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John Mandelson

As you may know, I am the officer who led the so-called 'Cash for Peerages' investigation. I write in respect of comments attributed to you by various media outlets following the CPS announcement that there would be no charges. I have delayed writing to you due to a period of leave that has just finished.

Following the CPS announcement, you were widely quoted, apparently on the record, accusing the police of using media leaks during the inquiry "to create a false impression of Tony Blair and undermine public trust in the government" (eg, *The Guardian*, page 1, *Saturday 21st July 2007*.)

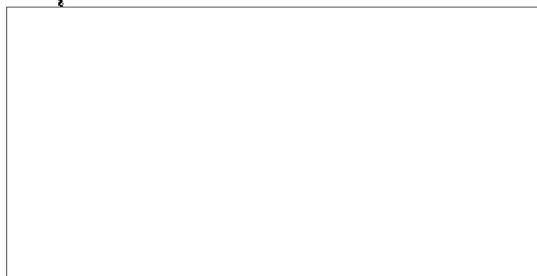
These are very serious allegations. I wish to make it clear that they are untrue and thus are entirely unwarranted. Those with knowledge of the case close to the former Prime Minister would know of the exceptional steps we took to minimise the harm to his or his Party's reputation whilst properly undertaking our duties.

I completely accept that much of what has been written about this case, however iniquitous, could be classified as 'fair comment'. Your views, if accurately reported, are different. I am not sure on what basis you have apparently made them. I suspect rumour and media speculation. Either way they are ill informed.

You will no doubt have read, in the days that followed the decision, comments from many of those people who were actually involved in this case. These are people who do have direct knowledge of what took place and how the police went about their business. They are therefore qualified to make a judgement. You will have noted that many comments were supportive of the police team, praising the professionalism of those with whom they came into contact.

Your comments, again I emphasise if accurately reported, cast a very significant slur against both me and the very small team that I led. I must therefore ask you not to repeat these or other similar comments again. Should you choose to do so then both the team and I reserve our rights to take whatever legal action we deem appropriate.

Yours sincerely,



John Yates
Assistant Commissioner
Metropolitan Police Service