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[redacted]

From: steve [redacted]
Sent: 30 September 2011 18:27
To: Solicitor LevesonInquiry
Subject: FW: Good afternoon Mr Crosbie

From: nott steve [redacted]
Sent: 30 September 2011 18:25
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Good afternoon Mr Crosbie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Paul Crosbie [redacted]
Date: 17 July 2011 09:35
Subject: RE: Good afternoon Mr Crosbie
To: steve [redacted]

Hi Steve

This is difficult because it was a while ago and I cant remember whether I asked about the story when it didn't make the paper or whether I just went on to the next story.

I did write it up and remember contacting Vodafone and I think other phone companies for their comments. I remember Vodafone referring me to the instruction book that came with their phones which mentioned that people should change their password.

The way the system worked was I would put a story idea up to the news editor. In your case it would have been the following day or the day after you came to see me – I needed time to look into your claims. If the news editor liked the story it would go on the morning newlist – this is basically an agenda of the days news. The news list is then discussed in morning conference and stories would be allocated to the paper. I am guessing now but I would have thought that this story was on the newlist or I wouldn't have written it – or at least been enthusiastic about it. If the police or an inquiry wanted to look into this that newlist should still be around.

The story would be written (again that should be on file as everything was computerised and kept for legal reasons), it would then be sent through to the news editor who would check the story was as earlier sold to him. he would then sent it through to what is called the back bench. This is copytaster for the paper. who is making a judgement on the value of stories, the editor, deputy editor and the night editor. who decided what space is given to the story and allocates a page.

It was possible to follow a story through the system and see who had looked at it and if it wasn't to be used where the story had stopped it in the system. It could be the news editor because he didn't like it. It could be the back bench – if it got that far then you assumed it was because they had found a better story. The Sun overall used around 50 stories an edition of which maybe 20 were given prominence in the paper – the rest would be cut back to a few paragraphs. My story would have been competing for space with one of the 20 as it needed space to give all the facts. I don't know if I checked where the story had got to in the system or whether I enquired what had happened to it. Sometimes stories that were squeezed through it being a big news day would be put forward again. I don't know if this was the case.

The tenure of the story would have been Phone users are warned messages left by callers can be listened in to. The lack security has been revealed etc.....

I wouldn't have mentioned the police or the security services.

Maybe you find it odd that I wasn't more curious about the story. The Sun was a difficult place to work. I was brought in to give it a different focus from the usual crime, politics, showbiz and scandal stories. My job was to write about everyday issues that were of interest to readers and the problems they faced. It was a new job so you were always struggling against those who were more familiar with the usual type of Sun story. If a story wasn't used you simply went on the next.

I don't know whether the information you gave me led to today's events. I only know I wasn't asked to demonstrate the flaws to anyone. The Sun and other papers did use ex policemen and investigators to help but no one ever talked about the details of how a story was obtained and you didn't ask. Yes you knew of sharp practices but nothing illegal as this clearly was.

I said to Channel 4 and the One Show they were free to contact me again. I think the rapid change in events in recent days meant your story would be overtaken. As you say someone may do a book on this and there may be a Tv documentary but because of the police and official Parliament investigation, this will not be for some time.

All the best

Paul

From: steve [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2011 10:24
To: Paul Crosbie
Subject: Re: Good afternoon Mr Crosbie

Hi Paul,

Unfortunately, there's too much bad press out there and journalism seems to be taking the flack for all of this...however, i think the Police and Security services should have jumped on my bandwagon when i got started and helped me sort it out.

Vodafone didn't even want to know at the time because they had too much vested interest in the takeover of Mannesmann the german mobile Giant. It wouldn't have been very good if they suffered any bad press at the time. So, not only were the security services, the police and the network operator trying to keep it quiet, it benefitted those in the tabloids for it to be kept quiet ultimately causing the downfall of NotW.....Murdoch's empire getting a pummeling and now David Cameron now in it deep because of his neivety.....or foolish judgement because of he's so young.

I'd love to know your thoughts on this.

Ps. Did the One Show ask you if you wanted to be involved and also channel 4 ?

Kind regards (sorry about any spelling)

Steven Nott

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Thanks again for your help here. I'm just trying to making it clear in my mind what possibly could have happened.

I understand that, as you also know, I went to the Daily Mirror first which doesn't incriminate anyone from your side.

When you said you were going to do the story about the risk to 'national security' and how we both thought it was best that the public knew because it was a serious issue, did you actually write a story ? and if so, can you remember the types of things you put in it ? I know it's a long time ago, and you've probably written millions of sentences since that time, but I'm just looking to tidy up the edges a little here.

I can see me writing a book about this in the future or at least someone writing a book about the whole sordid affair of phone hacking.

I know from the reactions I got from the Daily Mirror and yourself that you didn't know about this flaw in security and I appreciate your answers on that.

I also understand that it would be very far fetched to even think that i could have started it, however, things have to start somewhere. my highlighting the risk to the media may have inadvertently spread the word quickly. What are your thoughts on this ? It's not the easiest thing to have kept quiet considering it was a free and easy tool to use to gain access to free news for anyone wanting to delve deep into someone's affairs.

I also do think that Security Services and the Police knew about the issue that's why they didn't reply to my letters and my requests for help to raise the alarm. i thought at the time, it may have been used as a possible tool for special ops services to monitor gangland criminals and terrorists etc. A friend of mine at the time was ex SAS and he said that was probably the case and they didn't want the news getting out about how you could access voicemail with ease...and legally !!

Ok, the RIPA law came into force in 2000, probably because the word got out and just to safeguard themselves. Maybe they thought that would be enough and nothing more would come from it.

This is the sort of story that has 'massive scandal' written all over it and people will write about it and make films and documentaires about it in the future. I'm very happy to be involved in something like that because I want some credit at least for trying to stop it. Most people have said to me, that if it was them, they would have tried to make money from having such information, but that wasn't me and still isn't me. i want some closure on this now and if that means exposure also then so be it.

I'm grateful for your help Paul and your honest answers. It's the journalists and people in the media like you is what Britain is all about and you should be proud of yourselves.