

<p>1 Monday, 2 April 2012</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Good morning. Before we start,</p> <p>4 I just want to identify those topics that I will want to</p> <p>5 cover tomorrow afternoon when we consider directions</p> <p>6 specifically in relation to Module 3, but also some</p> <p>7 other matters.</p> <p>8 The general topics are: the remaining outstanding</p> <p>9 issues in relation to Module 1, core participant status</p> <p>10 for Module 3, the approach to Module 3, the approach to</p> <p>11 Module 4, the timetable for the Inquiry, the timetable</p> <p>12 for submissions and a discussion around aspects of the</p> <p>13 Rule 13 submissions, which I have received in writing</p> <p>14 from various core participants. I make that broad</p> <p>15 agenda public now so that all core participants who may</p> <p>16 not be involved in today's proceedings can be aware of</p> <p>17 what I want to cover tomorrow afternoon.</p> <p>18 Further, two witnesses are presently on the list to</p> <p>19 be read today. I am giving further considerations to</p> <p>20 the status of those witnesses, therefore they will not</p> <p>21 be put into the record of the Inquiry this afternoon.</p> <p>22 Thank you. Yes, Mr Barr.</p> <p>23 MR BARR: Good morning, sir. Our first witness is Paul</p> <p>24 McKeever.</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr McKeever, I'm very grateful to you</p> <p>3 for taking part and providing this statement. Just so</p> <p>4 that it's quite clear, I recognise that the Federation</p> <p>5 occupy a very different position in policing, but given</p> <p>6 the extent of the evidence which I've received from ACPO</p> <p>7 ranking officers, I felt it was appropriate that it</p> <p>8 should be seen that other ranks also have the</p> <p>9 opportunity to comment on the subject matter of this</p> <p>10 Inquiry, however limited that contribution might be.</p> <p>11 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I just felt that it was appropriate</p> <p>13 that the Federation -- indeed, the Superintendents</p> <p>14 Association -- should be heard, however much or little</p> <p>15 they wanted to say.</p> <p>16 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>17 MR BARR: You're also the chairman of the staff side of the</p> <p>18 UK Police Negotiating Board.</p> <p>19 A. That's correct, sir, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Your background is that you joined the Metropolitan</p> <p>21 Police Service in 1977, direct from university, and you</p> <p>22 served in various parts of London in various roles</p> <p>23 before being elected to the Police Federation in 1992.</p> <p>24 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Moving now to get an outline of the Federation and what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 MR PAUL MCKEEVER (sworn)</p> <p>2 Questions by MR BARR</p> <p>3 MR BARR: Mr McKeever, could you tell us your full name,</p> <p>4 please?</p> <p>5 A. Paul John McKeever.</p> <p>6 Q. I understand that in your statement you want to make</p> <p>7 a correction to paragraph 15.</p> <p>8 A. That's correct, sir, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. The answer to question 15 that was posed to you, you</p> <p>10 have replied:</p> <p>11 "We provide guidance to our representatives and</p> <p>12 officials via media protocol in which it states that any</p> <p>13 contact with the media should be treated as on the</p> <p>14 record."</p> <p>15 Is it right that the correction that you wish to</p> <p>16 make is that that is what the protocol is going to say</p> <p>17 but not what it presently says?</p> <p>18 A. That's correct, sir, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Subject to that correction, are the contents of your</p> <p>20 witness statement true and correct to the best of your</p> <p>21 knowledge and belief?</p> <p>22 A. They are, sir, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. You are currently the chairman of the Police Federation</p> <p>24 of England and Wales, and you have been in that position</p> <p>25 since May of 2008?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 it does. First of all, you're chairman of the Police</p> <p>2 Federation of England and Wales.</p> <p>3 A. That's correct.</p> <p>4 Q. There are separate federations, aren't there, for</p> <p>5 Scotland and Northern Ireland?</p> <p>6 A. That is correct, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. The ambit of the federation of England and Wales is to</p> <p>8 cover all forces within the country, including the</p> <p>9 Metropolitan Police?</p> <p>10 A. All 43 which are Home Office forces, yes. We don't</p> <p>11 cover the British Transport Police and one or two other</p> <p>12 smaller forces.</p> <p>13 Q. You have a statutory background under the Police Act of</p> <p>14 1919. You're not a trade union?</p> <p>15 A. No, we were set up, I think, not to be a trade union,</p> <p>16 sir.</p> <p>17 Q. But your role, if I can summarise what you say in your</p> <p>18 witness statement, is essentially as a negotiator, and</p> <p>19 you also have a function of relaying the views of your</p> <p>20 members to government?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that is our primary function, sir.</p> <p>22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And you're a full-time federation</p> <p>23 official?</p> <p>24 A. I am by statute, sir, yes.</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So in other words, you will not be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 found in Bromley police station or indeed any other 2 police station, save in as required by your duties? 3 A. That's correct, sir, yes. 4 MR BARR: The Federation is structured at both a national 5 and a local level, isn't it? 6 A. It is indeed, yes. 7 Q. As to the ranks which are covered by the Federation, is 8 it right that anyone who is a constable or a sergeant or 9 an inspector, including chief inspectors, will 10 automatically be a member of the Police Federation? 11 A. That is right, yes. 12 Q. For those who choose to do so, on the payment of 13 a subscription, the Federation also provides legal 14 assistance and assistance at disciplinary tribunals? 15 A. That's correct, yes. 16 Q. You tell us that as at June of last year there were 17 136,976 subscribing members. Can you give the Inquiry 18 an idea of what proportion of your overall membership 19 are subscribing members? 20 A. The vast majority are subscribing members. We don't 21 have figures to say exactly how many don't subscribe, 22 but anecdotally, it is a mere handful. 23 Q. If I can move now to ask you about a number of separate 24 topics. If we start first of all with the ACPO guidance 25 on contact with the media, and I'm looking now at page 4 Page 5</p>	<p>1 for each unit, department or station as well. 2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Could you slow down a bit, McKeever, 3 so that we make sure we get precisely what you say. 4 A. Sorry, sir. 5 MR BARR: So can we infer that the fact that the Federation 6 has not received any feedback about the guidelines is 7 partly because very few of your members have dealings 8 with the media, and secondly, that those that do don't 9 appear to have had any issues? 10 A. And also, sir, we haven't asked them. 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's fair enough, but this Inquiry 12 has been going on for some time and must have generated 13 some interest among your members, I would have thought. 14 We've heard about the interest that the press may have 15 in talking to neighbourhood police officers and their 16 keen wish to encourage such communications and their 17 fear that rules or regulations will prevent them from so 18 doing. You've not had any feedback one way or the other 19 that causes you concern or that you want to bring to my 20 attention, trying to get a balanced view of the views of 21 the police? 22 A. In a question further on, sir, which refers to Elizabeth 23 Filkin's report, I was going to make comment in relation 24 to the general culture within the service about how 25 officers feel in relation to the press. If you wish me Page 7</p>
<p>1 of your witness statement and your answer to question 6. 2 You say that to your knowledge, the Federation has not 3 received any feedback from members about guidelines. 4 I'd like to explore why that is. 5 First of all, of the different ranks that we've just 6 mentioned fall within Federation membership, what sort 7 of contact does each of those ranks have with the media? 8 A. The vast majority of police officers and police staff, 9 I have to say, will have little or no contact with the 10 media throughout the whole service. We're not 11 a pyramidal organisation, we're very much 12 a flat-bottomed organisation and the vast majority of 13 officers will be at constable, sergeant and inspector 14 rank. It's a very narrow prong that goes up after that. 15 The contact with the media will be at a higher 16 level, perhaps starting at inspector, chief inspector 17 level, so the vast majority of constables and sergeants 18 have little or no contact with the media. 19 Q. If there is some contact at inspector or chief inspector 20 level is it ever inspector and chief inspector? 21 A. No, that wouldn't be the case. There would be some 22 specialist roles. Perhaps a chief inspector might be an 23 SIO, senior investigating officer in a murder case, and 24 then they would have contact with the media, and there 25 might be local press liaison officers who are identified Page 6</p>	<p>1 to answer now, I'm happy to do so. 2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm happy to take Mr Barr's line or 3 your line, but -- 4 A. The answer is no, we haven't had any feedback. 5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. 6 MR BARR: Can we deal next with training, please, 7 Mr McKeever. I'm looking now at page 5 of your 8 statement and the answer to question 9. Have 9 I understood correctly that what the Police Federation 10 thinks would be very helpful -- and not just in relation 11 to the media but across the board -- is national 12 standards for training? 13 A. Yes, we're very strong on this point, sir. We believe 14 that we should have national standards across the whole 15 range of training within the Police Service, and it's 16 something that we've called on government to ensure 17 happens, not just in relation to media training but in 18 training generally. Training is in a state of flux in 19 the service. We are moving from the National Police 20 Improvement Agency, which sets standards, guidelines, 21 and provides 10 per cent of training nationally but also 22 influences the local training as well -- we're moving 23 from the National Police Improvement Agency, which is 24 going to be done away with by November, and there's 25 going to be some new body which hasn't been decided upon Page 8</p>

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<p>1 exactly at this moment in time, which will take over 2 those sort of responsibilities. What we're saying is 3 that national standards must be maintained within 4 whatever that new body is. 5 Q. So can I take it that in accordance with that principle, 6 the Federation would be in favour of national standards 7 for training in relation to media contact? 8 A. Yes, we would. 9 Q. Can I turn now to the question of legal assistance? We 10 mentioned a moment ago that your subscribing members get 11 the benefit of legal assistance from the federation. 12 You tell us on page 6 in answer to question 11 that, 13 amongst other things, the Federation will provide legal 14 support to members if they've been libelled or suffered 15 an invasion of privacy or breach of confidence. 16 What, of course, the Inquiry would be interested in 17 is whether, in the Federation's experience, there's 18 a particular problem or what the extent of any problem 19 is with your members being either libelled or suffering 20 invasions of privacy by the media. Is that a question 21 which you personally are in a position to answer today? 22 A. No, unfortunately it's not. 23 Q. Is it something that perhaps the Federation's solicitor 24 might be able to help us with in correspondence? 25 A. If you would wish for the Federation's solicitor, Page 9</p>	<p>1 relation to an alleged leak would be entitled to help 2 from the Federation? 3 A. That's correct, yes. 4 Q. Are you able to help us with whether or not supporting 5 members who've been in that situation is a common 6 experience or not? 7 A. No, it's not a common experience, and I think, reading 8 Elizabeth Filkin's report and Sir Denis O'Connor's 9 report, there seems to be an indication there that the 10 Professional Standards Department perhaps feel there are 11 problems with leaking but haven't brought many cases to 12 conclusion. 13 Q. On a related subject, if we could just explore 14 whistle-blowing for a moment. Can I ask you, first of 15 all: from a Federation's point of view, from what you 16 know, are the whistle-blowing policies which have been 17 used very much by your members? 18 A. No. The Police Service in England and Wales, sir, is 19 one that's a disciplined organisation, and officers know 20 only too well that if they step outside or if there's 21 a problem that's identified, that they are subject to 22 the discipline code. Similarly, if an officer sees 23 somebody else behaving inappropriately or wrongly or 24 illegally, unlawfully, there is a very strong 25 supervisory process in place where you can report that Page 11</p>
<p>1 Russell Jones Walker, to correspond with you on that 2 matter, I'm sure that will be able to be done, yes. 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm just keen, I again repeat, to get 4 another window on the extent of the issues which I have 5 to consider. 6 A. I don't see it as it a major problem across the country, 7 sir. It's not one that's been brought to my attention. 8 MR BARR: Thank you. If we move now to the question of 9 off-the-record conversations. The Inquiry has heard 10 evidence that different people use the phrase to mean 11 slightly different things. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Sometimes it's used to refer to communications which 14 people have with the press but don't want the press to 15 print at all, and others say it's information which they 16 don't want attributed but which can be printed. Do you 17 think that there would be, again, benefit in having 18 national guidance about the meaning of "off the record" 19 and indeed how to go about off-the-record conversations, 20 if appropriate? 21 A. Yes, I do. I think there is some confusion about what 22 the definition actually means, sir. 23 Q. Can we move next to leaks. It would be right, wouldn't 24 it, that a subscribing member of the Federation who 25 found him or herself subject to investigation in Page 10</p>	<p>1 to your supervising officers, and that tends to be where 2 the revelation will come from. 3 Q. And as far as you're aware, is the incidence of 4 reporting of wrongdoing to superior officers high or low 5 when it happens? 6 A. Yes. Yes. 7 Q. When you say "yes" -- 8 A. Sorry, upwards, yes. Report upwards. 9 Q. Your impression is that people do report wrongdoings? 10 A. They do report upwards, yes. 11 Q. In those cases where people are in possession of 12 information about wrongdoing and, for whatever reason, 13 are hesitating about reporting it in the normal way that 14 you've just described, do you think that there is a high 15 or low level of confidence in the whistle-blowing 16 policies and procedures? 17 A. I think it's a bit like the curate's egg, sir. It will 18 be good in some parts of the country and not in others, 19 depending on the confidence that that particular officer 20 has locally. Perhaps some sort of independent avenue 21 would be -- would assist those officers who don't feel 22 confident enough to go through the supervisory process 23 which is there and has worked pretty well in most cases. 24 Q. Turning now to bribery -- 25 A. Yes. Page 12</p>

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<p>1 Q. -- you describe on page 8 of your statement, in answer 2 to question 20, that you don't think that bribery is 3 a widespread problem, and you point to the criminal 4 sanctions and robust disciplinary procedures in place. 5 Do you think that there is any room for tightening the 6 sanctions and procedures which are already in place or 7 not? 8 A. Sir, again, Elizabeth Filkin, I think, in her first 9 appendix, lists the various acts that officers are 10 subject to when they're dealing with the press, and 11 there are a whole range of sanctions that can be imposed 12 on officers where the penalties will include 13 imprisonment if they go outside the parameters expected 14 of them as a police officer, and she also reinforces 15 that by saying that we're also subject to the discipline 16 code as well, which, again, is very wide-ranging, and 17 officers are fully aware of that and there are plenty 18 enough tools there, I think, to actually ensure that 19 officers do behave in a correct and appropriate manner, 20 and without actually introducing any other form of 21 sanction in addition to those that are already there. 22 Perhaps the processes could be looked at, but the 23 sanctions, I think, are more than adequate. 24 Q. When you say "the processes might be looked at", is it 25 your impression that the processes are, in practice,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 work undertaken by Sir Denis O'Connor in his report 2 "Without fear or favour" and that the Federation is 3 supportive of his recommendations. What role does the 4 Federation expect to have in the consultations about 5 taking his recommendations forward? 6 A. Sir Denis O'Connor is a man who we hold in extremely 7 high regard in the Federation, and he is a man who does 8 consult with us on most of his reports that are going 9 forward and affect our members, and we're grateful for 10 that consultation. 11 Q. Moving back to Elizabeth Filkin, whose report you've 12 mentioned a number of times, you say at question 27 that 13 you don't recognise a general culture of acceptance 14 within the MPS that leaking and bribery is acceptable. 15 Leaving aside whether or not that is what 16 Elizabeth Filkin was saying or not, or to what extent 17 she was saying it, can I perhaps just ask you to tell us 18 what your impression, certainly as a man who served for 19 a long time in the MPS and has since been, obviously, at 20 the very top of the Federation -- what is your 21 perception of the general culture towards leaking and 22 bribery in the Metropolitan Police? 23 A. It's an absolute no-no. I know previous chairmen of the 24 local federation in the Metropolitan Police are on 25 public record as saying that it is an absolute no-no.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 administered sufficiently or not? 2 A. Well, again, I'm making reference to Elizabeth Filkin's 3 report where I think she has said that there's been some 4 surprise in certainly a force about some of the things 5 that have been revealed in the last year or so. 6 Q. Moving now to the question of hospitality -- and I'm 7 looking at page 9, the answer to question 23 -- you tell 8 us that you don't perceive an inappropriate level of 9 hospitality as a problem amongst the federated ranks. 10 Is that, first and foremost, a function of the fact that 11 your federated ranks have very little contact with the 12 media? 13 A. That's correct, yes. 14 Q. In those circumstances, perhaps I can ask you to comment 15 a little wider on the question of hospitality at all 16 ranks. What is the Federation's view on the question of 17 hospitality between the police and the media? 18 A. Again, we're supportive of what Elizabeth Filkin's 19 saying in relation to the sort of parameters that should 20 be set, but again, we need to have clear guidance here 21 for officers, exactly what is acceptable and what's not. 22 I think that's been missing in the past. 23 Q. Guidance at a national level? 24 A. At a national level. 25 Q. You talk also in the same answer about recognising the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 Bribery is something that is anathema to the vast 2 majority of police officers and in my service as 3 a Metropolitan officer before -- I am still a serving 4 Metropolitan officer and the officers I still deal with 5 today, it is something that's abhorrent for the vast 6 majority of police officers, full stop. 7 Q. Has that been the position from 1977 when you first 8 joined to date, or has there been any fluctuation in the 9 position? 10 A. I think if you're a police officer -- being a police 11 officer is about values. Contrary to some perhaps 12 recent reports, it's not about the academic 13 qualifications you have, no matter how beneficial they 14 may be, and it is about standards of integrity, honesty, 15 probity. They are the sort of standards that are 16 absolutely the core of being a police officer and they 17 haven't changed. 18 MR BARR: Thank you. Those were all the questions that 19 I have for you. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I have no specific questions, 21 Mr McKeever, but I am keen to give you the opportunity 22 to say anything else that you would like to say from 23 your perspective, representing chief inspectors and 24 below, about the terms of reference of this part of the 25 Inquiry. If you have nothing to add, that's fine, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

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<p>1 just so that you've had the chance.</p> <p>2 A. No, I don't, sir, but thank you for that opportunity.</p> <p>3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much indeed for</p> <p>4 coming.</p> <p>5 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>6 MR BARR: Sir, Ms Patry Hoskins is going to take the next</p> <p>7 witness.</p> <p>8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Good morning, sir.</p> <p>10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Good morning.</p> <p>11 MS PATRY HOSKINS: The next two witnesses are Councillor</p> <p>12 Mark Burns Williamson and Mr Oley from the Association</p> <p>13 of Police Authorities.</p> <p>14 MR MARK BURNS WILLIAMSON (sworn)</p> <p>15 MR NATHAN DAVID OLEY (sworn)</p> <p>16 Questions by MS PATRY HOSKINS</p> <p>17 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Could I ask you each in turn to provide</p> <p>18 your full name to the Inquiry?</p> <p>19 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Mark Burns Williamson.</p> <p>20 MR OLEY: Nathan David Oley.</p> <p>21 Q. Councillor, you have provided a statement to the Inquiry</p> <p>22 dated 1 March 2012, which we have. Can you confirm that</p> <p>23 the contents of it are true to the best of your</p> <p>24 knowledge and belief?</p> <p>25 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes, they are.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. I appreciate that you also have a background as</p> <p>3 a district councillor. You've been a district</p> <p>4 councillor for 13 years and you tell us a little bit</p> <p>5 more about that, again, in paragraph 1 of this</p> <p>6 statement.</p> <p>7 Mr Oley, I'm going to turn to you briefly just to do</p> <p>8 the same in your career history, please. Your career</p> <p>9 history is set out also at paragraph 1 of your statement</p> <p>10 and you explain that you're the head of press and public</p> <p>11 affairs for the APA and have been since January 2011; is</p> <p>12 that correct?</p> <p>13 MR OLEY: That's correct.</p> <p>14 Q. That role is essentially delivering the APA's dealings</p> <p>15 with the media, providing a public affairs function and</p> <p>16 you also have a limited policy role regarding the</p> <p>17 preparation for one aspect of the transition from police</p> <p>18 authorities to the new directly elected PCCs that we</p> <p>19 will have from November this year.</p> <p>20 MR OLEY: That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. You then set out your career history in some detail and</p> <p>22 I don't think we need to go through that. Have I</p> <p>23 accurately summarised the position?</p> <p>24 MR OLEY: Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Councillor, I'd like to explore the role and general</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 Q. Mr Oley, you've provided a statement dated 2 March 2012.</p> <p>2 Go you confirm, please, that the contents of it are true</p> <p>3 to the best of your knowledge and belief?</p> <p>4 MR OLEY: Yes, they are.</p> <p>5 Q. Thank you very much. What I'm going to do is ask some</p> <p>6 questions of Councillor Burns Williamson first but if</p> <p>7 any questions are best answered by Mr Oley, feel free to</p> <p>8 say so. Then, Mr Oley, I'll come on to you if you can.</p> <p>9 Councillor, can we start with your career history.</p> <p>10 It's set out at paragraph 1 of your statement to the</p> <p>11 Inquiry. You tell us there that you are chair of the</p> <p>12 Association of Police Authorities, a position that</p> <p>13 you've had since October 2012; is that correct?</p> <p>14 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. Prior to that, you were deputy chair between 2009 and</p> <p>16 2011 and you've been a board member of the APA since</p> <p>17 2003?</p> <p>18 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct.</p> <p>19 Q. You've also been a member of West Yorkshire Police</p> <p>20 Authority since 1999. You were elected chair of the</p> <p>21 authority in June 2003 and you've been reelected chair</p> <p>22 every year since?</p> <p>23 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct.</p> <p>24 Q. Have I accurately summarised your career history in</p> <p>25 police authorities?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 functions the APA. I want to ask you a few brief</p> <p>2 questions about that. You explain in your statement at</p> <p>3 paragraph 2 onwards that the oversight of governance of</p> <p>4 policing in England and Wales is carried out by three</p> <p>5 bodies essentially: ACPO, we've heard from witnesses,</p> <p>6 representing senior police officers; the Home Office,</p> <p>7 obviously; and the Association, which you say is the</p> <p>8 national voice of the public in policing. You tell us</p> <p>9 that the Association was formed in 1997 to represent all</p> <p>10 police authorities in England, Wales and Northern</p> <p>11 Ireland; is that correct?</p> <p>12 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct.</p> <p>13 Q. You then tell us, at the top of page 2, that the Police</p> <p>14 Authorities themselves that you represent have</p> <p>15 a particular job. It's paragraph 5 there at the top of</p> <p>16 page 2. They consult with local communities and find</p> <p>17 out what they want the local police to do. They set</p> <p>18 strategic direction for policing locally, decide what</p> <p>19 the police should focus their attention on locally.</p> <p>20 They set the budget for their police force and they</p> <p>21 decide how much local people should pay for policing in</p> <p>22 the local council tax, they make sure the police force</p> <p>23 is continuing to do a better job and they appoint and,</p> <p>24 if necessary, dismiss chief constables and senior police</p> <p>25 officers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

<p>1 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct. 2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And there's no distinction for you 3 between the Metropolitan Police and other forces? So 4 the Metropolitan Police Authority, as was, is a member 5 of your organisation? 6 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct. 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And is the present iteration of that, 8 the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime -- does that 9 have anything to do with your organisation or not? 10 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes. We've just had to change our 11 articles and constitution to accommodate the new 12 arrangements in the Met as well. 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So does that mean that come later on 14 this year, you'll either be changing articles of 15 association again or simply moving away from the area? 16 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think I do set out in another 17 question that the Home Office have asked the APA to form 18 an interim body for policing governance which will 19 potentially represent PCCs post November of this year. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. 21 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Sticking with the role of the APA for the 22 moment -- and I'll come on to ask you about the position 23 from November -- in representing all the individual 24 Police Authorities, you seek to ensure a number of 25 things. If you look under the heading "The APA's Page 21</p>	<p>1 you should provide an interim association for the 41 2 elected police and crime commissioners and other bodies 3 of policing governance from 15 November until the end of 4 the financial year 2012/2013. Perhaps for the purposes 5 of this Inquiry, in this illustrative paragraph right at 6 the end of page 4, you say that your hope is that the 7 interim representative body for PCCs should play a role 8 in assisting the PCCs to implement the recommendations 9 which may be issued in the wake of this Inquiry. Can 10 you just expand a little on that? 11 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes. The APA, as it currently exists, 12 will finish probably -- well, 15 November, which is the 13 date of the election. We did submit a business case for 14 the creation of an interim body to represent PCCs 15 because we think it's important that the local voice, as 16 it were, is still heard at the national level, and it's 17 our intention to work through a programme of measures to 18 put to PCCs, once elected, to, in a constructive way, 19 take forward, but of course that will be a decision 20 ultimately for the PCCs themselves, whether they want to 21 continue the interim body or create a permanent body or 22 not, as the case may be. 23 Q. Thank you. Moving back to the Association as it 24 currently exists, I'm going to ask you about some of its 25 specific functions. In that respect, turn back in your Page 23</p>
<p>1 mission", still on page 2, you set out a number of 2 bullet points. Could you tell us in your own words what 3 it is that you seek to do, what the APA's mission is? 4 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think, rather like the Federation in 5 the last session, we seek to represent the views of our 6 members at the national level to influence particularly 7 policy around policing in general, around securing the 8 best deal we can around budgets and resources. We are 9 statutory members of the police negotiating board, the 10 police staff council senior appointments committee. So 11 we are involved, as one of the tripartite, in a lot of 12 those areas that help to influence our members and their 13 interests at the local level. 14 Q. Then, for the sake of completeness, the subject we've 15 just been touching on, the position later this year, we 16 need to note that the APA will cease to exist, you tell 17 us, on or before the date on which its members, ie the 18 police authorities, are abolished in late November 2012. 19 You deal with this on page 4 in response to question 9. 20 You were asked: 21 "What changes, if any will, there be to the role or 22 functions of the APA and the oversight of relations and 23 communications between police authorities and the media 24 once police authorities are replaced?" 25 You tell us that the Home Secretary has agreed that Page 22</p>	<p>1 statement to page 3 and the answer to question 4. Just 2 noting there that you tell us that the APA plays no part 3 in the oversight of the Police Service's relations and 4 communications with the media because that's simply 5 a matter for local police authorities? 6 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct. 7 Q. What you do say is that the APA or any successor body, 8 as you just said, should play a role in assisting police 9 authorities or PCCs to implement any recommendations 10 which come out of this Inquiry through the medium of 11 training or guidance. How would you foresee that 12 happening? 13 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Again, as part of the work for the 14 interim body and whatever the outcomes of this Inquiry 15 are, we would think it a good thing, really, to make 16 sure that the recommendations are taken forward in 17 a work programme that hopefully help PCCs and existing 18 police authorities just review their own arrangements at 19 the moment and make sure we are leaving a legacy to try 20 and ensure best practice moving forward. 21 Q. You go on to say that you've also no role in providing 22 guidance to police forces in this particular area, 23 communications with the media. That continues to be the 24 case with the interim body, doesn't it? In fact, the 25 PCCs for each area will be responsible for the totality Page 24</p>

<p>1 of policing in their area under the Act, so they will 2 have the primary role in ensuring that the relationships 3 and communications with the media are appropriate; would 4 that be right, and do you I see any risk with that? 5 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think it's on record, as an APA, 6 that we did oppose the legislation when it went through, 7 but clearly it's definitely going to happen, so our 8 position is now to try and ensure a smooth transition to 9 the office of the PCC. Clearly, moving from 17 members 10 to one person, perhaps with a deputy, does create 11 potential risk in terms of the capacity of that office 12 to carry out those functions, so we would be 13 recommending the role of perhaps a standards committee 14 in things like appointments and complaints and matters 15 of this type to strengthen the office of the PCC. 16 Q. A standards committee at national level or at local 17 level? 18 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: At the local level. 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: How much of your time does it take 20 up? 21 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Chair of the national APA? 22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm interested in both the chair and, 23 of course, your chair of your own police authority. 24 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: It's pretty much full-time along with 25 my councillor duties as well.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 You then tell us about the policies of the APA in 2 relation to gifts and hospitality. That's the response 3 to question 33 onwards, page 10. What you do here is 4 you set out extracts from the staff handbook dealing 5 with hospitality, gifts and fee income. I'm not going 6 to read out the whole of this section. Can you 7 summarise your understanding of the acceptability of 8 offering or accepting hospitality or gifts? 9 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think -- as set out in that extract 10 from the staff handbook, I think all staff are aware 11 that they shouldn't enter into any such arrangements 12 with the media or anybody else, for that matter, without 13 very good reason, and we tend to conduct our business 14 through formal events where we may put on refreshments 15 and a few sandwiches, and that is par for the course. 16 So the media would be available for that, along with the 17 other members of the APA. So for me, it's fairly 18 straightforward. 19 Q. Summarising what the staff handbook seems to say here in 20 respect of gifts, there seems to be a policy that modest 21 gifts can be accepted and gifts can be accepted from 22 visiting delegations, for example where to refuse to 23 accept would cause offence, and then you have a register 24 where each employee must personally record any 25 hospitality or gifts received or given by them. I note</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It's a remarkable public service. 2 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Indeed. I'm going to move on to ask you 3 about the APA's contact with the media. You were asked 4 about this at question 15 onwards, page 6 of your 5 statement, councillor. You say, in response to question 6 16, that all contact with the media is channelled 7 through the press office. Is that every request that 8 comes in? 9 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes. 10 Q. Generally speaking, the communication you have has been 11 through the release of press releases or press 12 statements. You explain that they're issued, on 13 average, once a week, but obviously it depends on the 14 type of events. I'm just summarising. There's a lot of 15 detail here. You tell us, at question 19, that you 16 simply don't have off-the-record conversations with the 17 media as chair of the APA, that you've not provided any 18 hospitality as chair of the APA for any member of the 19 media -- this is question 22 -- save for sandwiches or 20 cups of tea for members of the media attending, for 21 example, APA council meetings or policing and fringe 22 events. 23 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's right. 24 Q. And also you've never accepted any gifts from the media. 25 We can see that from your response to question 24.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 that in response to question 34, you say alcoholic 2 drinks are not acceptable expenses and will not be 3 reimbursed. Is that just a general policy, regardless 4 of the circumstances? 5 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes. 6 Q. Sticking on the register of hospitality that you -- 7 that's identified in the staff handbook, you tell us in 8 response to question 35 that this register is now made 9 available on the APA website. You've said that that's 10 a good thing that it's publicised on your website, 11 although later on you also say that in any event you've 12 not identified any inappropriate levels of hospitality. 13 So why is it a good thing to have the register published 14 on the website? 15 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think just in terms of transparency 16 and openness, it's there. If anybody asks the question, 17 it would be published on the website. 18 Q. Okay. I need to ask you briefly about leaks and 19 bribery. You tell us that as far as you're aware there 20 have been no leaks during your time as chair of the APA. 21 You tell us that in response to question 43. You tell 22 us that -- 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Hang on, hang on. That's only since 24 last October? 25 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

7 (Pages 25 to 28)

<p>1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I've been on this job since 2 last July, so I'd be very, very surprised if there had 3 been much to worry about since last October. Do you 4 have any experience of it at all in your period of 5 service on the APA? 6 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: No. 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. Let's just extend it 8 a bit. 9 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Thank you. You tell us, in response to 10 question 44, that you currently have no systems to deal 11 with leaks -- but you're not aware of any, obviously -- 12 but this is something you are rectifying or that you 13 have asked the chief executive to rectify. What do you 14 think could be done? 15 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think in the light of this Inquiry, 16 the one from the HMIC and the Filkin report, clearly 17 we're looking again at all the policies we have, and in 18 fact, only last week I met with Sir Denis O'Connor and 19 Roger Baker from the HMIC to update on the position of 20 the APA on police authorities. We will aim to do 21 further work on this prior to October when the HMIC will 22 look again and report back on the progress of not only 23 ourselves but ACPO as well. 24 Q. Moving on to bribery, question 49 onwards, you were 25 asked to what extent you believe that bribery of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 You say, right at the end, that it has internal 2 audit functions and that you've also undertaken reviews 3 of the West Yorkshire police press office and media 4 department functions with regards to both internal and 5 external media communication systems. 6 There's no indication there as to the findings that 7 you've made there, whether or not there's been any 8 recommendations made, whether any recommendations have 9 been accepted or implemented as a result of this review 10 work. Can you assist us with that? 11 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes, we do have quite a robust 12 internal audit team at West Yorkshire Police Authority. 13 I'd be happy for any findings of those reports to be 14 made available. I just can't remember, at this moment 15 in time, what the findings of those were. 16 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Thank you very much. I'm going to come 17 on to ask you, please, about the press office. You were 18 asked a number of questions about this from question 29 19 onwards on page 8. 20 Mr Oley, your entire statement is obviously about 21 the press office. Can I start with Mr Oley first, 22 please. I'd like to ask you about your role and remit, 23 if I can. Starting, please, with the response to 24 question 2 on page 16 your statement, you explain that 25 the press office consists solely of you as head of press</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 personnel by the media is a problem for the APA and you 2 say that you do not believe that it's a problem and 3 you've never experienced a case of actual or alleged 4 bribery of APA staff. That's clear from the response to 5 question 50. Just to make it absolutely clear, during 6 your entire time at the APA, you've never experienced 7 a case of actual or alleged bribery; is that correct? 8 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's correct. 9 Q. You explain that you don't have in place any specific 10 procedures to investigate bribery but it would simply be 11 treated as any other alleged case of gross misconduct, 12 which is covered by the staff handbook; is that correct? 13 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: That's right. 14 Q. I'm going to ask you about the press office in a moment, 15 and I'll bring in Mr Oley, if I can, but I want to touch 16 on your role as the chair of West Yorkshire Police 17 Authority, please. You deal with this from paragraph 57 18 onwards, or page 16. I don't mean to be rude but the 19 evidence is set out clearly, so I don't think I need to 20 ask you about any of it in specific detail except for 21 one question. It relates to question 59: 22 "What level of contact, oversight or knowledge is 23 there from the West Yorkshire Police Authority in 24 relation to West Yorkshire Police's relations and 25 communications with the media?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 and public affairs? 2 MR OLEY: That's correct. 3 Q. You explain on page 2 the number of responsibilities and 4 functions that you have. It's a very long list. In 5 your own words, can you summarise what the head of press 6 APA does? 7 MR OLEY: Sorry, I'm responsible for delivering -- 8 responding to any media enquiries and representing the 9 organisation externally in terms of press and public 10 affairs. So that also involves setting strategy and 11 delivering the interaction with senior stakeholders, 12 particularly in terms of Parliament and their associated 13 bodies, plus the provision of practicalities like 14 providing a summary of -- a digest of the day's news, 15 stories -- the APA website, briefing the chair and other 16 members for their interactions with the media, providing 17 speeches for their participation in conferences, 18 et cetera. And then the public affairs functions 19 include, obviously, arrangements at party conferences, 20 where appropriate, and other associated events, plus our 21 involvement with the all-party parliamentary policing 22 group, for which I provide the secretariat. 23 Q. You heard the councillor say earlier that all 24 communication with the media is essentially directed 25 through the press office. Is that your experience?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 MR OLEY: That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. You explain in response to question 7 that the dealings</p> <p>3 between the APA and the media have become far more</p> <p>4 frequent over the past two years. What's your</p> <p>5 understanding of why that's the case?</p> <p>6 MR OLEY: I think it's fair to say that issues of policing</p> <p>7 governance have not always excited the press in the way</p> <p>8 that they have recently. Obviously this Inquiry has</p> <p>9 been critical in that, but for ourselves the</p> <p>10 government's proposals to change entirely the government</p> <p>11 and oversight of policing in England and Wales led to</p> <p>12 obviously a huge upsurge in our media exposure and the</p> <p>13 requirements of us to put our case, our concerns and our</p> <p>14 strengths to the outside world, really, to the public</p> <p>15 and to key stakeholders.</p> <p>16 Q. I'm going to turn back, please, to the councillor's</p> <p>17 witness statement, question 29 on page 8 onwards,</p> <p>18 because I want to understand briefly the types of</p> <p>19 contact that APA personnel and in particular the press</p> <p>20 office have with the media.</p> <p>21 You set out there, councillor, a number</p> <p>22 of representative telephone calls or contacts that</p> <p>23 you've had or that the press office has had within the</p> <p>24 last month. Mr Oley, could you cast your eye down that</p> <p>25 list and tell me whether you agree that that's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 I'm going to paraphrase what the handbook says: all</p> <p>2 media enquiries should be referred to you, Mr Oley, and</p> <p>3 the chief executive. No comment or other information,</p> <p>4 even factual information, should be provided to the</p> <p>5 press or other media without first obtaining explicit</p> <p>6 clearance from the executive director. This applies to</p> <p>7 all media. So pretty stringent guidance there. In your</p> <p>8 experience, that's what always happens?</p> <p>9 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR OLEY: Yes, certainly. It's helped -- to be fair, we're</p> <p>11 a very small team, so it's not too onerous a task to</p> <p>12 manage.</p> <p>13 Q. Mr Oley, you heard the councillor say that he did not</p> <p>14 have off-the-record discussions with the media. You</p> <p>15 say at paragraph 13 of your statement, or in response to</p> <p>16 question 13 of your statement, that since the handbook</p> <p>17 says what it does -- we've just looked at it, that the</p> <p>18 chair is the only official spokesperson to the APA --</p> <p>19 you can't provide a quote for published use in the media</p> <p>20 without the agreement of the chairs and therefore most</p> <p>21 conversations you have with the media are off the</p> <p>22 record, in the sense that they cannot be attributed to</p> <p>23 you personally. I make it absolutely clear that in</p> <p>24 response to question 14 you say that you keep a record</p> <p>25 of all such briefings and you relate those directly then</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 a representative set of contacts?</p> <p>2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think the list is also paragraph 8</p> <p>3 of his statement.</p> <p>4 MS PATRY HOSKINS: It is.</p> <p>5 MR OLEY: Indeed. Yes, it is. I mean, that was a literal</p> <p>6 list of the preceding -- I think it was three -- it was</p> <p>7 a month, actually. It was a typical list. That -- the</p> <p>8 frequency of contacts, the number of enquiries were</p> <p>9 relatively low in that period when compared to the</p> <p>10 previous year, particularly during the passage of the</p> <p>11 police reform and social responsibility bill, but for</p> <p>12 the present time I would say that that was</p> <p>13 representative.</p> <p>14 Q. You both tell us that contact is almost always by email</p> <p>15 or phone, and that meetings are rare, although they do</p> <p>16 take place from time to time if there's a press</p> <p>17 conference or there's, again, a -- in the fringe of</p> <p>18 a conference of some kind; is that correct?</p> <p>19 MR OLEY: That's correct.</p> <p>20 Q. The councillor is then asked whether contact is</p> <p>21 restricted to certain staff. This is in response to</p> <p>22 question 30, and he says this:</p> <p>23 "APA staff contacts with the media are limited to</p> <p>24 the head of press, the chief executive and the chair, as</p> <p>25 explicitly set out in the APA staff handbook."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 to the chair and the chief executive. I just want to</p> <p>2 understand whether you consider that to be a particular</p> <p>3 weakness in the system or whether you are content for</p> <p>4 a system where you can't officially say anything, but</p> <p>5 you have an off-the-record conversation and then you</p> <p>6 provide details of that off-the-record conversation?</p> <p>7 MR OLEY: I mean, that is correct, the situation you've set</p> <p>8 out, thank you. There are occasions, obviously, on</p> <p>9 which I have been cleared by the chair to give a comment</p> <p>10 along lines agreed, so obviously there are conversations</p> <p>11 I have which are on the record, but we are obviously</p> <p>12 a member organisation and I'm responsible to the chair,</p> <p>13 who is the elected and recognised face of the</p> <p>14 organisation and spokesperson. So that's the</p> <p>15 appropriate way of dealing with the media for us.</p> <p>16 As I make clear there, often the matters -- I think</p> <p>17 this is represented in the list of media contacts we've</p> <p>18 had and enquiries -- often the matters can be quite</p> <p>19 technical, if we are asked about whether police</p> <p>20 finance -- the intricacies of the Riot Damages Act, some</p> <p>21 detailed matters around the arrangements for police and</p> <p>22 crime commissioners. So the conversations that I have</p> <p>23 are often the fairly technical briefings which are</p> <p>24 background for journalists who may be coming to these</p> <p>25 issues fairly fresh. They're specialist knowledge,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 perhaps. So I often provide that as background 2 briefing, which wouldn't be material to be quoted in any 3 sense, but a background understanding. 4 Q. What do you mean by an off-the-record conversation then? 5 What's your definition? 6 MR OLEY: My definition would be that a quote would not be 7 attributed to me personally and that the information 8 that I've given in those circumstances would be to 9 inform the journalists about the situation or the events 10 but not to provide a quote, to provide them with the 11 background understanding. It would typically be the 12 provision of facts rather than an opinion. 13 Q. I understand. Can I now ask you about prioritisation of 14 media calls. You deal with this in response to 15 question 10 on page 4 of your statement. You explain 16 that as the umbrella for the police authorities with the 17 responsibility to represent them all at national level, 18 you would generally prioritise contact with national 19 media, if you were required to. I suppose the question 20 is -- you give us the reasons for that, but do you ever 21 prioritise any particular media source or newspaper 22 group or anything like that? 23 MR OLEY: No. You set out correctly our attitude there, 24 that essentially our unique value is that we can provide 25 national comments for our members, who expect us to do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 to hospitality, gifts, personal contacts? 2 MR OLEY: That's entirely correct. Thank you. 3 Q. I'm going to ask you both about the issue of whether 4 there should be any limitation on APA or Police 5 Authority personnel leaving to work for the media or 6 vice versa. Mr Oley, you deal with this at 7 paragraph 40, question 40, page 7. First of all, 8 Councillor Burns Williamson has explained that there 9 simply has been no such movement from the APA to 10 newspapers. You were asked whether anyone has ever gone 11 on to work for the News of the World or for any other 12 newspaper and you say no, and vice versa, no one's ever 13 come in the other direction. Do you consider that there 14 should be a limitation on personnel from the APA or from 15 police authorities leaving to work for the media in that 16 way or vice versa? Perhaps you could answer it in turn. 17 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think I've set something out there 18 in -- I can't remember which question it was. 19 Q. Just give me a moment. It's page 306 your statement, in 20 response to question 122. 21 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Okay, thank you. Yes. As I said 22 there, I remain open about this one. I think in extreme 23 circumstances, where a member of staff has been privy to 24 some extremely sensitive operational information -- 25 I think I've suggested there there may be a cooling-off</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 that on their behalf, whereas of course they can deal 2 very adequately with their local media outlets. But in 3 that context, we don't prioritise or exercise any 4 favouritism at all. To be fair, it's perhaps explained 5 by the fact we have a relatively manageable number of 6 media requests. We're rarely deluged, so it is possible 7 to -- we've found -- in my experience, it has been 8 possible to deal with all requests equally and we're 9 pleased to do so. 10 Q. All right. Let me ask you very briefly about 11 hospitality and gifts and so on, personal contacts with 12 the media. You deal with this at question 15 onwards on 13 page 5. If I can summarise it, you say that you have no 14 personal contacts with the media, only the professional 15 contacts you've already described. You don't accept 16 hospitality from the media and never have. You don't 17 provide any hospitality, save for the same basis on 18 which the councillor has already explained. You've 19 never accepted or indeed been offered gifts from the 20 media, and you explain, as the councillor did, that all 21 hospitality accepted by key personnel would have to be 22 recorded -- presumably on the hospitality register and 23 published on the website -- but this has never happened, 24 so in your knowledge it's never been agreed. Is that 25 a fair and accurate summary of the position in relation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 period whereby that member of staff doesn't take up such 2 a role, you know, for six months, a year, maybe. But in 3 general terms, I think as long as someone is 4 professional in what they do and adhere to codes of 5 conduct and terms of employment, then they should be 6 allowed to take up that role. 7 Q. Mr Oley, do you have a different view or does that 8 accord with your view? 9 MR OLEY: That does accord with my view. I mean, I put 10 forward the suggestion that there may be a cooling-off 11 period but only where the staff member concerned has had 12 access to sensitive information which might be of 13 interest to the media but is not and should not be in 14 the public domain. We looked at the similar cooling-off 15 period for people leaving government who could have 16 sensitive information which could be of use to 17 lobbyists, for example. In the same way, there might be 18 a case for a cooling-off period. 19 However, I also said that my personal view is that 20 the level of access which APA and Police Authority staff 21 have to information about operational policing is very 22 limited, and rightly so, in most cases, so it was hard 23 to see examples of cases where they would have the kind 24 of access to information which would be of interest to 25 the media and which could result in information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 inappropriately being in the media. I think it would 2 have to be on a case-by-case basis and possibly the 3 responsibility of the chief executive to discern that. 4 In terms of the other direction, of journalists 5 joining the APA or police authorities, my view would be 6 that there wouldn't be a case for restriction there 7 beyond the typical restrictions put on our members of 8 staff, that in our case they are vetted, they are 9 subject to certain rules obviously of behaviour and 10 propriety, which, as we set out in our statement for the 11 APA, is certainly very detailed and quite intricate in 12 the sense of propriety. So within those realms and 13 within those bounds, I wouldn't see a case for 14 restriction in terms of journalists coming into Police 15 Authority. 16 Q. All right. Mr Oley, I'm going to ask you a few final 17 questions about your statement, if I go back -- 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Can we just, on that topic, ask 19 something else? 20 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Of course. 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: One of your responsibilities, 22 Mr Burns Williamson, is to chair senior appointments 23 committee meetings for the most senior ranks in West 24 Yorkshire. Do you have, therefore, a view about the 25 extent to which the most senior-ranking police officers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 does need to be considered moving forward. 2 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Mr Oley, I want to take you to the final 3 paragraphs of your statement. In response to 4 question 42 -- you were asked there: 5 "Is there a basis for applying different standards 6 and rules to police staff than those that apply to 7 police officers?" 8 You give us an answer there, but if you look over 9 the page to the top of page 8, you're addressing here 10 whether or not officers should speak to the public via 11 the media, and you say this in your final 12 paragraph there, before the heading "The possible impact 13 of PCCs": 14 "In general, my view would be that the risks of 15 potential implications of mishandling information to the 16 press are so serious that these risks must always be 17 minimised by media interaction being limited to only 18 those who have been fully trained to fulfil that role. 19 I would anticipate that the chief constable and her/his 20 senior colleagues should receive such training." 21 Is there any room for a contra view that essentially 22 staff should be empowered to deal openly with the media 23 on matters of which they have direct knowledge? Can you 24 see the contrary argument? 25 MR OLEY: Absolutely. I should say there that the -- in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 should be able to move to the national or, I suppose, 2 local media, but particularly national media, bearing in 3 mind what they have been privy to as ACPO-ranking 4 officers? I don't know whether you've given any 5 consideration to the question. I'm not trying to throw 6 you a very fast ball. 7 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: No, thanks. Actually, when I gave my 8 initial response, I think I was actually referring to 9 operational officers rather than what Mr Oley said, in 10 terms of the world of police authorities and PCCs in the 11 future. So, yeah, in my view, there probably is a case 12 to look at individuals who have held ranks at that 13 level, been privy to very sensitive information, moving 14 to those types of jobs in the media, subject to very 15 strict vetting controls. So there probably is an issue 16 there. 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's what you were referring to 18 when you said that this is something which you need to 19 consider? Because it would obviously have to be 20 restricted, time-wise and rank-wise, for restraint of 21 trade purposes. I don't think whether the APA have 22 taken that forward in any way? 23 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: No, it's not something we've looked at 24 in detail at this moment in time, but clearly in 25 response to the question, it is something that probably</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 terms of Elizabeth Filkin's report, I think her 2 recommendations are measured, practical and very welcome 3 and they're very sensible. She obviously takes a far 4 more open view to police contact. I think where my -- 5 my response is obviously informed rather more by my 6 experience of dealing with issues of national policy, 7 and I think in those cases, on policy issues, it would 8 be only appropriate for the press team or chief 9 constable to be dealing with the media. 10 There are obviously instances at which, on a -- 11 dealing with crime, a police officer on the ground could 12 give purely factual information, and on that basis 13 I would agree with Elizabeth Filkin's recommendations. 14 I think they're very helpful there. 15 I think, to broaden it out slightly, if I may -- 16 Q. Of course. 17 MR OLEY: -- we're clearly facing what I think Bill Bratton 18 has termed "forcing on very interesting experiments with 19 PCCs", and the press will have an absolutely crucial 20 role, and I think press interest in policing will 21 necessarily increase significantly. So we're entering 22 entirely new territory here in general for police 23 contacts with the media and media interest in the 24 police. All I'd say there is that to have some clear 25 guidance, to have clear definitions of off and on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 record and to have some sort of national promulgation, 2 if you like, of guidance along the lines of 3 Elizabeth Filkin's report, would be helpful, because 4 we're just entering very uncharted territory. And 5 that the press will have an absolutely essential role, 6 one would hope, in, as always, managing public -- sorry, 7 influencing and informing the levels of fear of crime 8 and understanding of policing.</p> <p>9 I think once that enters an electoral debate, those 10 kind of issues can be heightened, and it's absolutely 11 essential that the press are informed and that their 12 contribution to that debate is appropriate. The 13 temptation to raise the fear of crime during elections 14 for PCCs, for example, I think is a very real worry for 15 those of us involved in the service. So the press role 16 is absolutely crucial and really important and can be 17 really constructive, but I think the more guidance in 18 these cases, really, the better.</p> <p>19 Q. You've overlapped with what I was about to ask you. In 20 question 45, you were asked about whether any different 21 or further steps could or should be taken to ensure that 22 relationships between police personnel and the media are 23 and remain appropriate. You've described the role of 24 guidance. Is there anything else that you'd like to say 25 in response to that question?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 those overseeing the police may want to constrain and 2 hold back, just as there will be successes that they 3 will want to make clear, shout it from the roof tops, 4 really.</p> <p>5 So I think this whole area needs guidance, if only 6 because the dynamic of elections are about to impact on 7 it and could significant change, I think, the level of 8 police interaction with the press.</p> <p>9 Q. Councillor Burns Williamson, I'd like your views on 10 this. Is there anything that you'd like to add?</p> <p>11 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yeah, well, not to try and repeat too 12 much of what Mr Oley's just said, clearly, the change of 13 the regime from police authorities to PCCs is a radical 14 one and will create a lot of media interest, both 15 locally and nationally, and in fact has already started 16 to do so. So I think our task, as an APA moving forward 17 with the interim body work, is to try and put guidance 18 in place that is going to be helpful for individual PCCs 19 coming into office, and the office of the PCC, because, 20 as I already said, doing away with the 17 members made 21 up of local councillors and independent members, who 22 will come from a range of backgrounds and do a lot of 23 very good work, in my experience, that will be swept 24 away and, you know, I think the actual skills and 25 capacity of the staff within the office of the PCC are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 MR OLEY: As I touched on there, I think the making of 2 payments and corruption and bribery are clearly already 3 offences and quite rightly so, and so it would seem to 4 me that where it is alleged that that is a problem -- 5 it's important to say we do not have evidence that that 6 is a widespread problem across the service at all, but 7 where it is, there is existing provision, of course, in 8 law to deal with that.</p> <p>9 Councillor Burns Williamson has talked about 10 a concern within the capacity of a solo police and crime 11 commissioner to fulfil the oversight function that has 12 been undertaken by between 17 and 23 people in the 13 Metropolitan area, has consistently been a concern for 14 police authorities, and that's an area where we hope 15 that PCCs will obviously give -- and we're sure they 16 will want to give -- sufficient resources to ensure that 17 there is oversight there.</p> <p>18 We've set out also in our statement that there 19 should be an independent and inclusive regime for 20 investigating complaints, which we think will be 21 enormously important.</p> <p>22 I need to touch on my previous points: the flow of 23 information, and the importance of that flow of 24 information will be heightened, I think, by there being 25 electoral interest in it. There will be things which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 going to be different regarding particularly the 2 heightened media interest around the person that is 3 going to be directly elected in every part of England 4 and Wales, with potentially a lot of power for the 5 totality of policing in each area, and, you know, that 6 in itself is a major change to governance of policing in 7 this country which will need to be carefully considered, 8 as to how the interaction with the media takes place on 9 a basis of trying to get the best-informed debate, if 10 you like, and information out into the open, rather than 11 it going down a party political route.</p> <p>12 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Those are my questions for each of you, 13 but I would like to give you both the opportunity to add 14 anything that you would like to or to say anything 15 obviously that might assist Lord Justice Leveson.</p> <p>16 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: No, I think I've had a good hearing. 17 Thank you.</p> <p>18 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Mr Oley?</p> <p>19 MR OLEY: Thank you. I think just that we were interested 20 that Elizabeth Filkin -- one of her concerns and 21 starting premise was that there was not enough 22 information coming from the MPS, whilst there were 23 allegations of inappropriate information.</p> <p>24 I think just to reaffirm, really, that our view is 25 that the importance of this Inquiry's outcomes and other</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 investigations in providing guidance is so crucial, so 2 that there's not a shutdown of information, actually, 3 that -- you know, we'd be loath to see a situation 4 returning where police are less in contact with the 5 public, but of course there needs to be guidance so that 6 that contact is appropriate and that those overseeing 7 the police, that they have an open channel.</p> <p>8 The Government's view is very much that the -- as 9 you know, the PCCs will be held to account by public 10 opinion and by the local press, and they are the most 11 substantive accountability mechanisms that exist. It's 12 absolutely crucial that the flow of information between 13 the two is sufficient and is well-managed to deliver 14 that, and it would just be a concern if the outcome of 15 this Inquiry actually -- I'm sure they won't, but 16 results in a shutdown of information. It's all about us 17 identifying correct and appropriate channels of 18 information flow.</p> <p>19 Thank you very much.</p> <p>20 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Thank you very much, Mr Oley.</p> <p>21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So the prospect of the creation of 22 PCCs leading to a greater politicisation of policing may 23 carry benefits, but carries risks as well?</p> <p>24 MR OLEY: The -- the charge or prospect of politicisation is 25 one that has been made. I think we would be -- we would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 within one person to undertake that governance role 2 across what are quite large force areas. You know, it 3 remains to be seen whether that will be a success or 4 not.</p> <p>5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm not on either side of the debate, 6 as I'm sure you appreciate.</p> <p>7 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Yes.</p> <p>8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm simply trying to see how that 9 development should impact upon what I suggest as 10 sensible recommendations on the mediation of the 11 relationship between the police and the press, because 12 it's quite clear from what you've said, and indeed from 13 what Mr Malthouse was saying last week, that it isn't 14 going to be the same. It is going to be different. 15 It's difficult enough to think what's happened in the 16 past and what should be done to affect that. On top of 17 that, if you're changing the whole system, to try and 18 visualise how that will itself play out and what should 19 be impressed upon that new system is even more 20 difficult, but I get the clear and distinct message that 21 national and central guidance is going to be critical 22 throughout.</p> <p>23 Is that a fair sentence to take away from your 24 respective evidence?</p> <p>25 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: I think it would be very, very useful</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 term that a potential. But it's clear that the 2 proposals mean, sir, that the flow of information is 3 absolutely crucial if those PCCs are to be held to 4 account, as the government suggests, by the public and 5 by the local press. The checks and the balances on them 6 are not the kind of checks and balances that we hoped 7 would be within the legislation, and the system relies 8 very much on open flows of information to the public and 9 the press about the activity of the police and the PCC, 10 so we'd be very keen that those flows are open and the 11 information is sufficient.</p> <p>12 MR BURNS WILLIAMSON: Just to add to that, yes -- I mean, it 13 depends which side of the debate you're on, I suppose, 14 with this. Clearly, the government saw it as a priority 15 with regards to the changing of the governance of 16 policing and have been fairly critical of police 17 authorities, which, in my view, has been misguided. But 18 I would say that, wouldn't I, as the chair of a police 19 authority? But on the whole, I think it's worked pretty 20 well in terms of governance of policing, but clearly 21 there is a counter-view in government that they want to 22 see, in their words, more visible accountability through 23 the election of police and crime commissioners, but with 24 that, hopefully through some of the answers we've given, 25 does come, you know, added risk regarding the capacity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 and important, because clearly there's going to be a sea 2 change at the local level, away from perhaps the role of 3 the chief constable to an elected police and crime 4 commissioner, where, for obvious reasons, the attention 5 will be on that person rather than the chief constable.</p> <p>6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR OLEY: I'd agree, sir, absolutely. The guidance sent to 8 you is that the flow of information is appropriate and 9 isn't shout down by other party would be absolutely key, 10 would be very helpful.</p> <p>11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you both very much.</p> <p>12 MS PATRY HOSKINS: Thank you very much indeed. Sir, it's --</p> <p>13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I think that's probably 14 a convenient moment to take a break now.</p> <p>15 (11.22 am)</p> <p>16 (A short break)</p> <p>17 (11.30 am)</p> <p>18 MR JAY: Next is Mr Gull.</p> <p>19 MR STEWART JOHN GULL (sworn)</p> <p>20 Questions by MR JAY</p> <p>21 MR JAY: Your full name, please?</p> <p>22 A. Stewart John Gull.</p> <p>23 Q. Thank you. You've kindly provided us with a statement 24 dated and signed by you on 16 February of this year. Is 25 this your formal evidence to the Inquiry?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

13 (Pages 49 to 52)

<p>1 A. Yes, it is, sir.</p> <p>2 Q. Thank you. You are currently a detective</p> <p>3 superintendent, head of crime services for the States of</p> <p>4 Jersey Police, and have been in that capacity since July</p> <p>5 2010. You joined the Police Service in 1981 and you</p> <p>6 worked your way up the ranks. You were, after 1998,</p> <p>7 a senior investigating officer; is that right?</p> <p>8 A. That's correct, sir, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And you were the senior investigating officer, or</p> <p>10 perhaps more precisely, in fact, the officer in overall</p> <p>11 command of Operation Sumac, which was in November</p> <p>12 and December of 2006; is that right?</p> <p>13 A. That's correct, sir, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What was your rank at that stage?</p> <p>15 A. I was a detective chief superintendent and the head of</p> <p>16 crime management for the Suffolk Constabulary.</p> <p>17 Q. Thank you. You have experience of homicide</p> <p>18 investigations, and indeed quite recently in Jersey, the</p> <p>19 murder of six people on the same day, I believe,</p> <p>20 in August 2011?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, there was, sir, August last year. Yes, I led that</p> <p>22 investigation and continue to do so, and that's a matter</p> <p>23 of first sub judge coming to trial in August of this</p> <p>24 year.</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm very grateful to you for helping</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 tell us, commenced at the end of 2006, following really</p> <p>2 a missing persons inquiry, but then it escalated after</p> <p>3 a second victim was found missing, and the first of the</p> <p>4 five victims was found murdered on 2 December 2006. So</p> <p>5 we understand or recall the timeframe, Steve Wright, who</p> <p>6 eventually received five life sentences for these</p> <p>7 crimes, was arrested on 21 December 2006; is that</p> <p>8 correct?</p> <p>9 A. I think that was the day he was charged, sir. From</p> <p>10 recollection, he was arrested on Tuesday, 19 December</p> <p>11 2006.</p> <p>12 Q. So the really frenetic period, if I can put it in those</p> <p>13 terms, is a three-week period in December, but obviously</p> <p>14 in October and November your concerns were, naturally</p> <p>15 enough, escalating?</p> <p>16 A. That's correct, yes. That intense period was December</p> <p>17 2006.</p> <p>18 Q. You've included in the papers a communication strategy,</p> <p>19 which is under our tab 18. It's 05486. This is the</p> <p>20 version which was updated on 17 December 2006, so</p> <p>21 presumably there were earlier versions in more or less</p> <p>22 the same form.</p> <p>23 A. There were. It didn't change significantly, sir, but of</p> <p>24 course was a living document, and yes, this is the</p> <p>25 version from Sunday, 17 December 2006.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 me with this Inquiry and for coming from Jersey to do</p> <p>2 so. I'm grateful.</p> <p>3 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>4 MR JAY: You say in paragraph 2 of your statement, which is</p> <p>5 our page 05481, that as a senior investigating officer,</p> <p>6 particularly for complex, serious and major crime, you</p> <p>7 are inevitably in contact with the media. Is that part</p> <p>8 and parcel of your role as senior investigating officer,</p> <p>9 as you see it?</p> <p>10 A. Absolutely, yes. As a senior investigating officer</p> <p>11 leading a major serious crime, you would set a number of</p> <p>12 strategies, for example, around witnesses,</p> <p>13 house-to-house, CCTV, suspects, and part and parcel of</p> <p>14 those strategies would be a media strategy, because your</p> <p>15 relationship and your work with the media was crucial</p> <p>16 and the relationship was important because the media, of</p> <p>17 course, would act as a conduit and a voice for you to</p> <p>18 make appeals, deliver prevention and reassurance</p> <p>19 messages.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes. So the purpose is really twofold, and it's</p> <p>21 probably self-evident: one, to obtain evidence, if you</p> <p>22 can, using the media as the means of obtaining it, and</p> <p>23 secondly, a message of reassurance from the police?</p> <p>24 A. Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. In relation to Operation Sumac, the investigation, you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 Q. Thank you. We can see the three aims, which you've</p> <p>2 already covered in your evidence. Does this derive from</p> <p>3 a template or was it conceived of specifically for this</p> <p>4 operation?</p> <p>5 A. No, it wasn't conceived from a template, but I guess it</p> <p>6 would be fair to say that most major crime inquiry media</p> <p>7 strategies would look pretty much something like this.</p> <p>8 This was a -- as you can see, a document running to four</p> <p>9 pages and because of the unprecedented nature of this</p> <p>10 inquiry, all five victims being found during the course</p> <p>11 of a ten-day period between 2 and 12 December, and</p> <p>12 because of the intense attention that the inquiry drew,</p> <p>13 this was perhaps more comprehensive than I would</p> <p>14 ordinarily expect, but the broad tenor is there as you</p> <p>15 described, sir.</p> <p>16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, you have previous examples from</p> <p>17 high-profile murders, and obviously you take advantage</p> <p>18 of the experience of your predecessors as officers in</p> <p>19 charge of investigations?</p> <p>20 A. Absolutely, sir. In fact, this investigation was</p> <p>21 subject to two formal debrief reports led by the</p> <p>22 National Police Improvement Agency. One was a strategic</p> <p>23 debrief and the other one was tactical, but actually our</p> <p>24 relationship with the media and the media strategy sort</p> <p>25 of features in both, and, as you infer, we were due --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

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<p>1 the Police Service would use documents of this nature to 2 help inform future investigations.</p> <p>3 MR JAY: Owing to the nature of these crimes, as you explain 4 in paragraph 7 of your statement, there was the 5 unprecedented national and international interest 6 descending on the Ipswich area in particular and Suffolk 7 Constabulary as a whole. Were there any particular 8 challenges for the force which this inquiry presented?</p> <p>9 A. I think it would be fair to say, sir, that I, and, 10 I guess, the force, found itself in a place that it 11 never expected to be, a relatively safe part of the 12 country, and certainly never having to face events of 13 this nature previously. I'd had some limited experience 14 of Operation Fincham. That was the Cambridgeshire 15 inquiry from August 2002, I think it was, when Holly 16 Wells and Jessica Chapman were both abducted and 17 murdered from Soham, and of course that particular 18 investigation came under significant media attention. 19 So I think when the third victim for this case was found 20 on Sunday the 10th -- she hadn't been reported as 21 missing, we weren't looking for her -- I knew what to 22 expect the following day, Monday the 11th, and that's 23 when we really came under the spotlight and intense 24 media pressure, that particular week, and as we now 25 know, the fourth and fifth victims were found on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 me, last four or five hours. Main press conference, 2 one-to-one questions from the floor, and then one-to-one 3 media interviews. Again, supported by other colleagues, 4 but there were other media commitments throughout the 5 course of the day, and I think from the start of this 6 investigation, as I've indicated, we recognised the 7 important role that they played, so it was about being 8 organised, professional, as open and honest as we could 9 with the media, and I think on the whole we largely 10 achieved that.</p> <p>11 Q. In terms of the pressure, though, on your time, you've 12 said that sometimes the sessions lasted four hours, and 13 then on top of that there were one-to-one media 14 interviews. So a significant part of your working day, 15 which I daresay over this period wasn't a 9-to-5 day -- 16 it was probably a 12-hour plus day -- was devoted to the 17 media. Do you think, looking back on it, that placed an 18 unfair or excessive burden on your time?</p> <p>19 A. That probably wasn't sustainable, certainly, incredibly 20 long working days, but in many respects, as a senior 21 investigating officer, certainly during the early stages 22 of a major crime inquiry, that's what you would expect. 23 Again, I reiterate the point: I was only able to do 24 that because I had a significant team that were 25 supporting me, and in fact there were individual senior</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 12th of December.</p> <p>2 So yeah, it was a pretty intense time, but it was 3 very much a team effort. Whilst I was the sort of face 4 of the investigation and had overall command, and the 5 talking head, of course, there was a significant team 6 that were supporting me.</p> <p>7 Q. You say in paragraph 7 -- this is on page 05482 -- that 8 you stuck to tried and tested methods, although they 9 required significant escalation in terms of resourcing. 10 What did you mean by "tried and tested methods", 11 Mr Gull?</p> <p>12 A. Trying to keep the media informed and ultimately through 13 the media the local document. As I've already 14 indicated, Suffolk is a very safe country and 15 understandably the fear of crime was significantly 16 increased at this particular time, so I recognised the 17 important role that the media could provide us and the 18 through them, whilst it was difficult, in the face of 19 adversity and facing the discovery of five young murder 20 victims in close succession -- it was difficult to 21 deliver reassurance and sort of further precision 22 messages. Our best way of achieving that was through 23 the media, and that was what we sought to achieve. It 24 was about being organised. We held a regular press 25 conference every day at 11 am, which would often, for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 investigating officers appointed for each of the five 2 victims, and whilst I worked with them and set the 3 strategy for their investigation, that provided me with 4 the head room to deal with the media and the main 5 interface with the local community but provided them 6 with the head room to get on and investigate the crime 7 and ultimately bring Steve Wright to justice.</p> <p>8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The follow-on of that question might 9 be this, Mr Gull: as the officer in charge of the 10 investigation and in overall command of everything, you 11 are one of the most valuable resources that the 12 investigation has. Is the balance, in your judgment, 13 right as to what you have to do for the media as opposed 14 to what others can do? And if you're taken off from 15 doing the strategic work on the direction of the 16 inquiry, does that potentially impair the progress of 17 the inquiry because of the no doubt extremely important 18 media work that you were also having to do?</p> <p>19 A. As I've indicated, sir, there was a significant team, as 20 you can imagine, involved in this investigation. 21 Dealing with the media can be extremely demanding, and 22 it can be a real time-stealer, but it is necessary, and 23 I think senior investigating officers recognise the 24 importance of that relationship. But there is a balance 25 to be struck. I had a deputy and he shared some of that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

<p>1 responsibility with me. In terms of interface with the 2 media, the chief constable and the assistant chief 3 constable, who was the gold commander, also bore some of 4 that responsibility. So it was very much a team effort. 5 As I say, thankfully these were unprecedented 6 events, and my level of commitment that I was able to 7 afford with the media, whilst achieved through 8 a significant support team, probably wouldn't have been 9 sustainable beyond that sort of initial three-week 10 period. 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But this is always going to happen 12 where there are unprecedented events, because it is the 13 fact that the event is unprecedented that attracts the 14 very, very large media attention. I'm sure Mr Jay is 15 going to come on to deal with the question of the 16 problems and the necessary intervention of the Attorney 17 General, but as you deal with that -- and I'll leave 18 Mr Jay to deal with it in his own time -- I am still 19 concerned about the impact that having to deal with all 20 that additional complication has upon the time and 21 mental energy that you have to devote to what is your 22 primary purpose, namely the detection of these murders. 23 A. Yes, sir, but of course the primary role and the 24 detection of those murders will involve a media 25 strategy, and using the media for appeals and securing Page 61</p>	<p>1 events, we didn't try and deviate from plans and 2 procedures that were tried and tested and we knew that 3 worked. Clearly, they required some significant 4 escalation in terms of capability and capacity, but we 5 stuck to plans that we knew that were tried and tested 6 and worked well. So there wasn't a requirement for 7 off-the-record briefings. We were organised, the press 8 knew what they could expect from us, and hopefully we 9 were able to deliver that. 10 Q. But paragraph 18 of your statement recognises that in 11 certain circumstances off-the-record briefings might be 12 appropriate, doesn't it? 13 A. Yes, it does. 14 Q. And in terms of your experience, what are those 15 circumstances? 16 A. I can say in 31 years' police service and as a senior 17 investigating officer since 1998, I never felt the need 18 to deal with so-called off-the-record briefings. That 19 said, I understand the broad nature of the term and 20 generally it's about guidance and direction and no more 21 than that, but it's not intended as specific 22 on-the-record comment or commentary. 23 Q. At paragraphs 20 and 21, you deal with information being 24 released to the media in one circumstance when it 25 shouldn't. The breaching of the embargo in paragraph 21 Page 63</p>
<p>1 information and hopefully turning that into evidence. 2 But again, without wishing to repeat myself, it's about 3 professional judgment, it's about balance. I think as 4 long ago back as the inquiries that West Yorkshire led 5 in the early 1980s and Sir Lawrence Byford's reports on 6 our now Home Office major inquiry system, over the years 7 the Police Service has learnt the lessons from inquiries 8 of this nature and hopefully that's why we see the 9 professional response to unprecedented major crime 10 inquiries of this nature. 11 MR JAY: You discuss the role of the press office in 12 paragraphs 13 and 14 of your statement, 05483. The 13 media channelled all their requests through the press 14 office. In other words, they didn't make any direct 15 contact with you; is that correct? 16 A. That's correct, sir, yes. 17 Q. But you say the media were, generally speaking, positive 18 and content with those arrangements? 19 A. Yes. Yes. 20 Q. In paragraph 15, Mr Gull, you say there wasn't any 21 off-the-record briefing. Is this owing to the nature of 22 the investigation, that it wasn't the sort of case where 23 off-the-record briefings could be appropriate, or was it 24 for some other reason? 25 A. No, I think it was because despite the unprecedented Page 62</p>	<p>1 is not relevant to this Inquiry in any way? 2 A. No, it's not. 3 Q. Can I ask you about paragraph 22, where you say you're 4 aware of one occasion where one particular media outlet 5 did secure quite sensitive audio-recorded information 6 from one of only two suspects in respect of this 7 investigation. Can we be clear about this? Apart from 8 Steve Wright, there was another suspect who appeared in 9 the Daily Mirror, didn't he? 10 A. Yes, he did. 11 Q. Can I ask you what the information was that you were 12 referring to and which media outlet are you referring to 13 there as well? 14 A. As you've indicated, sir, there were only ever two 15 suspects in this case. The first man was Tom Stephens 16 and he was formally declared a suspect by the police on 17 Friday, 15 December. I'm just trying to make sure 18 I have the right date. Yes, it was Friday, 15 December 19 2006. The second suspect and the offender, as we now 20 know him, Steve Wright, was actually identified and 21 declared a suspect some two days later, on Sunday, 22 17 December 2006. 23 To answer your specific point about this audio 24 recording, it was actually a BBC journalist that 25 recorded -- had an audio recording with Tom Stephens. Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 I can't remember the exact date, but it was about that 2 period. Tom Stephens was a man who put himself on offer 3 with the media and was very engaging and would basically 4 speak to whoever chose to engage with him, and this 5 journalist had quite a long and detailed interview with 6 him, which he audio recorded, and I think, recognising 7 the significance of that audio recording, unbeknown the 8 interest that the police had in Tom Stephens, she 9 provided that audio recording to the police.</p> <p>10 Q. Thank you. So when she undertook her interview, did she 11 know that Mr Stephens was of interest to the police or 12 not?</p> <p>13 A. She wouldn't have known that he'd been formally declared 14 as a suspect, no.</p> <p>15 Q. We've heard evidence from Mr Harrison about the 16 Daily Mirror interviewing Tom Stephens as well. Did 17 they know that he was of interest to the police?</p> <p>18 A. Again, they wouldn't have known that he'd been declared 19 as a formal suspect on that Friday, 15 December.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you have any view about the utility or the propriety, 21 even, of the media interviewing someone like Mr Stephens 22 in these circumstances, if the hypothesis is that they 23 don't know he's a suspect?</p> <p>24 A. On that Saturday, knowing that we already had a plan in 25 place to actually arrest Tom Stephens on Monday,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 was the car park or inside, I'm unable to clarify.</p> <p>2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, I just want to forestall 3 a further correction application.</p> <p>4 MR JAY: So we understand the position precisely, 5 Mr Stephens was volunteering himself to the press; in 6 other words, anybody who might listen to him. Is that 7 fair?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>9 Q. What was the nature of his claims? Was he making claims 10 that he had, as it were, used the services of some or 11 all of these women?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, he'd been with I think the majority of these women, 13 and certainly knew them all, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. There's one other aspect of Mr Harrison's 15 evidence, which we heard, I think, two weeks ago now, 16 about the News of the World using its own surveillance 17 team. Do you know anything about that?</p> <p>18 A. I have no knowledge of a surveillance team being used by 19 the News of the World, sir, no.</p> <p>20 Q. You explain in paragraph 25 of your statement that some 21 of the media reporting was unhelpful, unjustified and 22 unbalanced. Can I ask you to elaborate on that for us, 23 please, Mr Gull?</p> <p>24 A. I think, despite our best endeavours and keeping the 25 media informed in a very timely fashion, in a very open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 18 December, you can perhaps imagine my reaction. It 2 wasn't -- I didn't think the media were being 3 particularly helpful. There was little that I could do 4 about it because I couldn't afford to show my hand, but 5 it was the -- as we now understand, it was the Sunday 6 Mirror and Tom Stephens was collected by journalists 7 from that paper and, as I understand it, taken to 8 a hotel just outside Ipswich, where they spent some time 9 interviewing him. And then, of course, the following 10 day there was a significant expose where -- or under the 11 headline "Ripper Hunt, the suspect", with a big picture 12 of Tom Stephens. Well, as we now know, Tom Stephens had 13 nothing to do with these murders. Whilst he remained on 14 police bail for some six months, until June of 2007, he 15 was subsequently eliminated, but of course had he have 16 been the offender, that would have been somewhat 17 unhelpful.</p> <p>18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: There's a big argument about whether 19 he was taken to a hotel or just to a car park. Are you 20 in a position to answer that?</p> <p>21 A. I'm not --</p> <p>22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: When I say there's a big argument, 23 it's been raised here.</p> <p>24 A. I'm not familiar with the details, sir. At the time 25 I was informed he was taken to a hotel, but whether it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 style, I found some of the reporting headlines, 2 particularly in the print media, what I'd describe as 3 sensationalist. In fact, I have a montage of some of 4 the headlines that appeared at about that time, and they 5 include "Ripper is bondage beast", "Ripper Hunt: police 6 analyse murder jigsaw", "Suffolk's Ripper Rampage: he 7 kills them, stores them and dumps them in the dark; how 8 many more has he killed?", "Suffolk Ripper Hunt: find 9 the fat man with the BMW".</p> <p>10 I remember that particular headline very well, 11 because at the height of these events, it was an 12 unnecessary distraction and I had to spend some 13 considerable time in correcting other members of the 14 media that I wasn't interested in a fat man, as so 15 described, or a blue BMW, but it was a particular -- an 16 unhelpful distraction, and it took me some time to get 17 the media back on my message, as it were. So I found 18 some of those headlines particularly unhelpful within 19 the context of trying to provide some reassurance to, 20 understandably, a locally concerned community.</p> <p>21 Q. You say in your statement that both the chief constable 22 and you recall and understand the Attorney General had 23 to issue repeated warnings to the media about 24 responsible reporting?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

17 (Pages 65 to 68)

<p>1 Q. Is that correct?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. Can you recall how many such warnings came from the</p> <p>4 Attorney General's office?</p> <p>5 A. I can't recall the exact number. I believe it was one.</p> <p>6 It may have been two, sir.</p> <p>7 Q. It probably isn't necessary to identify the press titles</p> <p>8 who are responsible, but first of all, are we talking</p> <p>9 about the regional press or the national press?</p> <p>10 A. It's the national media, sir.</p> <p>11 Q. And which sections, if any, or was it across the board?</p> <p>12 A. Across the board, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. May I try it this way: are we talking about what used to</p> <p>14 be called, perhaps still is, the broadsheet press or</p> <p>15 not?</p> <p>16 A. No, sir, no, we're not.</p> <p>17 Q. You say there was a challenge pre-trial by the defence</p> <p>18 team. So that we understand it clearly, they argued</p> <p>19 that there was an abuse of process, that Mr Wright's</p> <p>20 fair trial rights had been undermined by this reporting?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, as I recall it, and in particular about whether</p> <p>22 these proceedings could be heard locally. Myself and</p> <p>23 the prosecution team felt that this should be a trial</p> <p>24 that's heard locally for a range of reasons, but the</p> <p>25 defence team felt that there had been prejudice because</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 underline, actually to endorse, is the complication that</p> <p>2 is caused to the proper disposal of criminal trials by</p> <p>3 unjustified, excessive or unbalanced media reporting.</p> <p>4 A. Yes, sir, that's correct.</p> <p>5 MR JAY: Did you have occasion to complain to the PCC or any</p> <p>6 other body about the reporting, as you saw it?</p> <p>7 A. No, sir. As I've indicated, we used my chief constable</p> <p>8 at the time and the Attorney General just to issue those</p> <p>9 warnings and that was as far as we went.</p> <p>10 MR JAY: Thank you very much, Mr Gull. Those are the only</p> <p>11 questions I have for you.</p> <p>12 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Gull, thank you very much indeed</p> <p>14 for coming.</p> <p>15 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>16 MR JAY: I think we can move straight to Mr Wallis now.</p> <p>17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR NEIL WALLIS (recalled)</p> <p>19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think Mr Wallis has given evidence</p> <p>20 before so I don't think he need be resworn, but you are</p> <p>21 still under the same oath.</p> <p>22 MR JAY: I think it was 12 December that we met before,</p> <p>23 Mr Wallis.</p> <p>24 A. How could I forget?</p> <p>25 Q. May I ask you, please, first of all, to turn up your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 of the media reporting and tried to argue that the case</p> <p>2 should be heard further afield.</p> <p>3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: This is always one of the great</p> <p>4 problems of these very, very high-profile criminal</p> <p>5 investigations. It's a general principle that the trial</p> <p>6 of crimes should be heard where the crime takes place,</p> <p>7 but that can create problems. Your case was, in fact,</p> <p>8 tried in Ipswich, wasn't it?</p> <p>9 A. It was, sir, yes.</p> <p>10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But I personally tried a case where</p> <p>11 the jury were brought from a different part of the</p> <p>12 circuit to retain the trial in the area where the</p> <p>13 offence took place but to use jurors who were not</p> <p>14 influenced by local vast coverage, which required the</p> <p>15 device of the trial being nominally heard by</p> <p>16 a particular Crown Court but in another Crown Court.</p> <p>17 A. I recall in this case, sir, both the prosecution and</p> <p>18 defence team worked together to choose jurors from</p> <p>19 postcodes outside the immediate Ipswich area, and</p> <p>20 I think that was the sort of the compromise that was</p> <p>21 struck in this place. Whether that was right or wrong,</p> <p>22 of course, is a subjective view, but thankfully -- we</p> <p>23 did have quite a strong view that this case should be</p> <p>24 heard locally and thankfully the trial judge agreed.</p> <p>25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The only point I'm seeking to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 second statement, which is dated 26 March and runs to 35</p> <p>2 pages. Are you content to confirm that this is your</p> <p>3 true evidence to the Inquiry in relation to the Module 2</p> <p>4 questions we've asked of you?</p> <p>5 A. Sure.</p> <p>6 Q. You've very helpfully given us some headline dates on</p> <p>7 the first page, page 18311. In terms of your career, we</p> <p>8 covered it before, on 19 December, but you were deputy</p> <p>9 editor, I think, of the Sun until 1993. You then became</p> <p>10 editor of the Sunday People --</p> <p>11 A. No, I was deputy editor of the Sun and I became the</p> <p>12 editor of the People in 1998.</p> <p>13 Q. Pardon me. Then you joined the News of the World in</p> <p>14 2003, and as we know, you left in July of 2009.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You went on gardening leave --</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You'll tell us what happened after that. We touched on</p> <p>19 it when you gave evidence the first time around.</p> <p>20 You were asked, first of all, to deal with the</p> <p>21 nature of your professional relationships with five</p> <p>22 individuals, and you've given some general background to</p> <p>23 this, Mr Wallis, at page 18313, where you explain that:</p> <p>24 "The relationships which I forged over a number of</p> <p>25 years with the senior figures at New Scotland Yard were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

18 (Pages 69 to 72)

1 established by me in my capacity as an experienced
 2 journalist who I believe was respected by those I knew
 3 at the highest levels for my insight, knowledge and
 4 judgment over a range of issues, which essentially fit
 5 under the discipline of public relationships."
 6 You say they were relationships which you built up,
 7 really, on the back of your own reputation, is it fair
 8 to say?
 9 **A. Yes, I think the point being that it was a relationship**
 10 **built up not just at my time at the News of the World**
 11 **but before that at the People and before that at the**
 12 **Sun.**
 13 Q. So if we were to take just one individual, first of all,
 14 Lord Condon, who you refer to on this page, how did your
 15 relationship with him start?
 16 **A. I think it started because I would talk to his DPA at**
 17 **the time, and we got on well, and I think I met**
 18 **Sir Paul, who's now Lord Condon, of course, through her**
 19 **at functions and it just sort of grew out of what**
 20 **I would be talking to the DPA about, and then I think it**
 21 **was suggested that we meet and we did. And we got on**
 22 **well.**
 23 Q. Did you meet over lunch or dinner?
 24 **A. Yes. We also met him in his office and we met over**
 25 **dinner several times, yes.**

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1 Q. So over the period of his commissionership, which
 2 I think lasted for seven years --
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. -- approximately how often did you meet him over lunch
 5 and dinner?
 6 **A. I'm sorry, it's 13, 15 years ago. I --**
 7 Q. But are we talking a handful of occasions or are we
 8 talking --
 9 **A. Probably a handful.**
 10 Q. Did you offer Sir Paul Condon, as he then was,
 11 PR advice?
 12 **A. I think it's too crude to put it like that, with**
 13 **respect. What would happen is we would meet, we would**
 14 **have conversations, I'd give him my views, and if he**
 15 **found them interesting or if he found them useful, then**
 16 **I was glad. We talked on a number of issues. He had**
 17 **a number of issues going on at the time. But the --**
 18 **I mean, for instance, he talked to me about -- and I was**
 19 **interested because it was him -- about the scale --**
 20 **sorry, he was trying to do two things at the same time**
 21 **in the Met. He was trying to end tenure, which was**
 22 **a very important thing in the Met, whereby effectively**
 23 **an officer would get a job and it was pretty much theirs**
 24 **for life.**
 25 **At the same time, he was tackling serious issues of**

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1 **corruption, and he believed there was a parallel --**
 2 **there may be a link between the two. He was in the**
 3 **midst of trying to bring an end to tenure, with the**
 4 **knock-on effect of helping disrupt corruption, and this**
 5 **was being met with a pretty strong dirty tricks campaign**
 6 **amongst certain elements of the police who didn't want**
 7 **it. He had particular problems, I remember, with the**
 8 **Flying Squad at -- I think it was called Rigg Approach**
 9 **or somewhere like that. So we would talk about those**
 10 **issues, and as a result of that, one of the things**
 11 **I said to him was: "You should come out with it. You**
 12 **should tell London. You should tell Britain how big**
 13 **a problem this is, that it's not just you sort of**
 14 **tinkering around for financial reasons, that there it is**
 15 **a problem."**
 16 **So we did a very big setpiece, exclusive interview,**
 17 **me on him, in his office, that was a splash and spread**
 18 **in the Sun, followed up BBC, Guardian, et cetera, places**
 19 **like that, that spelt out the fact that he had -- they**
 20 **feared they had 2-300 corrupt officers in the Met and he**
 21 **was determined to root it out. And so it was a big PR**
 22 **campaign for him. He was setting his stall out to the**
 23 **nation but also to the corrupt officers and also to the**
 24 **sort of local government in London, to say, "This is**
 25 **a big problem. It isn't minor tinkering, as it's been**

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1 **led to suggest; it is serious."**
 2 Q. So you were advising him, presumably, how best to
 3 implement a particular strategy you had in mind? You
 4 were advising him as to really the publicity of it,
 5 weren't you?
 6 **A. I had an opinion how he could make something that was**
 7 **very important to him accessible to the Great British**
 8 **public.**
 9 Q. Did he specifically ask for your advice in these areas
 10 or ask you just offer it?
 11 **A. I couldn't tell you how it came about, other than we**
 12 **would be sat -- say we would be sat at dinner. The**
 13 **logical big subject of the time was tenure and police**
 14 **corruption, and so we would talk about it in general**
 15 **terms. He wouldn't talk about specifics ever, of**
 16 **course, but in the context -- he was talking to someone**
 17 **who represented the biggest daily newspaper in the**
 18 **country and then, later, the editor of another major**
 19 **circulation tabloid -- he was interested in my views.**
 20 **Chicken or egg, I have no idea.**
 21 Q. So was it part of the purpose then of these occasions,
 22 these lunches or dinners, that you would end up giving
 23 him media/strategic advice?
 24 **A. It sounds -- the way you're putting it makes it sound**
 25 **very formal. It was more that we would meet, whatever**

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<p>1 was the subject of the day would come up, and I would 2 tell him how the perception would be from my newspaper's 3 point of view and any view I had about what he might 4 want to do to spread that word. So -- for instance, 5 I think he mentioned in his evidence that I got him 6 together with the editor of the paper so that we could 7 put together a campaign that fitted in with a major 8 strategy he wanted at the time, and so, as a result of 9 that meeting, he got the backing of the biggest-selling 10 daily newspaper in the country behind something that was 11 very important to him.</p> <p>12 Q. In terms of what you were seeking to get out of this -- 13 you've mentioned the setpiece interview you had with 14 Sir Paul Condon. It's at page 18313. Is it that sort 15 of thing which was the quid pro quo for the lunch and 16 the advice you were giving?</p> <p>17 A. This was a sort of corporate/strategic relationship. It 18 wasn't about trying to get a quick hit at a story. For 19 instance, I think one of the things I mentioned 20 elsewhere is the Police Bravery Awards. The Police 21 Bravery Awards, which I happen to think is a great 22 thing, got off the ground because of Sir Paul Condon. 23 We, as the Sun, were a feisty, controversial 24 organisation. We were quite happy to take a whack at 25 anybody and we were seen in that way. We were trying to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 relationship.</p> <p>2 Q. You say at the bottom of page 18313 --</p> <p>3 A. Can you tell me what page --</p> <p>4 Q. I'm terrible sorry. You may not have it in the same 5 incarnation.</p> <p>6 A. No, I don't have it in the same way.</p> <p>7 Q. It's page 3 of 35.</p> <p>8 A. Right.</p> <p>9 Q. "The News International newspapers were always 10 pro-police, pro-Army and pro-law and order." 11 Did they ever write pieces which were critical of 12 the police?</p> <p>13 A. Oh God, yes. Of course.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you. Lord Stevens next, which is the next page. 15 It looks, from the times you've given, like you probably 16 met Lord Stevens first in about 1997, because he 17 became --</p> <p>18 A. I thought it was 1998 that he joined the Met?</p> <p>19 Q. He was deputy -- sorry, he was deputy in 1998, and he 20 became Commissioner in 2000.</p> <p>21 A. That's right.</p> <p>22 Q. You were previously introduced to him by Mr Fedorcio. 23 Was that over a meal?</p> <p>24 A. 15 years ago. I don't know. Probably.</p> <p>25 Q. How was your relationship with Lord Stevens fostered?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 reach out to the police establishment, if you like, and 2 to make them go along with an idea and it was going to 3 be a struggle. Because of our relationship with 4 Sir Paul, who realised that there may be more to us than 5 simply the tabloid cliché, he became willing to back it 6 and said, "Come what may, the Met will support this."</p> <p>7 I was then able to go to the head of the Police 8 Federation, who also had a good trusting relationship 9 with Sir Paul, and together, as a result of that, we 10 were able to jointly go around the rest of the forces of 11 Britain to say, "Sir Paul and the Met are backing this. 12 Why don't you? If you need to, have a conversation with 13 the Met about why they're backing it." And as a result, 14 something is still going I think 14, 16 years later.</p> <p>15 Q. So the benefits, then, for the newspaper you were 16 working for weren't instant benefits --</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. -- in terms of a story which would immediately mature; 19 it was far more long-term strategic?</p> <p>20 A. Precisely, and that was the way it continued. Now, 21 let's be correct about it: if they sat there and said, 22 "Oh, incidentally, such-and-such a thing, do you want to 23 know that or do you want that?" then on occasions 24 I daresay that might have happened. I don't remember 25 any, but the relationship was about a strategic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Was it, in other words, the same way as your 2 relationship with Lord Condon was fostered, namely over 3 meals?</p> <p>4 A. Yes. I mean, initially, but as time developed, it 5 became a more active relationship than it did with 6 Sir Paul Condon, but it would be over meals, phone 7 calls, occasional drink.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you give him strategic advice in relation to his 9 application to be Commissioner of the 10 Metropolitan Police?</p> <p>11 A. In the same way as I talked about before with Sir Paul 12 Condon, we would be talking, and if an issue came up, we 13 would discuss it and I would give him my view. I had, 14 it is fair to say, quite strong views about what was 15 happening at the Met. I cared about the Met a lot. The 16 MacPherson report was pretty catastrophic for the Met, 17 and whoever succeeded Sir Paul Condon, it was going to 18 be a very, very important appointment for the Met. As 19 Joe Citizen, never mind as a journalist, I had quite 20 strong views about it.</p> <p>21 Q. So if we unpick that, he presumably was your preferred 22 candidate, wasn't he?</p> <p>23 A. I thought he was the best candidate of the candidates 24 I was aware of, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you give him advice as to how best to advance his</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

1 application?
 2 **A. I did as best I could.**
 3 Q. Did he seek that advice or did you simply offer it?
 4 **A. Again, in the same way as I mentioned before, it sort of**
 5 **grew like Topsy, I guess.**
 6 Q. Was it advice given over lunches and dinners and by
 7 phone?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Did this go on over a significant period of time or not?
 10 **A. Well, the relationship with him continued throughout his**
 11 **time as the Commissioner.**
 12 Q. Yes, this is before he becomes Commissioner --
 13 **A. Yes, sorry, yeah. Absolutely, yes.**
 14 Q. I've been asked to put this question to you: did you see
 15 or do you see any conflict between your role in
 16 reporting objectively about the police on the one hand
 17 and giving advice to Lord Stevens and similar people on
 18 the other hand?
 19 **A. Sorry, will you phrase that again?**
 20 Q. Yes. Did you see any conflict between your role in
 21 reporting objectively about the police on the one hand,
 22 and this advice-giving role on the other hand?
 23 **A. Not at all. You have to understand -- I'm sure you do,**
 24 **but, you know, journalism and newspapers are like**
 25 **lawyers. You know, they are -- they can take -- they**
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1 can be talking to someone and have a view, but it
 2 doesn't mean to say that they then don't have
 3 a different conversation with somebody else, you know,
 4 depending on which side has hired you. So I would have
 5 a personal view and I would say to whoever I was talking
 6 to: "I think this." If a hoofing great story came along
 7 that wasn't convenient to that, first and foremost I'm
 8 a journalist and the hoofing great story went in the
 9 paper.
 10 Q. I just wonder, though, Mr Wallis, was it simply
 11 altruism, or, put in other terms, your perception that
 12 Stevens was the best man, which caused you to assist him
 13 in his wish to become the Commissioner, or was it
 14 because you thought it was in the better interests of
 15 the paper you were working for at the time?
 16 **A. I think that's a perfectly fair question, to be honest.**
 17 **What I knew about John Stevens was that he had a view**
 18 **about how police and press should interact. He had**
 19 **a strong view that was based, at least in part, on his**
 20 **experiences in Ireland -- which I knew a lot about,**
 21 **because I'd served there -- his experiences in**
 22 **Northumbria -- which, again, I knew about because I've**
 23 **lived there -- and also because of what we had seen with**
 24 **Sir Paul Condon, MacPherson, et cetera, et cetera, and**
 25 **the relationship between the press and the**
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1 **Metropolitan Police. He had a view that (a) I agreed**
 2 **with and (b) was also convenient for him and was also**
 3 **good for newspapers. So, if you like, the opposite of**
 4 **a perfect storm. A perfect sunburst.**
 5 Q. Once Lord Stevens was in post, which I think was in the
 6 year 2000 --
 7 **A. Yeah.**
 8 Q. -- was there a sense, though, that you felt that you had
 9 obtained that for your man -- of course, his own
 10 qualities would have been far more important, no doubt,
 11 but you understand what I mean -- and for that reason
 12 you had a fast-track to him?
 13 **A. I find it terribly flattering that you think I could**
 14 **appoint the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and**
 15 **so it should be. But no, I was glad that -- you know,**
 16 **I -- one of the difficulties in this is we are talking**
 17 **about police, here, now, and I understand that, but we**
 18 **could be having this conversation parallel about**
 19 **politicians. We could be having this conversation about**
 20 **showbiz personalities. You know, this wasn't my life.**
 21 **This was a bit of my life, you know. We could be having**
 22 **the same conversation about journalism.**
 23 **What happened was that this was a guy who was going**
 24 **for it. I gave him some input. He succeeded.**
 25 **I thought, "Happy days, because this has worked out all**
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1 right and hopefully there will be a better moving
 2 forward way for the media and the Metropolitan Police."
 3 That benefited my newspaper, so it was good all round.
 4 I similarly felt, at the time, that there was a better
 5 relationship we were working on, for instance, at the
 6 Home Office. All right? I didn't necessarily think
 7 that that was of instant benefit to me. I got on with
 8 Alastair Campbell. It wasn't just a benefit to me that
 9 the -- you know, you were able to talk to Alastair
 10 Campbell in the press, if you see what I mean. All I'm
 11 saying is my life is not about the MPS.
 12 Q. No, because you're giving us the impression that contact
 13 with politicians, perhaps with civil servants, was
 14 frequent, and that was your way of being as
 15 a journalist. Is that fair?
 16 **A. I think that any journalist is about their contacts.**
 17 **You know, if Nick Davies was sat here, I'm sure even**
 18 **Nick Davies would accept that journalism is about**
 19 **contacts, and, you know, you work on those contacts and**
 20 **you work on it not just for the instant hit. You take**
 21 **a long view if you're going to be successful. You know,**
 22 **whoever has been feeding Nick Davies his stories on the**
 23 **phone hacking side is not someone he met last week.**
 24 **It's someone who he's got to know, who had an agenda,**
 25 **and he's worked with that person and it's worked**
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1 **through. That's the way successful journalism works,**
2 **you know. It's how Seymour Hersh broke the New York**
3 **Times Pentagon papers.**
4 Q. Once Lord Stevens was Commissioner, you tell us that you
5 maintained contact with him. About how often were you
6 in contact with him over the phone?
7 **A. My lawyer was asking this, and the truth is: do**
8 **I remember? Every week, every month, twice a day. It**
9 **just varied depending on what was going on. Sometimes**
10 **I'd ring him, sometimes he'd ring me. It was just --**
11 **you know, it was whatever happened at the time.**
12 Q. Was the purpose of the calls for him to continue to seek
13 advice from you as to how best to present a particular
14 policy or strategy?
15 **A. Well, you've spoken to Sir John and he'd characterise**
16 **his reasons for having conversations with me himself.**
17 **Sometimes he asked my views about things.**
18 Q. Was this on matters of policy and strategy?
19 **A. Yes, never operational.**
20 Q. No. And those conversations were, therefore, off the
21 record, were they?
22 **A. Yes.**
23 Q. Did the substance of what he told you on these occasions
24 ever find its way into the newspaper you were working
25 for?

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1 **A. If he wanted and I was interested -- because that's one**
2 **of the other things that comes into this, of course.**
3 **Let's be real. I worked for tabloid newspapers. Quite**
4 **a lot of police policy, et cetera, et cetera, is simply**
5 **not of interest to tabloid newspapers. Now, one of the**
6 **things I would attempt to do was to find a way to make**
7 **that accessible if it was relevant, but occasionally he**
8 **might have a view about something that might make**
9 **a story or a feature or whatever.**
10 Q. Did he ever assist you in relation to the stories which
11 were of greater interest to your readership? I'm not
12 suggesting for one moment that he gave you operational
13 information -- you've just told us he didn't -- but did
14 he assist you in any way with those stories?
15 **A. I'm not sure what you mean, I'm afraid.**
16 Q. Well, the sort of stories which particularly featured in
17 the News of the World, whether they be sting operations
18 or flowing from the activities of Mazher Mahmood or
19 whatever.
20 **A. I see. You asked me earlier about what was the benefit,**
21 **if you like. One of the benefits of my relationship,**
22 **without question, with senior police officers is that if**
23 **I rang -- and it would almost always be via**
24 **Dick Fedorcio, but if I rang one of them and said, "We**
25 **have this situation that we think the Met ought to get**

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1 **involved with", then they would take that seriously,**
2 **because they know that I'm a guy who is not going to**
3 **mess them about. You know, when you were referring**
4 **earlier to specific stories, that wasn't my job. I was**
5 **the deputy editor. We have a crime reporter. We have**
6 **a news editor. We have other people whose job it was to**
7 **go and make specific stories. That wasn't my job.**
8 **So, you know, it would work out pretty much as**
9 **suited them, really.**
10 Q. But when you contacted him over such stories, what was
11 your purpose? As you rightly say, others within the
12 paper were writing the stories --
13 **A. Oh, so -- sorry, a better example that I can remember --**
14 **it isn't about John Stevens, but it was during his**
15 **reign, I think -- is that when we had a story that**
16 **a drug addict prostitute was selling the virginity of**
17 **her daughter, 13-year-old daughter, and this sort of**
18 **came to a head on a sort of Friday night or something**
19 **like that. Because of my relationships with senior**
20 **officers at the Met, I was able to, if you like,**
21 **scramble from -- with the Met to say to them, "We**
22 **really -- we can just go ahead with this and do this**
23 **story, but we think the right thing is that you're there**
24 **and this child is protected", and because of that**
25 **relationship, I was able to alert -- you know, I'm taken**

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1 **seriously. So they said, "Look, this is a good guy,**
2 **this will be genuine, this won't be fly-by-night, so we**
3 **should get actively involved here." So they not only**
4 **scrambled the appropriate police team; they also**
5 **scrambled a local authority, who the police brought**
6 **along, so that the child was then taken into care.**
7 **So what I'm saying is that there is that sort of**
8 **thing. The other -- I think I mentioned another**
9 **example --**
10 Q. The one you've just --
11 **A. Selling the baby --**
12 Q. The one you've just given, it was Mr Yates you spoke to?
13 **A. Yes, but my point being that this would have been about**
14 **what John Yates was -- sorry, that John Stevens was the**
15 **Commissioner. John Yates, I think, was at SCD, and**
16 **although it may have been John I ended up talking to,**
17 **part of the reason John took the call, then or even**
18 **earlier, was because I knew I was taken seriously by**
19 **Sir John Stevens and Dick Fedorcio, et cetera.**
20 Q. So what you just explained to us -- if we look at page 6
21 of your statement, our page 18316, when you say, more or
22 less in the middle of the page, you very much regarded
23 it as part of your duties as the deputy editor of the
24 News of the World to forge and maintain relations with
25 senior police officers in the interests of your

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<p>1 readership, is what you've just been telling us, the 2 example you've given us, really part and parcel of that?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, I mean that's a terribly unfashionable thing to 4 say, but, you know, I did have some personal views as 5 well. You know, I did care about this stuff. I was 6 very deeply interested in this stuff. And also, you 7 know, I was on the Editors' Code Committee at the time. 8 Before that, I'd been on the PCC, and, you know, being 9 able to put what I knew the police perception was to use 10 in those circumstances I also felt was useful. For me, 11 as a member of the Code Committee, to understand where 12 the police come from on such-and-such a subject 13 I thought was useful.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you feel that you had more of Lord Stevens' ear than 15 did your competitors? By which I mean, more 16 specifically, editors and deputy editors in the tabloid 17 press.</p> <p>18 A. How could I possibly know that? I've not a clue. I'm 19 interested in me.</p> <p>20 Q. You might get sense that, Mr Wallis, from the nature of 21 your contacts with --</p> <p>22 A. I think John Stevens was a pretty friendly guy, 23 actually.</p> <p>24 Q. Yes, but the question was more: from your perception, 25 was he equally friendly with everybody or was it owing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 mustn't be focusing too much on you, that Lord Stevens 2 may have been using others as a sounding board for 3 his --</p> <p>4 A. May have been. But, to be fair to me, I have to say 5 that -- you know, Sir John hadn't been in London for 6 a long time when he came back. I had, like probably 7 many other journalists -- I was the deputy editor of the 8 Sun at the time. The Sun had just been part of electing 9 a Labour government, a major part of this. We were 10 generally quite well connected to the new Labour 11 government. It was a very interesting time and there 12 was a lot of interaction in every area between the 13 press, government, Whitehall, et cetera, et cetera, and, 14 you know, I -- he -- John Stevens mentioned, for 15 instance, Lord Ali, me introducing him to Lord Ali, 16 because I knew that he was anxious to widen his circle 17 of acquaintance and of -- understanding of different 18 people. Lord Ali is an old friend of mine and so 19 I introduced them and they got on very well.</p> <p>20 Q. What did you mean, Mr Wallis, when you said that you -- 21 I think then as deputy editor of the Sun -- were part of 22 the coming to power of the new Labour government? 23 I can't remember exactly whether you put it in those 24 terms. We can check the transcript.</p> <p>25 A. No, I don't know what phrase -- what I meant was that at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 to the way in which --</p> <p>2 A. I'd rather hope he was more friendly to me than anybody 3 else, but in honesty, I haven't a clue. I mean, when 4 you look at his hospitality register, as far as I can 5 see, he wasn't mean in his charms, as it were. I know 6 he got on very well, for instance, with Paul Dacre.</p> <p>7 Q. Of course, unless you were present at particular 8 discussions he had --</p> <p>9 A. Quite.</p> <p>10 Q. -- with Paul Dacre, you don't know what they discussed.</p> <p>11 A. Not a clue.</p> <p>12 Q. But do you feel he was looking to you in a special sort 13 of way for the sort of media advice you've been 14 referring to or do you think he asked other editors for 15 similar advice, insofar as you can tell us?</p> <p>16 A. I watched him give evidence. He said he did. I have no 17 reason not to doubt that.</p> <p>18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You have no reason to doubt it, you 19 mean?</p> <p>20 A. Didn't I say that? I'm sorry.</p> <p>21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You said you had no reason not to 22 doubt it.</p> <p>23 A. Well, what I meant was I did think he talked to lots of 24 people.</p> <p>25 MR JAY: I think what you're telling us then is that we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 the time -- there was the tremendous excitement of 1997 2 when, after many years of Tory rule, a Labour government 3 came in. As part of that, a major part of the Blair 4 government, the new Labour government, had been the 5 courting of News International, and a major part of that 6 was the declaration of the Sun in support of Tony Blair 7 on the day that the campaign was announced. There was 8 a lot of interaction between the new Labour government 9 and the Sun.</p> <p>10 Q. Unsurprising, because of the support the Sun had given 11 to the government in its campaign, or the Labour Party 12 in its campaign?</p> <p>13 A. Quite. It was a daily contact. I edited, I think, for 14 the first three weeks of that campaign and it was 15 a daily conversation.</p> <p>16 Q. We move to Lord Blair. It's fairly clear from the tone 17 of your statement -- we're now on page 7, our 18 page 18317 -- that your relationship with him was 19 a rather different type --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- than your relationship with Lord Stevens. To put it 22 bluntly, you didn't really get on with him, did you?</p> <p>23 A. I didn't not get on with him, other than, you know, he 24 was a man who decided he wasn't -- you know, he took 25 a different view from John Stevens. He decided that he</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

23 (Pages 89 to 92)

<p>1 wasn't interested in the views of either the tabloid or 2 mid-market press. He was a very cerebral man. He saw 3 himself very much as somebody who didn't want to pursue 4 those sorts of contacts, so, you know, he didn't.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you try to --</p> <p>6 A. Yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. And were you rebuffed?</p> <p>8 A. Well, we went for -- I think we had a dinner. He came 9 into the office once. By then, John Stevens -- 10 John Stevens cast a very long shadow, and we had already 11 done the deal to make him the chief, and Sir Ian didn't 12 like it.</p> <p>13 Q. Can we come to that in a moment?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, sure.</p> <p>15 Q. You're running ahead, Mr Wallis.</p> <p>16 A. Sorry.</p> <p>17 Q. I think we're still at a slightly earlier point. 18 I mean, you suggest that Lord Blair was more in step 19 with New Labour. That's two pages beforehand.</p> <p>20 A. Yeah.</p> <p>21 Q. Of course you're not saying that he was in any way 22 associated with New Labour; that's just how it appeared 23 to you. Is that fair?</p> <p>24 A. I think he was very in step with New Labour, yeah.</p> <p>25 Q. Was his failure to establish good relationships with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 actually met him -- I was trying to recollect how this 2 happened, but one day he ended up in our office. 3 I think he may have been visiting another newspaper and 4 had been invited, if you like, by whoever was 5 accompanying him, to do a tour of the building, and he 6 ended up on our floor. I have a vague idea 7 Tarique Ghaffur was with him -- no, that may have been 8 a separate moment. But he came in and it came up in 9 conversation and he said, "I don't know how you can call 10 him the chief -- he's not the chief any more; I am", 11 which was vaguely funny, I thought.</p> <p>12 Q. You presumably had chosen the title "The chief", as 13 you'd ghostwritten the piece? You must have had a hand 14 in that, hadn't you?</p> <p>15 A. Well, I was consulted, yeah.</p> <p>16 Q. You were probably being deliberately provocative, 17 weren't you?</p> <p>18 A. No, not me.</p> <p>19 Q. Not you?</p> <p>20 A. Not me.</p> <p>21 Q. At all events, there's some gossip which indicates that 22 Sir Ian Blair was not best pleased, which, I suppose, is 23 hardly surprising, really, is it?</p> <p>24 A. No. Mischief is a significant component of newspapers, 25 particularly tabloid newspapers. But, having said that,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 senior editorial figures in the tabloid press partly 2 responsible for the negative press he received from 3 them?</p> <p>4 A. I would -- if you take away the word "tabloid" in that, 5 I think you're probably right, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. So it applied to, really, everybody then?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, he was a very, very bad communicator. He was -- 8 how can I put it? It was no surprise to many people 9 when his career ended as it did.</p> <p>10 Q. You do say you met for lunch on one occasion with 11 Mr Myler and Mr Fedorcio. That was in early 2007. 12 I think we've seen the record of that earlier in this 13 Inquiry. That was to reflect that Mr Myler had become 14 the editor --</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And the purpose of that was merely to introduce him and 17 perhaps see if a better relationship could be started, 18 was it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. When you say that Sir Ian did not like the fact that his 21 predecessor was featuring in the News of the World in 22 the column headlined "The Chief", which was ghostwritten 23 by you, how do you know that?</p> <p>24 A. There was a bit of gossip about it. It had been around, 25 may have even been in a gossip column. But when we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 can I just say this: when 7/7 happened, for instance, 2 after 7/7 -- and a lot of things happened over 7/7 and 3 21/7 in particular. When it was all folding in on the 4 Met and, you know -- and for me, this sort of summed up 5 the sort of situation. It was felt that he needed to 6 give an interview to sort of set the Commissioner's 7 position, right, to stamp himself on it, yeah? So it 8 was decided that that interview would be with the News 9 of the World. It was going to be on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>10 So we sent along Lucy Panton and we sent along 11 Stuart Kuttner. Very wise, very serious, very 12 experienced journalists, them both. Stuart was -- he 13 had been around for many, many years, and like me, he 14 had a deep, deep interest in current affairs and home 15 affairs.</p> <p>16 They went to do the interview and this was 17 absolutely set up as a PR coup for him, right? He was 18 going to set out his stall to explain what was happening 19 and how he felt, et cetera, et cetera, and it was 20 a totally done deal. We knew what we were getting and 21 we were absolutely happy that we were effectively 22 playing a role, as it were, for the Met to get on the 23 front foot.</p> <p>24 And I remember Stuart Kuttner ringing me on the back 25 bench -- that's the bit where we sat on a Saturday as we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 edited -- and saying, "You're never going to believe 2 what he's just said about this, about the moment that he 3 was told that Jean Charles de Menezes was an innocent 4 man." And he said, "He described it as -- when they 5 told him, Ian Blair said it was like a 'Houston, we've 6 got a problem' moment." 7 It was a wonderful example of his ability to snatch 8 defeat from the jaws of victory. He had absolutely no 9 work to do on this, but his arrogance and his views, as 10 it were, regarded that sort of phrase over the killing 11 of an innocent man -- "Houston, we have a problem". And 12 you know, we're journalists, so we stuck that in as 13 a headline and it didn't go down too well. 14 Q. Mm. We know -- and you touch on this on the last page 15 of your statement, so I take it out of sequence from the 16 way you dealt with but I think it's relevant to the 17 chronology -- that there was dysfunction in the 18 management board at the time, certainly between 2006 and 19 2008. People were briefing against Sir Ian Blair, but 20 you say: 21 "I can say categorically that such briefing did not 22 take place through [you]." 23 A. That I did the briefing? Sorry? 24 Q. No, what your statement says: 25 "I can say categorically that such briefing [that's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 information -- about what was happening on the 2 management board? 3 A. No. I mean, it was -- what was happening in the Met was 4 the talk of ranks. The Met was, at the time, in severe 5 troubles, and, you know -- I mean, I don't have to 6 remind you there were the stories about how Ian Blair 7 bugged conversations with cabinet ministers. You know, 8 there was just this endless selection of stories -- 9 Q. It was just once, with the Attorney General, to be fair, 10 Mr Wallis. 11 A. Oh, was it? 12 Q. That's covered in his book, although we didn't ask him 13 evidence about this in this Inquiry. 14 A. Did you ask him how many times he did it? 15 Q. I didn't ask him anything about it either way, 16 Mr Wallis, but surely the point might be said to be 17 this: that it was the tabloid press, in particular, 18 which led to Sir Ian Blair's downfall? 19 A. I think you're reading the wrong newspapers if you think 20 that. Sir Ian Blair's downfall was brought about by the 21 broadsheets and the middle market. I mean, we joined in 22 as best we can because we don't like to be left out, but 23 the decision to fire Ian Blair by Boris Johnson, you 24 know, with the acquiescence of the government of the 25 time wasn't driven by the tabloid press at all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 to say briefing against Sir Ian] did not take place 2 through [you]." 3 Is that right? 4 A. Yeah, there were plenty of people who were briefing 5 against Sir Ian. He didn't need me to brief him. 6 Q. Do you know who was? 7 A. I think it's pretty easy to -- I think Tarique Ghaffur 8 ended up suing him. Andy Hayman resigned. I don't 9 think it's sort of too difficult to work out this was an 10 unhappy management board. I mean, the Tarique Ghaffur 11 situation was just openly playing out on a -- you know, 12 primarily, frankly, in the broadsheets, on an almost 13 daily basis. So if two of his most senior assistant 14 constables either sue him or quit, that would suggest 15 that things weren't a happy ship. 16 Q. The two men you've just named, did they ever approach 17 you with information? 18 A. No. 19 Q. We'll come to Mr Hayman. We haven't asked you about the 20 contact you had with Mr Ghaffur, but you had 21 a reasonably good relationship with Mr Hayman, didn't 22 you? 23 A. Yeah. 24 Q. He never came to you with information -- call it leaks, 25 but it doesn't really matter, let's just call it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 Q. In terms of advising -- 2 A. Although the Daily Mail may claim that they played 3 a part. 4 Q. Yes, okay. In terms of advising someone in Sir 5 Ian Blair's position, the message one would have to get 6 across is that one has to, as it were, play the game 7 with the media, otherwise you will end up at the wrong 8 end of it? That's right, isn't it? 9 A. No, I think you're misrepresenting that, to be honest. 10 There's a memo based -- in here somewhere about -- 11 somebody described me as a good friend of the Met and 12 occasional critic. And the truth of the matter is you 13 never -- anybody who ever thinks they have a sort of 14 free pass from the press is fooling themselves. It's 15 a symbiotic relationship, but it is one that always can 16 go both ways. 17 So Ian Blair couldn't have rescued himself with the 18 press simply by buying us drinks and being friendly. 19 What he needed was some good advice to say, "Look, this 20 is an issue. This is what you need to do about the 21 issue. If you got that wrong, don't be self-justifying 22 about it. Face up to it. This is how you should face 23 up to it. These are some PR leads, if you like. 24 These are some attitudes you could strike. These are 25 some things you could do to try to repair that damage."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

1 **One of those, without doubt, would be sitting down**
 2 **with -- whether it's Paul Dacre, Ian McGregor at the**
 3 **Telegraph, Andy Coulson or Colin Myler at the News of**
 4 **the World, and explaining to them where he was coming**
 5 **from, what his thoughts were, and taking their view**
 6 **about, you know, what he was doing that -- you know, in**
 7 **a way, newspapers have constituencies, you know? The**
 8 **Sun has a distinct constituency. So when its editor**
 9 **speaks, it's telling you what the perception is -- the**
 10 **editor's perception of what that constituency thinks.**
 11 **So what you can take out of it is if I want to reach out**
 12 **to that constituency, then I need to take this, that or**
 13 **the other into account.**
 14 Q. That's helpful. Thank you. May I move on to Sir Paul
 15 Stephenson. This is our page 18318, your page 8.
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. Where you explain that he really follows the same
 18 blueprint as your relationship with Sir John Stevens.
 19 From the dates you've given, it appears that you
 20 probably grew to know him in 2006, 2007. Would you
 21 agree?
 22 A. I think that's what he said, yeah.
 23 Q. Did you give him any advice in relation to his
 24 "campaign" to become Commissioner?
 25 A. I basically revert to all my previous answers. You

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1 **know, if we were together and the subject came up,**
 2 **I would tell him my view. I certainly -- I will**
 3 **certainly have made it plain to him -- whether he took**
 4 **any notice of it, of course, is an issue for him, but**
 5 **I would certainly have made it known to him that**
 6 **I thought John Stevens' relationships and attitudes and**
 7 **policies towards the media were more successful than**
 8 **Ian Blair's were, but then again, you'd have to be**
 9 **a blind man living on an island not to know that**
 10 **Ian Blair's relationships with the media had been**
 11 **a disaster.**
 12 Q. Yes, but did you give him any advice in relation to his
 13 campaign to be Commissioner?
 14 A. I would pass my opinion that, you know, he was plainly
 15 a proper non-political copper, and that out there,
 16 amongst the great troops, you know -- he's got, what,
 17 30,000 police officers and 50,000 employees in total? --
 18 that that may be what they're looking for, rather than
 19 a sort of more politically correct and
 20 government-nuanced approach from the previous
 21 Commissioner. I also knew from my relationships in the
 22 government circles that they had realised that
 23 Ian Blair's commissionership had gone down the Swanee.
 24 Q. So you knew then, Mr Wallis, what would go down well
 25 with government and you advised Sir Paul Stephenson as

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1 to how best to improve his chances of being
 2 Commissioner, didn't you?
 3 A. If it came up, he asked my opinion, and I have opinions,
 4 so I wouldn't have been hesitant about sharing them.
 5 Q. No, I'm sure not. Was this advice given over dinner, in
 6 a wine bar or in his office?
 7 A. I think he details some dinners and drinks we have had
 8 over the years.
 9 Q. Was your contact with him greater before or after he
 10 became Commissioner?
 11 A. Do you know what? I don't know the answer to that.
 12 Q. Because I'm asked to put to you this: that when you say
 13 in your statement that you estimate you spoke to him on
 14 average about once a month over the phone, that in fact
 15 there were very few such calls. You only saw him once
 16 at New Scotland Yard, I think in the officer's mess,
 17 when Mr Coulson was present. Would that be about right?
 18 A. I don't know.
 19 Q. I think what is behind the question is that, with
 20 respect, you're exaggerating the level and nature of
 21 your contact with Sir Paul Stephenson. Would you agree
 22 with that?
 23 A. I think what I've put in my statement was my memory of
 24 it. If his memory of it is different, then that's
 25 unfortunate.

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1 Q. When he became Commissioner, did you give him informal
 2 advice on strategic or policy matters at his request?
 3 A. I revert to my previous answer, basically, that if we
 4 were having a conversation, a conversation of the day
 5 came up. I'm not backward about coming forward with my
 6 opinions.
 7 Q. You said once you left the News of the World and secured
 8 your contract with Scotland Yard -- this was in,
 9 I think, the late summer, probably September 2009 -- you
 10 would speak to him on a more frequent basis. About how
 11 often was that?
 12 A. What, once I'd started a contract with the Met, do you
 13 mean?
 14 Q. That's right.
 15 A. Well, the whole thing was a very ad hoc thing.
 16 I would -- occasionally I would be called and asked to
 17 look at a specific thing. Other times it may be a quick
 18 question. There might be five phone calls in a day or
 19 then nothing for a week, you know, from all parties who
 20 I would be in contact with.
 21 Q. Was it always about how best the Met should present
 22 itself to the world at large, in particular the media?
 23 A. There was an element of presentation, yes. I think in
 24 the main, frankly, a lot of what my ability and
 25 attraction for them was -- what they had was a very good

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<p>1 corporate PR set up. What they had was a very good sort 2 of functioning level press office. If you make a phone 3 call into the press office, it will get answered, 4 someone will be able to help you, and that functions 5 perfectly well.</p> <p>6 I was quite often much more of the sort of crisis 7 management type conversation, and that was my value to 8 them. It was: "This is happening. How do you think 9 this is being perceived in the rest of the press?" So 10 I would say, "I think if you take that route, that is 11 going to happen. My guess is the upshot of this 12 incident will be this." And so a lot of what I would be 13 doing would be saying to them: "This is my take on how 14 this event is (a) going to be received and (b) will play 15 out."</p> <p>16 So, for instance, a very basic sort of thing: if 17 there was a crisis about something or other, basically 18 if you can get to the weekend and it's not in the Sunday 19 papers, then it's over. You know, it's just the rhythm 20 of newspapers and explaining to them how newspapers 21 worked at a very senior level. You know, just the life 22 and death of a story, if you like.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes, that's helpful. So you were able to advise on 24 that, and of course you had the deep understanding of 25 what your readers wanted and understood, and you also</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 it, Mr Wallis?</p> <p>2 A. I certainly found him an immensely impressive bloke, 3 yeah. Very clever.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you give him strategic --</p> <p>5 A. And it was also -- sorry, just to say, it was also very 6 clear too that those around him, like John Stevens, 7 regarded him very, very highly.</p> <p>8 Q. Yes. Did you give him strategic advice as to how best 9 he should place himself, as it were, to secure that 10 ambition?</p> <p>11 A. No, because I don't really know how internally the 12 system works in the Met. You know, you get to 13 Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner level and frankly, 14 it's a political exercise. Whether -- a lot of things 15 come into being Commissioner of the Met, and not least 16 of that is knowing your way around Whitehall, you know, 17 political parties, the Mayoralty. How you become 18 a deputy assistant commissioner or assistant 19 commissioner is a much more formalised thing within the 20 Met and so I've no idea.</p> <p>21 Q. But did he ever ask for your advice, at least, as to how 22 he should comport himself to achieve, step by step, this 23 ambition?</p> <p>24 A. As far as I could see, he didn't need to because he was 25 the Met's high flyer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 had an insight into what politicians wanted and 2 understood. Is that fair?</p> <p>3 A. I think so, yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. May I move on to Mr Yates?</p> <p>5 A. Can I just point out, though, Mr Jay --</p> <p>6 Q. Of course.</p> <p>7 A. -- that I've been at deputy editor level since the 8 mid-1990s, the early 1990s, for 20-odd years. This is 9 what I do. I understand newspapers and I understand 10 mass market newspapers, and that's, you know, 11 a particular area of expertise. And so I do know what 12 works in those areas and I have a lot of experience of 13 it.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you. Mr Yates. I think Mr Yates told us that he 15 got to know you in the late 1990s. He probably put the 16 date at 1998. Would you, broadly speaking, agree --</p> <p>17 A. I couldn't remember how I met him, to be honest. 18 I didn't know -- I knew he was a staff officer to 19 somebody, but I didn't know whether it was Paul Condon 20 or John Stevens.</p> <p>21 Q. You describe him as "an extremely bright, highly 22 regarded officer from a young age who was, in many 23 people's eyes, destined to become Metropolitan Police 24 Commissioner".</p> <p>25 So that presumably includes your eyes as well, does</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 Q. Maybe he didn't, but did he ever ask it?</p> <p>2 A. I don't think so.</p> <p>3 Q. It must have been something that he discussed with you 4 from time to time. Didn't he?</p> <p>5 A. Um ... I -- I don't --</p> <p>6 Q. It's only natural, Mr Wallis. You're --</p> <p>7 A. Well, yes, inasmuch as -- only in a very minor way, 8 though. I mean, he didn't sort of sit and take from 9 some -- you know, from me, how to manoeuvre through the 10 chicanery of climbing the greasy pole of the 11 Metropolitan Police. I mean, certainly he would have 12 heard me having views about -- whether it's public 13 affairs or what I knew about other people.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes, but you knew a lot about the greasy pole of 15 politics, police, indeed newspapers. You knew it all, 16 didn't you? You were in a position to help him on these 17 matters, weren't you?</p> <p>18 A. I certainly know about the greasy pole of newspapers. 19 If he sought my advice, I would willingly have given it.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. You give an example about providing him with PR 21 advice. This was when he was the ACPO lead on crimes of 22 rape.</p> <p>23 A. Yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. He enlisted your help to formulate an anti-rape campaign 25 sponsored by the News of the World in order to publicise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

27 (Pages 105 to 108)

1 the good work which he was carrying out. Was he named
 2 in the article?
 3 **A. Mm.**
 4 Q. So this was a means, perhaps, of showcasing him, amongst
 5 other things, wasn't it?
 6 **A. No. I mean, this is a great example actually you've**
 7 **touched on here. John was very frustrated over what he**
 8 **was very, very engaged with, which was to re-examine the**
 9 **issue of rape and rape investigation within the Met. It**
 10 **was a hobby horse of his. He cared about it very much.**
 11 **I remember there was a notorious Gloucester -- sorry,**
 12 **the Grosvenor House Hotel alleged a sort of rape case**
 13 **that the News of the World ran very large, and**
 14 **I remember he was distinctly unhappy about the fact**
 15 **that -- the prominence we were giving this and he was**
 16 **very passionate about what -- how big an issue this was**
 17 **and how the police were generally failing nationwide.**
 18 **So one of the incidents, for instance, was he --**
 19 **I remember having a conversation with him about what**
 20 **could he do to make this more of a -- to raise the**
 21 **profile of this nationwide, for instance. I remember we**
 22 **discussed whether or not he could do some sort of poll**
 23 **that would be able to, on a force-by-force basis, show**
 24 **how many rapes -- allegations of rape, how many**
 25 **convictions, seniority of officers involved, how big the**

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1 **anti-rape team was, et cetera, et cetera, and my point**
 2 **being that that would give him a story in every county**
 3 **about it, because it varies enormously from what the Met**
 4 **does, which he was largely behind, so -- I remember him**
 5 **telling me once that some force, I think in the north**
 6 **somewhere, had a sergeant and two PCs, all male, who**
 7 **were the people who investigated rape. He thought that**
 8 **was shocking.**
 9 MR JAY: Is that convenient?
 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. 2 o'clock. Thank you very
 11 much.
 12 (1.03 pm)
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