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SPECIALIST OPERATIONS

[REDACTED]
The News of the World.

New Scotland Yard
10 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Myler,

The Dispatches programme "Tabloids, Tories and Telephone Hacking", broadcast 4th October 2010 reported on allegations of unlawful interception of mobile telephones or what has become commonly known as 'phone hacking', allegedly involving The News of the World.

The Metropolitan Police Service is currently considering any new material that has recently come to light and I am keen to explore some of the issues that arose in this programme. It was alleged that The News of the World retained dossiers on celebrities and other persons of interest and may have retained transcripts of telephone calls and e-mails that may or may not be related to unlawful interception.

If you hold any of this material then I would be grateful for your co-operation and ask that you forward to me at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, I would be grateful for a full list of employee's names for the 'Features' and News desks' for the period 2005/6. If you feel unable to provide these details, then I am keen to seek confirmation that none of your employees can assist with any further material relevant to this case.

I would be grateful for a response to our request by 14th October 2010, even if only a preliminary response. Should no response be received by that date, I will presume you are not prepared to assist us in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Haydon
Detective Superintendent

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FROM
THE EDITOR

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Dean Haydon
Detective Superintendent
Metropolitan Police
Specialist Operations
New Scotland Yard
10 Broadway
London SW1H 0BG

13th October 2010

Dear Superintendant Haydon

Thank you for your letter of 7th October.

I note that you are writing to me as a result of Channel 4's "Dispatches" programme which was broadcast on 4th October 2010, and that "you are keen to explore some of the issues that arose in this programme".

It may simplify matters if I take your specific points in turn:

1. *"The News of the World retained dossiers on celebrities and other persons of interest."*

Like every other newspaper, broadcaster and media outlet we collect and retain information about "celebrities and other persons of interest". Again, like the others in our industry, we have libraries, databases, files, pictures, films, audio recordings and notebooks containing such information. For the most part, the information we retain is in the form of or in relation to stories which have already been published (in other newspapers and media outlets as well as in our own).

2. *"Transcripts of telephone calls and emails."*

Once again, like every other newspaper, broadcaster and media outlet we make very extensive use of audio and video recordings in the preparation and publication of stories. It is normal practice for our reporters to audio record the majority of interviews they conduct whether they are in person or by telephone. If it is intended to run these interviews in our online edition they will also hope to video record them. In the vast majority of cases the person being recorded will be fully aware and will have consented. It is not unusual for recorded conversations to be transcribed.

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Where the nature of the story calls for undercover investigation, those being investigated are unlikely to be aware that they are being recorded but the undercover reporters with whom they are conversing obviously know and have consented to this.

As you know, the News of the World has a strong, well-deserved and established reputation for investigative journalism and we regularly use covert audio and video recording. Obviously, the purpose in doing so is to produce irrefutable evidence in support of what we publish. Stories written by our Investigations Editor, Mazher Mahmood, have resulted to date in 251 successful prosecutions and in virtually every one of those our covert recordings were central to the prosecution case. Just in the last few months, we have published major investigations into cricket spot fixing, snooker fixing, Ricky Hatton using Class A drugs and the Duchess of York taking money for introducing businessmen to Prince Andrew. Each story involved many hours of audio and video recording and resultant transcripts.

As a rule, recorded telephone calls between our undercover reporters and the persons being investigated are transcribed and kept for a period after publication of the relevant story. Any emails passing between our undercover reporters or our sources and the persons being investigated are usually retained for a similar period.

All of the material described above has been collected and/or retained legally and legitimately by the News of the World and its staff.

3. *"...that may or may not be related to unlawful interception."*

I am aware of the allegations made in the Dispatches programme, concerning telephone voicemail accessing in 2005-2006. However, I am as sure as I can be that since I became editor of the News of the World in January 2007 neither the newspaper nor its staff have collected or obtained information by means of unlawful interception. Similarly, I am as sure as I can be that neither the newspaper nor its staff are in possession of such material whenever it may have originally been collected.

4. *Your request that we forward to you all "retained dossiers on celebrities and other persons of interestand retained transcripts of telephone calls and emails that may or may not be related to unlawful interception."*

Since we are not in possession of information or material obtained by unlawful interception, the only part of your request I can properly address is your wish that we hand over all such material which is not "related to unlawful interception". Without wishing to be unhelpful to your investigation, I hope you will understand why I cannot possibly agree to this. With respect, the request is hugely disproportionate. It would also involve the identification

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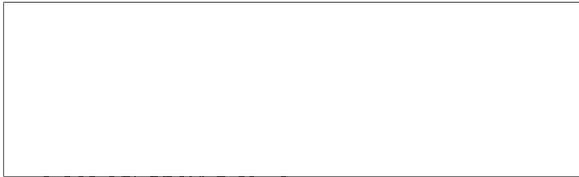
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of confidential sources and the handing over of vast amounts of unpublished material in breach of third party privacy and confidentiality rights.

5. "A full list of employee's names for the Features and News desks for the period 2005/6."

We are gathering this information into a single list and will forward it to you.

Yours sincerely



COLIN MYLER