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Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons 7 Millbank London SW1P 3JA

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Sir Paul Stephenson,
Metropolitan Police Commissioner,
New Scotland Yard,
10 Broadway,
London. SW1H OBG.

9 July 2009

Dear Sir Paul,

You will be aware of media reports today regarding illegal phone tapping by journalists from News International Ltd.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into Press standards, privacy and libel. The Committee is extremely concerned to see suggestions in the press that illegal phone tapping was a widespread practice, rather than just the actions of one individual, Clive Goodman.

At its meeting this morning the Committee agreed to seek oral and written evidence on this issue to inform its inquiry into Press standards. It agreed that I should write to you to formally ask you to submit written evidence to the Committee on the Metropolitan Police's inquiry into this matter.

We would of course be happy to undertake to keep confidential any parts of evidence which publication of would damage any future court proceedings. The Committee's secretariat would also be able to arrange for secure storage of evidence if its provision raises security concerns.

I have written in similar terms to Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions.

Your sincerely



**JOHN WHITTINGDALE OBE MP
CHAIRMAN**

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