensitive, complex and organised crimes in London. In August 2011, upon the retirement of AC'SO' John Yates, I was appointed as Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations.

(2) What has been your impression, over the years, about the culture of relations between the MPS and the media?

7. There is intense media interest in the work of the MPS. This is unsurprising, given that it is the largest police force in the UK, polices the capital city and deals with numerous high-profile, sensitive or unusual policing roles. As a result, it is essential for the MPS to form and maintain good working relations with the media, perhaps even more so than for any other police force. Generally, I think this has been achieved well. However, it is clear that over the past few years there have been problems with a small number of MPS personnel being willing to leak unauthorised and/or operationally damaging information to the media. There has also been a perception that some senior officers have had overly close contact with certain parts of the media. Recently, in the wake of the phone hacking investigations, relations with the press have been more strained. I expand on these points in response to more specific questions below.

(3) You have had responsibility for counter-terrorism operations. Do these attract different types of media attention to other operations? Please provide your views of the types of media attention/contact which counter-terrorism policing attracts and whether or not you consider these to be in the public interest.

8. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Guidance on Media Handling and Communication Activity at Major Incidents (including Counter-Terrorism) (which can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports) sets out in considerable detail some of the specific challenges in dealing with media contact in relation to a counter-terrorism operation. There are several issues arising in counter-terrorism incidents around which there needs to be particular sensitivity and care taken. For example, careful consideration needs to be given as to

whether to identify the ethnic or religious background of any person being sought in connection with a terrorism-related investigation, as this can have a disproportionate impact on members of particular communities (either in the UK or overseas).

9. Terrorist activity almost always attracts international media attention, as well as local and national interest, so it is important to think carefully about how to handle this. It is also critical to avoid any potential glamorising or dignifying of terrorists through media coverage. It is helpful, for instance, simply to refer repeatedly to terrorists as criminals (which is all they are) and their actions as criminal activity.
10. Press interest during terrorist attacks/counter terrorism operations is characterised by the scale of media activity. Blanket coverage is not uncommon and interest comes from media organisations at a local, national and international level. As a result, the nature of the crimes committed and associated police activity is subjected to a great level of immediate scrutiny. Journalists will often speak with eye witnesses, family, friends and victims. It is therefore the role of the police to balance the need for accurate and timely public messaging with the needs of the ongoing operation. Some information cannot be shared with the public for security reasons, but also legal ones. The wrong information entering the public domain can immediately place lives at risk. However, an information vacuum provides other problems and of course the public have a vital role to play in providing information. There will also be a need for security advice.

11. The vast majority of our day to day work is, and has to remain, covert and secret to protect methodologies and topics of interest. In addition, we are frequently in receipt of secret and top secret intelligence. To reveal this would be unlawful, put lives at risk and completely undermine trust between agencies. This places grave responsibility on officers and staff to take care of the information. On occasion, this will create tension with the media. The media often want more information than can legally and safely be provided. Some reporters do not understand the nature of covert policing and the risks that an inadvertent disclosure could have both operationally and on individuals in terms of public safety and national security.

(4) 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.

12. As a PC, PS, Inspector and Chief Inspector (1983-1995) I had no personal contact with the media about operational matters, although journalists and photographers were frequently present at large scale public order and security operations of which I was a part. I think I gave two or three interviews to the media about being a woman in the police, explaining it as a career and describing some of my experiences.
13. I was Superintendent Operations and Area Commander at Oxford between 1995 and 2000. I attended a 'Common Purpose' training course in 1995 alongside the Editor of the *Oxford Mail*. The course was designed to increase participants' understanding of other organisations

- and sectors in the city. I began to understand more of what the media were interested in, how they worked and what their constraints were.
- 14. Thames Valley Police had a very open approach to communication, perhaps ahead of its time. We were encouraged by the Chief Constable to create positive professional relationships with the local media. We were told that the default position was to release information to the public and the media unless there were good reasons not to, and that whoever was the most appropriate and knowledgeable person, whatever their role or rank, should be allowed to speak to the media. As a result I would speak to editors occasionally about strategy and policy and give interviews to journalists in the local press, radio and television when appropriate. Many of my staff did also, particularly community officers. I cannot, however, remember having any personal contact with national media.
- 15. My contact with editors would perhaps have been through very occasional phone calls and a face-to-face meeting perhaps once or twice a year at most. Interviews would be about challenging crime problems and what we were doing to address them or explaining our approach to particular operations such as animal rights or environmental protest or football. There might also be interviews at launches of new strategies and plans or, on occasion, more personal interviews about my experience of policing.
- 16. Once I returned to the MPS, I immediately became involved in investigations and operations which were of considerable interest to the

national media, either because of their serious or sensitive nature. This has continued to the present day.

17. In 2001, when I became Commander Diversity, I was responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Public Inquiry and for several high profile investigations, including the re-investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. I had regular contact with national journalists owing to their interest in the strategic issues - race and diversity, homicide investigations and hate crime.
18. I wrote an article for *The Guardian* very recently (published 3 January 2012 - see Exhibit CD/1) about the impact of the Stephen Lawrence case on the MPS, following the convictions of Gary Dobson and David Norris. This article illustrates the crucial and important relationship that exists between the police and the media. Through this article for the *Guardian* and other media interviews after the convictions, I was able to raise awareness of the steps the MPS has taken to improve since the tragic death of Stephen Lawrence; whilst also acknowledging that there are still areas of police work which require development and change. I was also able to highlight the tireless and courageous work of the Lawrence family in their pursuit of justice.
19. As a senior police officer one of my responsibilities is both to promote the MPS and increase public confidence, whilst also highlight areas which require improvement. The media provides the MPS with this platform and in relation to this specific case, a good example of how much the media and police can achieve.

20. As Commander Organised and Cross Border Crime, between 2003 and 2007, I again was involved in leading high profile and high risk operations. I gave interviews locally and nationally fairly regularly, (occasionally internationally), about issues such as organised crime and gun crime and high profile operations, including our response to the 2004 Tsunami. But some of these operations, such as kidnap and hostage, involve covert techniques which it would be wrong to talk about publicly. In addition, during most investigations, it is completely inappropriate to talk about some aspects as to do so might betray private or confidential information or undermine the investigation. However, I tried to have an open approach where I could. An example of this was Trident - the MPS response to gun crime. Raising confidence in Trident amongst London's black communities has been a crucial part of its success in preventing gun crime and murder. Together with Trident colleagues, I regularly invited members of the media in to look at their work, to do interviews with Trident officers or make documentaries. This included specialist media serving black Londoners and also in the Caribbean, particularly Jamaica. Between 2007 and 2009, I worked in Security and Protection and gave no interviews at all and cannot remember any other contact with journalists. This was partly because of the sensitive nature of my work and also because media strategy and media contact were led by my Assistant Commissioners, Messrs Hayman, Quick and Yates.

21. Throughout the 2000s, I attended and led Critical Incident Training weekend events for police officers, perhaps 30 in total. The events always included a journalist to assist in training the officers about media issues and requirements. A small number of journalists were involved, perhaps 3 or 4, and I got to know them quite well. However, I never discussed current operations with them nor did I ever reveal any confidential or sensitive material. Indeed, it has always been my practice that I redirect any request for information from a journalist straight to the MPS Directorate of Public Affairs (DPA). Any request for an interview which I have accepted has been supported by DPA and I always have a Press Officer present at an interview. I do not speak direct to journalists on the telephone and do not arrange to meet with them, except with a Press Officer. As a consequence, I am almost never contacted directly by a journalist (and as I have said, on the very rare occasions I have, I have re-directed the request). I do not instigate contact with the media except through the Press Office.
22. In 2005 I was in charge of the police operations which resulted in the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes. The MPS frequently received requests for interviews from me in relation to this incident. However, I declined them all until long after the Inquest concluded on 12 December 2008, when I gave one interview which, amongst other things, referred to the operation.
23. In 2009 I became Assistant Commissioner responsible for all the most serious and sensitive non-terrorist crimes in London. Between 2009 and 2011, I was DAC Akers' line manager working with her on homicide,

child abuse, serious sexual offences, gun crime, organized crime, kidnap, E-crime, economic crime, forensics and the provision of intelligence, detective training and covert policing. In addition, I oversaw a wide range of sensitive investigations such as Parliamentary expenses, corruption (eg, Pakistani cricketers) and allegations of complicity to torture by State agents. Between January and August 2011, I was also DAC Akers' line manager for Operation Weeting and associated enquiries. I gave occasional interviews and briefings (with a Press Officer present) and also met formally with two crime journalists from the Crime Reporters Association (CRA) every month or so in order to explain our approach to serious crime in more detail and establish whether they wished to do follow-up articles/programmes with any of my staff. Again, these were with a Press Officer present and notes were taken of the meetings.

24. In addition to this, on very rare occasions I have met members of the media in social situations (see further below). I went to school and college with a number of people who now work in the national media. None are still social friends but I have occasionally seen them at reunions or other events.

(5) Have you been the subject of intrusive media attention? If so, please give your views on this type of attention and whether it was, or was not, in the public interest in your case.

25. After the death of Jean Charles de Menezes, I quite frequently had journalists outside my home and that of my family. On a few occasions journalists also called on my neighbours and asked questions about

me. I am not sure whether what they were doing was in the public interest, as I am not sure what they were seeking to achieve.

26. I was also the subject of lots of articles about me and my career, which I did not contribute to, and some critical articles about their understanding of my role. Some of these were quite inaccurate. However, in my view, this sort of attention is predictable and part of being in a high profile role. The death of John Charles de Menezes was a dreadful event and I fully expected great scrutiny.

(6) Describe what you seek and have sought to gain for the Metropolitan Police through your personal contacts with the media.

27. I believe strongly that it is important that the police -
- (i) provide the public with accurate information about what is happening in their area or community and within the police;
 - ii) help the public understand policing and police policies, both to give them more confidence and to allow them to influence this where appropriate;
 - iii) seek information about crimes and incidents from the public;
 - iv) try to increase trust and confidence in the police so that people will give information, intelligence and evidence; provide assistance and co-operation; know how to ask for police help or make a complaint; understand their rights; and perhaps consider policing as a career.

28. My various contacts with the media have been designed to do all of the above. In addition, very occasionally the media have information from their own investigations which they make available to us. I have led operations as a result of such information on a number of occasions (e.g. in relation to Parliamentary expenses or the Pakistani cricketers).

(7) 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.

29. In general, I think they are seeking information which will interest their audiences and their questions reflect the public mood. This is usually purely factual. In addition, they are often interested in helping solve a crime or raising awareness or trying to tackle a particular community problem.

30. On occasions I have been aware that the media have been seeking information I would not be prepared to give, such as confidential information, information which might undermine an investigation, or 'gossip' about the Met and its senior officers and staff.

(8) To what extent have you accepted hospitality from the media?

(9) Insofar as you have accepted hospitality from the media, what has been the nature of the hospitality that you have accepted?

31. In my 5 years in Thames Valley Police I can remember having two lunches with editors whilst we discussed policing and crime in the city. I honestly cannot remember who paid. In the 11 years I have been an ACPO officer in the MPS, I believe I have had one lunch with a journalist and a Press Officer in 2002, to the best of my knowledge. I have also once attended *The Sun* Bravery Awards, representing the

MPS Management Board (paid for by the Police Federation), and once attended the Jane's Police Review Awards Dinner, representing the MPS and the British Association of Women Police. On one occasion I attended a Charity Dinner paid for by the CRA. I have attended the Crime Reporters Association annual drinks party with the MPS on perhaps 3 occasions in 11 years. I have declined to drink alcohol at these events and would stay only as long as needed to fulfil my professional commitments.

(10) To what extent have you provided hospitality for the media on behalf of the MPS?

(11) Insofar as you have provided hospitality to the media, what has been the nature of the hospitality that you provided?

32. I have not personally provided any hospitality for the media on behalf of the MPS.

(12) What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record meetings with the media generally?

33. I believe this question, and several other questions below relating to the policies and procedures in place at the MPS, have been dealt with in detail by Commissioner Hogan-Howe in his statement. I am aware that the current Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Media Relations requires that any interviews or contact with the media by any officers or staff are reported to the 24-hour Press Bureau (part of the DPA) or local Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU). The DPA will ordinarily maintain records of requests from the media and the press lines supplied. Having worked closely with the DPA, I am aware of the voluminous amount of enquiries they receive. In an organisation of

over 50,000 people, providing comprehensive coverage to the media will always be a challenge.

34. Senior officers (members of Management Board) have been required to keep a record of any media contact since July 2011, which is audited by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Professional Standards. Prior to this date, I am not aware of any MPS policy which required police officers to record their conversations with the media.

(13) Have you ever discussed the media, or media coverage, with politicians? If so, how important is such communication and why?

35. My last five roles have brought me in touch with politicians in London government and also national politicians. It is not unusual to discuss media coverage, although this is not generally a focus of conversations. It is important that politicians have accurate information and frequently our conversation would be about correcting inaccuracies or giving further explanation or background about an incident or a policy. For example, the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Kit Malthouse, will occasionally ring me direct to ask for more information about a serious crime reported in the media.

(14) Have you ever 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).

36. On occasion, I have been aware that 'pressure' groups have lobbied politicians and also newspapers to gain further prominence for 'their' issue - such as human trafficking for example. Politicians have then sought also to raise the prominence of the issue. If any politician has

ever sought to put inappropriate pressure on me (for whatever motive) to take a particular course of action investigatively or during an operation, I have made it clear that the police have operational independence, such decisions are mine and I would ignore such pressure.

(15) 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.

37. It is not unusual for politicians to seek to raise the priority of a particular issue. In my experience and in relation to my areas of responsibility this has included issues such as high crime areas, series of crimes, perceived poor service by the police to victims, child trafficking, child abuse, rape, stop and search, hate crime and crimes affecting particular communities. For example, MPs frequently write in on behalf of constituents to be assured we are taking a crime seriously.

(16) 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.

(17) What do you expect the MPS to gain from such contacts with the media?

(18) What do the media seek from such contacts with MPS personnel?

38. As mentioned above, I believe these questions have been covered in detail in Commissioner Hogan-Howe's statement. The MPS is a very large organisation and the type of media contact MPS personnel will have will vary widely from no contact at all for some staff, through the occasional statement made by an investigating officer, to constant

fielding of calls from journalists for those working in the DPA Press Bureau. My understanding of what the MPS and journalists seek to gain from these contacts is as set out above at paragraphs 26 and 27.

(19) What hospitality are MPS personnel permitted to accept from the media? Inter alia, are they entitled to accept a meal or a drink from a journalist?

39. The current SOP on Gifts and Hospitality (which has been in place since January 2009) states that offers of hospitality should typically be declined, but where a refusal may cause offence or damage working relationships, can be accepted. In any such instance the offer should be carefully considered and justified in terms of benefit to the MPS.

40. MPS personnel are therefore not prevented from accepting a meal or a drink from a journalist in any and all situations, but they must be careful about accepting such an offer and aware of any perception of inappropriateness that could be drawn. Any such offer must also be recorded on the Gifts and Hospitality register.

(20) What hospitality are MPS personnel permitted to afford to the media?

41. I am not aware of any separate policy for the media. The same principles apply to any hospitality offered by MPS personnel to the media or any other organisation.

(21) What mechanisms are in place to record hospitality as between the media and MPS personnel?

42. All hospitality offered (whether accepted or declined) must be recorded in the Gifts and Hospitality Register, as set out in the current SOP

(which can be found at tab B of the MPS Master Bundle). This is regularly updated and published on the MPS website.

(22) What policies and procedures are in place to record contact between MPS personnel (including senior managers) and the media? For the avoidance of doubt please answer in relation to both formal and informal communications.

43. As explained above, senior managers must now record all contacts with the media and these records are reviewed by the Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Professional Standards. All other officers and staff should inform the DPA Press Bureau or the local BOCU of any media contacts. The current SOP also requires any officer below the rank of Inspector to seek prior authorisation from a senior officer before speaking to the media.

(23) In your opinion, do the policies and procedures (if any) which are in place to record and regulate contact with the media (a) work effectively; (b) are they sufficient; and (c) are they capable of improvement?

44. I think policies, processes and practices have not previously worked in a way which has consistently maintained public confidence. This has allowed a perception to develop that there have been inappropriate relationships within certain quarters of the press. However, the changes we intend to make following the recommendations from both the Filkin and HMIC report should provide clarity and a change in culture in these areas. I believe that it is for senior officers to set a consistent example to the rest of the MPS on ethical standards. It is our responsibility to embrace any changes and provide clear and unequivocal guidelines for all staff as how they relate to the media and interpret hospitality.

(24) To what extent have leaks from the MPS to the media been a problem during your career with the MPS?

45. They have been a considerable problem. They have, on occasion, undermined investigations. They have damaged individuals and public confidence. They have sometimes caused individuals and teams to be very secretive within the organisation which can, itself, cause difficulties.

(25) What payments (if any) are considered to be legitimate financial transactions between MPS personnel and the media?

46. I am not aware specifically of any policy concerning this as I have not personally received or offered payment for any of my dealings with the media. The only occasions in which payments from MPS personnel to the media or vice versa could be considered legitimate, would be in relation to very carefully controlled, justified and recorded business interests (e.g. a journalist being paid for providing training to MPS personnel on media relations, or an MPS officer/staff member writing articles for a publication on subjects entirely unconnected with his/her policing duties and where he/she had prior authorisation to do so).

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

47. I believe it is a problem. I do not think it is widespread or endemic, but I fear there have been and may be colleagues who have been prepared to take money for information. I am aware of a small number of cases where it appears or has been proven that colleagues have received money for information. I am aware of the HMIC report. In addition, I am briefed on Operation Elveden which is an investigation into allegations

of police officers receiving payments for supplying information to newspapers.

(27) Why is it necessary for the MPS to have a Press Office, and what is your view as to its utility and role?

48. The DPA Press Office is very important indeed. The MPS is aware of, and quite properly and legitimately needs to supply, enormous amounts of information to the public. Some of this is time critical and needs to be disseminated widely and accurately very quickly. The Press Office has the skilled staff, systems, processes and relationships to do this effectively. They have a good understanding of policy and of the media and are hence able to make decisions about, negotiate and facilitate effective information flows.

(28) What is the media's attitude towards the MPS Press Office? In particular, are they satisfied by the provision of information and the routing of communications through the press office or do they prefer direct contact with individual personnel within the MPS?

49. I think largely the press are satisfied and regard the Press Office as efficient and effective. Indeed I believe they view it as much more so than the press offices of most organisations, including other Police Forces. That said, the media sometimes hope individuals will be able to give 'unofficial' information and on occasion they want more detail from, for example, a Senior Investigating Officer, than the DPA can provide.

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

(30) What level of contact and oversight is there from the MPA in relation to the MPS' relations and communications with the media?

(31) What level of contact and oversight is there from the MPA in relation to the MPS' policing of offences committed, or suspected of having been committed, by the media?

50. The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) no longer exists - it was replaced on 16th January 2012 by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPC). In my experience, the MPA has had little involvement in, or oversight over, the MPS' relations with the media or investigation of media offences, until very recently. Policing is subject to a multitude of oversight, accountability and regulatory bodies. Prior to the current interest raised by phone hacking, I am not aware of any great focus by any of them specifically on the issue of media and police relations.

51. There have been some occasions when material which has been shared with the MPA or its members on a restricted basis has subsequently appeared inappropriately in the media. Inevitably, this has created some suspicion between the parties. It is often very difficult to establish where a leak has come from. Hence, trust on both sides is damaged. Having said that, on the rare occasions I have had to share sensitive operational information with the Chairs and Chief Executive, I have always had complete trust in them and have never had any reason to doubt that that trust was honoured.

(32) To your knowledge, was there any political lobbying in relation to the MPS's handling of the phone hacking investigation and subsequent prosecutions in 2006/7? If so, please describe same and identify the source of the lobbying.

(33) To your knowledge, was there any media lobbying in relation to the MPS's handling of the phone hacking investigation and subsequent prosecutions in 2006/7? If so, please describe same.

(34) What communications (if any) were you aware of as between the MPS and anyone employed by the Murdoch empire in relation to the investigation and prosecution of phone hacking by, or on behalf of, the News of the World in 2006/7?

(35) Were there any such communications between other parts of the media and the MPS? If so, please explain.

52. I was not directly involved in the investigation and I am not aware of any political lobbying or media lobbying at the material time. Nor was I then aware of any communications about phone hacking between the MPS and anyone employed by the Murdoch empire or any other parts of the media beyond our normal media lines.

53.

(36) To what extent was the phone hacking investigation and prosecutions in 2006/7 a matter which was dealt with, or considered (in any way, whether formally or informally) at Commissioner level and/or by the senior management team?

54. As stated above, I was not directly involved in the investigation. I was not a member of the Senior Management Team at the time, but deputised there occasionally in 2007 for AC Hayman. I do not remember any discussion about phone hacking.

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

55. The MPS has a great deal of experience in dealing with most of these offences. Some, e.g. public order offences, are of the sort that all officers know how to deal with. Others, such as unlawful interception of communications, have obviously been high-profile recently, but are complex offences that few officers would be familiar with until lately.

56. In relation to offences which involve bribery of MPS personnel or leaking of confidential information, the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) would investigate. DPS has a great deal of expertise and experience in dealing with allegations of police corruption or misconduct. Investigations will include (in addition to the use of more ordinary police powers and activities) identifying the possible sources of leaked information, full technical surveillance of suspects and financial profiling of suspects to determine their susceptibility to corruption.

57. It can be more difficult to investigate leaks to the media as opposed to leaks to criminals. Where information is being passed to criminals the MPS can relatively easily investigate both sides, and I know that the success rate is excellent. Where information is passed to the media it is often effectively only the MPS side that can be investigated, as historically it has been so much more difficult to investigate journalists because of difficulties surrounding journalistic privilege, press freedom and so on that arise on the media side.



(38) Has any contact you have had with the IPCC and/or the Surveillance Commissioner and/or the Information Commissioner ever given rise to questions about the leakage of information to the media and/or private detectives? If so, please explain.

58. Nothing has ever arisen as a result of contact with the Surveillance Commissioner or Information Commissioner, to my knowledge. However, details of the IPCC investigation into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes were leaked to the media.

(39) What is your current impression of the culture within the MPS in relation to its dealings with the press?

59. I believe that almost all of the culture is very healthy and professional. However, I think there have been some relationships between some senior people and the media which has given rise to a perception of inappropriate behaviour. In addition, a small proportion of staff have leaked information unlawfully or inappropriately and sometimes for personal gain. Though small in number, this has created a significant problem. Some journalists and private detectives have actively and occasionally successfully sought to gain information improperly. Too few of those staff who have leaked information have been caught and punished. I accept the findings of the Filkin Report that we may have been partial and too secretive in our dealings with the media. However, I do not regard these as major problems. I believe we have not been clear enough in terms of setting standards and helping people through ethical dilemmas associated with the media.

(40) What is your response to the recommendations contained in the HMIC's recent report "*Without Fear or Favour*"?

60. I accept the findings of the review. All the recommendations seem reasonable. In particular, I believe we do need to be clearer about the standards we expect and give more advice and training about what is acceptable and what is not. These have to be supported by robust systems and intrusive supervision. I also welcome the comments about business interests and secondary employment which I regard as a historic vulnerability for the Service. Of course the report does not give all the answers and there will be much work for the MPS and the Police Service to do to respond fully (a copy of the HMIC Report can be found in the MPS Master Bundle - Reports).

(41) 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?

61. The steps which need to be taken will be fully explored by the new Deputy Commissioner, Craig Mackey and within the MPS more generally. The recommendations identified in the Filkin Report and the HMIC Report will be looked at very seriously and implemented where it is operationally possible to do so. It may take some time for these changes to take effect and, in my view, they will have to be supported by strong leadership and continued interest from regulators and other 'critical friends'. The proposed new Police Professional Body will have an important part to play. In addition, some members of the media will have to adapt their behaviour.

(42) 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?

62. The MPS has actively contributed to the HMIC review and welcomes the national picture that this report provides. The MPS supports a national public discussion on the issues raised in the HMIC report, as it will inform the public about the nature of the police relationship with the media and the levels of hospitality which are acceptable.

63. I support ACPO's response to the HMIC report in that the police service is a highly accountable organisation, which must be responsive and trusted by the public. It highlighted the fact that no evidence was found of systemic corruption in policing, but there were individual cases where police officers let their colleagues and the public down. ACPO also point out that the UK has one of the least corrupt police services in the world. I have some experience of working internationally and I absolutely believe this to be true. I also believe we, in the MPS and UK policing, do take instances of corruption very seriously.

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true

Signed.. *ACPO*.....

Dated.... *2nd Feb 2012*.....