

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Witness Statement to the Leveson Inquiry of Matthew Baggott, Chief
Constable**

Submitted to the Inquiry under Section 21(2) of the Inquiries Act 2005

20 January 2011

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

1. Who you are and a brief summary of your career history?

Matthew (Matt) Baggott CBE QPM, Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland

Metropolitan Police Service – 1977 to 1998

- As a Superintendent was Deputy Divisional Commander in Peckham from 1992 to 1994 when he was appointed Staff Officer to the Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon.
- Upon promotion to Chief Superintendent in 1995 he returned to Peckham as Divisional Commander.
- He then headed the Metropolitan Police Service team that assisted the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry

West Midlands Police – 1998 to 2002

- Assistant Chief Constable Community Affairs (1998 to 2001) with responsibility for Race and Community Relations, Diversity, Complaints and Discipline, Administration of Justice, Legal Services, Crime and Disorder and Partnership Development
- Deputy Chief Constable (2001 to 2002) with particular responsibility for Professional Standards (including corruption), Performance Management, Quality of Service, Best Value, Press and Public Affairs, Planning Processes, Police Authority and Stakeholder Liaison. During this period I also assisted the Government on strategic partnerships and social exclusion policy and initiatives.
- ACPO lead on Race and Diversity

Leicestershire Constabulary – 2002 to 2009

- Chief Constable throughout this period
- During this time was Vice President of the Association of Chief Police Officers and led on the national neighbourhood policing programme.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

- A member of the National Policing Board.
- Was also commissioned to lead the Review of Policing on behalf of the Home Secretary which reported in June 2008 (Sir Ronnie Flanagan Review).

Police Service of Northern Ireland 2009 to present

- During this time to date has overseen the implementation of the final Patten Reforms which have seen an overall reduction in police numbers from around 13,000 just 10 years ago to the current figure of c.7,200.
- Further to this played a central role in the police input to the Devolution of Policing and Justice Powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- Overseeing the further development of neighbourhood policing in the contexts of a challenging security situation, with the threat from dissident terrorists against police officers remaining at severe.
- Developing longer term planning and financial management to ensure organisational resilience; improving local confidence; tackling serious harm and fulfilling human rights obligations.

2. What were your first impressions, upon taking office as Chief Constable of the PSNI, about the culture of relations with the media which you had inherited?

It was clear that Northern Ireland has a great number of media organisations and journalists with a high level of interest in policing and associated matters. My first impression upon arrival was of a professional relationship that was well managed via the PSNI Press Office.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

3. Describe the personal contact which you currently have with the media. The Inquiry would like an overall picture of the type, frequency, duration and content of your contact with the media during your tenure as Chief Constable of the PSNI.

On average I would have formal contact with the media on a monthly basis. This involves a mixture of one to one interviews and press facilities.

The content of such interviews varies dependent upon the topic being covered. On occasions I have to conduct press conferences in response to critical incidents, such as terrorist attacks upon colleagues or major public disorder. Other engagements consist of one to one interviews about topical issues and the main strategic challenges being managed by me in my role as Chief Constable.

The monthly meeting of the Northern Ireland Policing Board is conducted in public, and is subject to intense media interest.

4. Describe what you are seeking to gain for the PSNI through your personal contacts with the media.

- To provide reassurance and understanding about the strategic direction being taken by PSNI.
- To outline our response to issues of high strategic importance.
- To increase community confidence in the PSNI response to critical incidents.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

5. Describe in general terms and using illustrative examples, what you consider the media has been seeking from you in your personal dealings with them during your time as Chief Constable of the PSNI. Please include examples of local and national media.

The predominant issue of interest and concern to most journalists has been the ongoing challenges presented by the security situation, one in which the threat to police officers is officially recorded at severe. This has been consistent across both local and national media.

The aftermath of the tragic murder of our colleague Ronan Kerr best illustrated this, when journalists from all the main national and local media organisations attended my press conferences.

Many journalists have continued to focus upon the reform of the police service in the wake of the Patten Report. For some this has exemplified itself in questions relating to the past, public inquiries and inquests relating to deaths at the hands of the security forces. For others, the focus has been upon the final wind down and cessation of the Full Time Reserve.

Local journalists are also interested in speaking to me about my intention to further develop personal neighbourhood policing across Northern Ireland, what this will mean in terms of the type and quality of service provided, and the challenges faced in doing so.

Another issue of interest has been the practical outworkings of the national security responsibilities resting with PSNI, and the architecture developed and approved by Government.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

6. To what extent have you accepted hospitality from the media whilst Chief Constable?

I have accepted no hospitality from the media since appointment as Chief Constable of PSNI.

7. In-so-far as you have accepted hospitality from the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted?

Not applicable - Please refer to question 6.

8. To what extent have you provided hospitality for the media on behalf of the PSNI whilst Chief Constable?

On two occasions dinner was provided to media representatives.

23.11.09 – This followed my appointment, and the intention was to allow a number of media representatives to gain a greater understanding of what my strategic priorities were for PSNI, and the main challenges faced by the organisation. The intention was to aid better understanding and provide context. I was accompanied by the Head of PSNI Corporate Communications.

12.12.11 – This was facilitated to informally reflect on what PSNI had delivered over the previous two years, provide context to our major decision making, and to outline the main strategic priorities for the incoming year. The purpose was to provide journalists with a greater degree of context around the key challenges we face. I was accompanied by the Deputy Head of PSNI Corporate Communications.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

9. In-so-far as you have provided hospitality to the media, what was the nature of the hospitality that you accepted?

I have not accepted hospitality from the media.

10. What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record hospitality as between the Chief Constable and the media?

All such hospitality is recorded in my hospitality register in line with PSNI Policy Directive 04/05 (attached).

11. What mechanisms are in place to monitor and record meetings with the media generally?

All formal meetings between PSNI Personnel and the media are organised and staffed by members of the Corporate Communications Team. Timing of meetings and details of those present are recorded in the PSNI Corporate Communications Departmental diary and are logged on the PSNI Press Desk database, known as Solcara.

12. Do you ever discuss the media, or media coverage, with politicians? If so, how important is such communication and why?

Only if involved in a joint press statement or press facility with the First and Deputy First Ministers for Northern Ireland and/or the Minister of Justice, and only to aid preparation for such activity.

I have not engaged in general conversations about the role of the media or media coverage with politicians.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

13. 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).

No.

14. 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.

Not to my knowledge.

15. Set out your understanding of the type of contact which PSNI personnel have with the media covering nature, extent, frequency and (in general terms) topics/content.

PSNI Personnel engage with the media both proactively and reactively. Topics range from responses to operational issues, appeals, strategic briefings (i.e. proposed closure of stations, workforce modernisation, security assessments, resources, etc).

In general contact with the media is conducted via the PSNI Corporate Communications Department either by way of issuing statements/responses, press facilities or face to face one-to-one briefings.

PSNI engage with the media on daily basis.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

16. Are contacts with the media restricted to certain staff or are all staff able to deal with the media?

All contact with the media is facilitated by the Corporate Communications team.

A judgement is made as to who is best placed to represent the PSNI in any interviews, press facilities or formal engagements with the media. There is no artificial restriction on who may or who may not engage in such activity.

17. What do you expect the PSNI to gain from such contacts with the media?

The media play an extremely important role in informing and influencing the public in general and key stakeholders in particular. It is essential that the organisation has well developed, open relationships with the media to ensure that information is communicated to the public accurately, and in a timely manner, and that context is provided to support policy or operational decisions.

18. What do the media seek from such contacts with your personnel?

A credible source for news and information which assists them in reporting and ensures they report information accurately. They also seek clarity as to police actions and intentions.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

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

Personnel are permitted to accept a meal or drink from a journalist, but all such hospitality must be recorded in the hospitality register, in line with PSNI policy.

20. What hospitality are your personnel permitted to afford to the media?

Any hospitality afforded is in line with PSNI Policy Directive 04/05 (attached).

21. What mechanisms are in place to record hospitality as between the media and your personnel?

All such hospitality is recorded in line with PSNI Policy Directive 04/05 (attached).

22. How (if at all) is hospitality between the PSNI (including yourself) and the media controlled and/or regulated?

All such hospitality is controlled and regulated in line with PSNI Policy Directive 04/05 (attached). Further guidance is also contained in guidance produced by the PSNI Corporate Communications Department (attached).

23. Are the hospitality rules governing contact between PSNI personnel (including yourself) and the media different from those covering contact with other third parties? If so, what are the differences?

No, all hospitality is controlled and regulated in line with PSNI Policy Directive 04/05 (attached).

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

24. What policies and procedures are in place to record contact between:

- (a) yourself and the media;**
- (b) senior managers and the media;**
- (c) other personnel and the media.**

For the avoidance of doubt please answer in relation to both formal and informal communications.

All formal meetings between PSNI Personnel and the media are organised and staffed by members of the Corporate Communications Team. Timing of meetings and details of those present are recorded in the PSNI Corporate Communications Departmental diary and are logged on the PSNI Press Desk database, known as Solcara.

PSNI Personnel should make a record of any informal engagements.

25. Are records of hospitality and other contact with the media audited and/or policed and, if so, how and by whom?

The gifts and gratuities register are checked and reviewed regularly in line with PSNI Policy (attached).

The Chief Constable's hospitality register is published online. All hospitality registers are liable for inspection by auditors.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

26. In your opinion are the policies and procedures described above:

- (a) working effectively;**
- (b) sufficient; and**
- (c) capable of improvement**

I believe the policies and procedures currently in place work well, contact needs to be constructive and balanced without being overly restrictive.

27. What systems, policies and procedures are in place in the PSNI to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

Guidance has been issued to the organisation by the PSNI Corporate Communications Department (attached).

All contact with the media should be channelled through the Corporate Communications Department – senior officers and staff may engage directly with the media on an ad hoc basis but do so in a responsible manner when appropriate; and when there is an immediate need to do so.

All officers are subject to the requirements of a Code of Ethics, which outlines the standards of behaviour required both on and off duty.

28. Are you satisfied that the policies and procedures described above are sufficient and working effectively? Do you consider that they are capable of improvement?

I am satisfied that current policy and practice works effectively.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

29. What training is in place in the PSNI to ensure that all members of the force (including civilian employees) know what is and what is not appropriate contact with the media?

All officers have been given training in relation to their obligations under the Code of Ethics.

Media training is carried out by the Corporate Communications Department. The current training programme does not cover the topic of “appropriate contact with the media” however all staff are aware that media contact should be facilitated through the Corporate Communications Department.

Guidance issued reinforces the requirement to seek advice from Corporate Communications Department before conducting media interviews or engagements.

30. To what extent have leaks from the PSNI to the media been a problem during your tenure as Commissioner?

Disclosure of information is one of the strategic threats identified by the PSNI, although this is much wider than leaks to the media. Disclosure of information is a matter which the PSNI takes very seriously, and whilst any leak to the media (deliberate or otherwise) can damage public confidence in the PSNI, it is not an area which we consider poses a major problem in terms of scale or scope. PSNI Professional Standards Department has conducted a number of defensive operations around this potential threat during my time as Chief Constable.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

31. What systems and procedures are in place to identify, respond to and detect the source of leaks?

An anti-corruption Unit is established within Professional Standards Department, which thoroughly investigates any allegation, information or intelligence relating to disclosure of information, including any to the media. A range of overt and covert investigative techniques are available to this unit. This Unit conducts periodic defensive operations proactively seeking evidence of any inappropriate contact with members of the media.

32. How many investigations have been conducted into actual or suspected leaks from the PSNI to the media been commenced during the last 5 years and how many have led to the successful identification of the source of the leak. What was the outcome of the other investigations?

5 investigations into leaks to the media have been conducted in the last 5 years. One case related to an officer who sent a text to a journalist providing his opinion on the anticipated level of disorder in a forthcoming operation. This officer appeared before a misconduct hearing and was fined. The second case relates to an officer making allegations to a newspaper about the personal activities of their partner (also a police officer), in the context of a domestic dispute. This officer appeared before a misconduct hearing and was reduced in pay. The third case related to an officer providing unauthorised briefings to the press following an incident: This officer received a written warning. In the fourth investigation it was proven that the officer concerned had not been in contact with the media. A fifth investigation is ongoing.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

33. Has disciplinary action been taken against any member of staff (whether civilian or uniformed) for leaking information to the media during the last 5 years? If so, please identify the number of cases and their outcome. There is no need to identify the person or persons the subject of the disciplinary process.

Within the last 5 years disciplinary action has been taken against 3 police officers for inappropriate contact with the media. One officer was reduced in pay another fined, and a further received a written warning. No civilian members of staff have been disciplined for leaks to the media.

34. What payments (if any) are considered to be legitimate financial transactions between PSNI and the media?

I do not consider any financial transaction between PSNI and a journalist to be legitimate.

35. What policies and/or guidance are in place in relation to financial transactions between PSNI personnel and the media.

Please see question 34.

36. To what extent do you believe bribery of personnel by the media to be a current problem for the PSNI (if at all)?

Bribery of personnel by the media has not been identified as an issue for the PSNI. Indeed, I am not aware of any such cases.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

However I recognise that there is a vulnerability for individuals, especially in the current economic climate. Defensive operations are conducted to identify any inappropriate contact with media organisations so as to detect and mitigate against this vulnerability.

37. What steps are taken:

- (a) to educate your personnel about bribery;**
- (b) otherwise to prevent the bribery of your personnel;**
- (c) pro-actively to detect bribery;**
- (d) retrospectively to investigate bribery; and**
- (e) to discipline personnel (if any) who are found to have accepted bribes from the media.**

A/ Steps to educate PSNI personnel about bribery include having a policy on the acceptance of Gifts, Gratuities and Hospitality, which not only provides clear guidance as to what is and is not acceptable, but also discusses the rationale for such a policy – i.e. perception of the public; potential for corruption; and the negative impact on reputation of the organisation and community confidence if inappropriate acceptance of gifts, gratuities or hospitality takes place or even if the perception exists that it is happening. Specific reference is made within the policy to the Bribery Act and the policy provides direction on the transparent and accountable recording of any gifts offered or accepted, and the oversight arrangements for inspecting gifts registers.

The PSNI Code of Ethics also governs Privacy and Confidentiality. Article 3 of the Code of Ethics states:

3.1: Police officers shall gather, retain, use and disclose information or data in accordance with the right to respect for private and family life contained in Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and shall comply

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

with all relevant legislation and Police Service policy and procedure governing the gathering, retention, use and disclosure of information or data.

3.3: Information or data of a personal or confidential nature in the possession or control of police officers shall be kept confidential, unless the performance of duty, compliance with legislation or the needs of justice require otherwise.

3.4: Police officers shall not gather, retain, use or disclose information or data of a personal or confidential nature for personal benefit. They shall comply with Police Service policy governing contact with the media.

The PSNI has ensured that the Code of Ethics has been read and understood by all staff. PSNI Professional Standards Department also has input into various internal training courses (Student officers, probationers, supervisors) in which integrity issues are discussed, including inappropriate association and disclosure of information. The PSNI has a policy governing Inappropriate Associations.

B/ Other steps taken to prevent bribery of personnel include having confidential reporting procedures in place (from both internal and external providers) and provision for officers to also self-disclose if they feel they have made themselves vulnerable to corruption. In the rare event that any issues cannot be progressed via investigation and misconduct procedures, the PSNI has 'Service Confidence Procedures' and may also conduct 'ethical interviews'. These measures are designed to manage the risk posed by any officer about whom there are serious concerns, and may involve removing an officer from a particular policing role or area, or restricting their access to particular classes of information. It must be emphasised that recourse to these measures are rare, and the PSNI will always seek to progress criminal or misconduct procedures where possible. PSNI are also in the process of reviewing our business interest policy, and individual applications are being reviewed to ensure no conflict exists.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

C&D/ PSNI has an ant-corruption unit which conducts defensive operations to detect instances of bribery. They also have the capability to retrospectively investigate any allegations or concerns should they arise.

E/ If, following investigation, inappropriate disclosure to the media or acceptance of bribes is proven, disciplinary action would be taken against the staff member (police or civilian) involved.

38. Does the PSNI have a press office? If so, what is its role? To what extent does it exist to manage the PSNI's corporate image in the media?

The Press Office sits within the PSNI Corporate Communications Department, which has a responsibility for dealing with press queries and for the management and delivery of broader corporate communications.

The PSNI Press Office, which has responsibility for facilitating all media requests, provides a comprehensive, efficient and effective news service for the organisation. One of its key objectives is to build confidence amongst stakeholders and the wider community in relation to the services we provide.

The Department also leads on our corporate communications strategy, focussing upon both external and internal communication. This is guided by the Communications Programme Board, which plans and implements broader communication via traditional media, social networking, and written material.

39. Why is it necessary for the PSNI to have a Press Office, and what is your view as to its utility and role?

The PSNI needs to provide information to the public and also needs to obtain information from the public to assist in investigations. The media is a key conduit for disseminating information in a timely manner. It is critical that the flow of

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

information, via the media, is managed responsibly and professionally, and the Press Office play a critical role in doing so.

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

In general we have very strong and positive relationships with the media and recent survey data would indicate a general satisfaction of the service provided. However the media will always want more information and more direct contact with operational officers and staff. One of the key roles of the Press Office is to provide media access to officers and dissemination of information in a managed and responsible manner.

We do know that the media would like the press office opening hours to be extended to 24/7 however given budget constraints this is not possible. The opening hours of the Dept were reduced in 2010 following an internal review of demand.

41. What role do the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (if any) play in relation to oversight of the PSNI's relations and communications with the media? Do you consider that it would be in the public interest to make any changes to these roles? If so, what changes?

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is responsible for holding me to account for the provision of an effective and efficient police service. They may ask questions about PSNI relationships and communications with the media in that context, and on occasions have done so.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland has a statutory responsibility to investigate complaints against police officers. This also includes any matters referred by myself to them. If such a complaint/referral related to PSNI/media relations they would investigate it. I am not aware of any investigations conducted by the Ombudsman into leaks to the media during my time as Chief Constable of the PSNI.

I do not believe any changes are required to their roles in relation to these matters.

42. What level of contact and oversight has there been from either of these bodies in relation to the PSNI's relations and communications with the media since you took up your present post?

The Northern Ireland Policing Board did express an interest in the so called "phone hacking" issue when it became a matter of national concern in the summer of 2011. PSNI has answered a small number of questions about these issues at Board meetings since last summer.

I am not aware of any investigations conducted by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland into leaks to the media during my time as Chief Constable of the PSNI.

43. What level of contact and oversight has there been from either of these bodies in relation to the PSNI's policing of the media since you took up your present post?

There have been no occasions during my time as Chief Constable where either the Policing Board or the Police Ombudsman has made enquiries in relation to how the PSNI "polices" the media.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

44. What limitations, if any, are there on staff from the PSNI leaving to work for the media and vice versa?

None, but all former officers remain subject to their legal obligations under the Official Secrets Act.

45. Are records kept of those who join the PSNI from the media, or go on to work for the media after leaving the PSNI? If so, please describe the system in place.

Personnel records for those joining the organisation will provide details of past employment.

I do not believe records are kept on those leaving the organisation as to where future employment might be. I would also suggest that to construct such a database may potentially breach our obligations under the Data Protection Act.

46. To the best of your knowledge, are there any discernible patterns in the movement of personnel from the media into the PSNI and vice versa?

All recent appointments into the Corporate Communications Department have been internal transferees, however a number of staff who are currently employed within the Department have previously worked in other media outlets as either professional journalist or communications professionals.

47. What levels of awareness and experience are there in the PSNI 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

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

communicate confidential information held by the MPS/ conspiring with them to obtain such information; and (g) crime within media organisations other than the foregoing (eg dishonest expense claims).

It would be true to state that media crime, as understood in the context of the “phone hacking” issue, has not presented itself as a significant issue in Northern Ireland. Neither have we observed a discernible problem in Northern Ireland in relation to media crime as outlined in A to G above.

(48) What sort of priority is given to, and what level of resources are available to deal with, the above.

As stated, they do not present significant issues to the PSNI, and resources would be applied as and when required.

49. What is your current impression of the culture within the PSNI in relation to its dealings with the press?

I believe that the relationship between PSNI and the media is responsible and mature.

50. The Inquiry understands that you were Chief Constable at the time when Madeleine McCann was abducted in Portugal. The Inquiry is interested to know how relationships with the media, both local and national, worked during this time. Were changes in procedures made as a result of the very large amount of media interest in the story? Was pressure put on your personnel by the media? Are you aware of any personnel leaking information to the media at this time, and if so, was disciplinary action taken?

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

The investigation into Madeleine McCann's disappearance began on 3 May 2007 by the Portuguese Authorities. On 4 May 2007, Leicestershire Constabulary took up a liaison role with the Portuguese Police to assist them in their enquiries. On 8 May 2007 Leicestershire Constabulary was asked to co-ordinate the UK response to assist the Portuguese enquiry on behalf of the UK Government and Association of Chief Police Officers. The Gold Strategy set on this date established that it was a Portuguese-led enquiry and that all actions would comply with requirements of Portuguese law including their Judicial Secrecy Act.

As a result of this strategy, apart from one press conference, which was requested by the Portuguese authorities, Leicestershire Constabulary made no comment to the media in relation to the investigation and strict information security was applied to ensure that the rights of all parties and the interests of the Portuguese Police were protected. However, Leicestershire Constabulary did respond to media enquiries over our role in the investigation in confirming details that were subject of public record. This included the number of officers in various roles and the financial cost of our involvement.

Due to the unprecedented media interest in the UK, a co-ordination group was set up on behalf of law enforcement agencies and government departments to co-ordinate the media interaction and ensure that a consistent stance was taken. This co-ordinating group was chaired by the Head of Corporate Communications from Leicestershire Constabulary. That group has continued to meet as required since 2007.

Throughout the enquiry there was intense local, national and international media interest and speculation over every element of the investigation. Leicestershire Constabulary received 53 FOI requests, one of which was repeated on 15 occasions, many of which came from the media. As a direct result of this and the impact that it was having on the investigation Leicestershire Constabulary developed a Freedom of Information Publication Strategy. This provided clarity

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

about what information would be published, and at what time and to minimise the number of requests made. The fact that we developed this publication strategy became a national news story in itself.

The intense media interest meant that thousands of sightings were generated world-wide many of which were reported to Leicestershire Constabulary – each needing operational time to properly address. The Portuguese authorities informed us that this was directing attention away from their core lines of enquiries.

Due to the vast quantity of local, national and international media that descended on the village of Rothley, Leicestershire, where the McCann family live, a large policing operation had to take place to ensure that villagers were able to go about their daily business. We did have complaints from local residents about the media's behaviour.

Whenever any event took place in Leicestershire relating to the investigation this again attracted huge interest to the extent that specific policing arrangements had to be made with the local airport, hotels and venues for the meetings to ensure there was no intrusion from the media.

Due to the thirst for information from the media, every individual working in Leicestershire supporting the Portuguese investigation signed a confidentiality agreement. Messages were also disseminated to all staff to make them aware that even private conversations with friends could be reported on in the media.

In the Autumn of 2007 there was extensive conjecture about the investigation which led me to write to all editors on two occasions (copies attached) imploring them not to speculate around the investigation because of the implications it may have for the enquiry. On each occasion I emphasised the importance of focusing in on the search for Madeleine rather than any other issue. As a result of continued conjecture by one Sunday paper Leicestershire Constabulary filed a complaint with

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

the Press Complaints Commission. The outcome was that the paper in question agreed to make a note on their file.

During the investigation the media quoted, who they claimed to be, unnamed Leicestershire police sources. These comments reported by the media bore little resemblance to the facts. However, Leicestershire Constabulary did conduct an enquiry to establish if any police employee could be identified as leaking information to the media. No such person was identified.

Although I am no longer Chief Constable of Leicestershire Constabulary, I am informed that almost five years on there is still speculation within some news media about Madeleine's disappearance and that a number of groundless assertions continue to be made about the enquiry and the actions taken by Leicestershire Constabulary, UK Law Enforcement and the Police Judicaria.

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

Documents provided to the Inquiry Panel by PSNI

- (a) *The policies and procedures relating to, or having a bearing upon, contact between PSNI personnel and the media. The Inquiry would like to see the current policies and, if there have been significant changes, previous versions going back up to 5 years.*
- PSNI Press Officer Handbook
 - PSNI Media Policy
 - PSNI Media Guide
 - PSNI Code of Ethics
- (b) *Training documents relating to, or having a bearing upon, contact between PSNI personnel and the media. The Inquiry wishes to see the current policies and, if there have been significant changes, previous versions going back 5 years.*
- No such specific documents held.
- (c) *Policies and procedures relating to, or having a bearing upon, the provision of and receipt of hospitality by members of the PSNI from the media.*
- PSNI Hospitality Policy
- (d) *Copies of any hospitality registers or similar documents. In relation to the Chief Constable and senior managers the Inquiry wishes to see records going back 5 years. In relation to other, the records for the last 12 months will suffice.*

Statement of Chief Constable Matthew Baggott

- Copy of registers have been sent by post
 - Electronic copies can be viewed at
http://www.psni.police.uk/index/about-us/publications/publications-by-category/foi_lists_and_registers/register_of_gifts_and_hospitality.htm
- (e) *Policies and procedures relating to bribery, in the forms current both pre and post introduction of the Bribery Act 2010.*
- PSNI Procurement Policy
 - PSNI Anti Fraud and Bribery Policy pre 2010 Act
 - PSNI Anti Fraud Policy guidance 2010 Act
- (f) *Any documents (whether internal or external) relating to the role of the Press Office and overarching instructions given to Press Office staff about how they should conduct themselves in relation to the press.*
- Please see documents provided under A above
- (g) *Any other documents relevant to the matters which you have been asked to deal with in your witness statement.*
- Copy of two letters sent to newspaper editors as referred to in answer to question 50.