

Written responses to members questions

Full Authority – January 2011

Response to request from MPA for details of meetings that senior officers have had with NoW

Criteria:

- Must be meetings whose purpose was for MPS officers to meet specifically with News of the World.
- The MPS holds regular briefings and presentations with the Crime Reporters Association, which are events attended by representatives from all national media, including journalists from the News of the World - these are not included in the information provided.
- Social events at which News of the World journalists or executives may have been present are not included as they are not hosted by NoW.
- Timeframe is 5-year period, January 2006 to present

2006

September - Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson - dinner with Deputy Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

2007

November - Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson - dinner with Deputy Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

2008

February - Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson - dinner with Deputy Editor, News of the World

October - Deputy Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - meeting with Deputy Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

October - Deputy Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - dinner with Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

2009

February - Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - dinner with Deputy Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

May - Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - dinner Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

June - Deputy Commissioner Tim Godwin, Participation in News of the World Save our Streets Roadshow alongside the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP

June - Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - attendance at News Corporation reception

June - Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - dinner with Deputy Editor, News of the World and Dick Fedorcio

November - AC Yates - Dinner with Editor and Crime Editor, News of the World

2010

August - AC Dick - At request of Commissioner met with Deputy Editor and Chief Lawyer of the News of the World, together with two Detective Superintendents where they were handed material alleging Pakistan Cricketers Spot Fixing allegations which resulted in arrest and searches later that day.

June - Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson - attendance at News Corporation reception

No relevant meetings for:

AC Allison

AC McPherson

AC Owens

Questions on covert officers asked by John Biggs

Response:

1. The definition of an undercover operation.

The definition of an undercover operation is defined by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) where an officer acts covertly by concealing his or her identity through the use of a pseudonym and legend. Seven different criteria can be applied although we focus on preventing and detecting crime (serious crime in the main) and in the interests of national security (Counter terrorism). For this latter criteria we only deploy with the concurrence of the Security Service.

2. Are officers required to be unprofessional or unlawful

All deployments of undercover officers are authorised by either Commander SO 15 or Commander Covert Policing in the Specialist Crime Directorate. Although RIPA allows Superintendents to authorise, the MPS impose this higher level scrutiny to ensure good governance of these deployments. Officers can be authorised by the Commander to participate in crime but within very strict

parameters based on proportionality and necessity. Under cover officers are required to act professionally at all times in accordance with their specialist training, NPIA doctrine, Police Regulations and RIPA.