



Home Affairs Committee

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Dear Sir Paul

15 July 2009

Newspapers (Surveillance Methods)

I am writing, at the request of the Committee, to ask a series of questions that need to be put to the Metropolitan Police following allegations made in *The Guardian* newspaper and in evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 14 July about the systematic hacking into the telephones of politicians, celebrities, and others by people working for News International.

We are concerned that, in his statement of 10 July, Assistant Commissioner Yates appeared to rule out the need for further investigation by the police, despite the fact that the DPP, the Information Commissioner, and the Independent Police Complaints Commission are all making their own enquiries into the allegations.

We therefore wish to be informed of the extent of previous police inquiries into illegal surveillance by journalists (in particular, whether journalists other than Clive Goodman were investigated) and why AC Yates is convinced no further investigation is needed. Furthermore, we seek your assurance that revelations that police officers have been receiving illegal payments from News International journalists in return for stories has not in any way influenced the apparent reluctance of the police to make further enquiries into these allegations.

In addition to these major points, there are some supplementary questions to which we should like answers:

- In the course of the investigation how many individuals' phones or other communications were (a) intercepted; (b) identified as the subject of interest?
- Were all of those individuals advised that they had been or potentially could be the subject of illegal surveillance and what advice they were given in order to protect their privacy?
- We are aware that Glenn Mulcaire had a formal contract with the News of the World, but also had a private arrangement with Clive Goodman. Who was making undocumented claims to the company to fund this arrangement?
- Was Mr Mulcaire asked whether he had any other arrangements with other journalists at the News of the World, or journalists on any other newspaper?



- Was there any evidence to indicate the existence of arrangements between Mr Mulcaire and other journalists, either at the News of the World or elsewhere, which could have included intercepts or other potentially illegal surveillance?
- Were any other private investigators employed by the News of the World? Were any of these covered by similar arrangements to those in place for Mr Mulcaire and were any of them involved in illegal activity in return?

I would be grateful for your response by 12noon on Friday 17 July. The Committee will then consider what further action to take.

*With every good wish
Yours sincerely,*

[Redacted signature box]

**Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Chairman**

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