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Dear Mr Mitchell

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2013.

I do understand the aggravation you must be feeling as a result of these reports. In relation to your formal complaint about the Metropolitan Police leaking their report to the Crown Prosecution Service, I have forwarded it to the MPS to be recorded, as I am required to do under the legislation. I have, however, also been making some enquiries into your concerns.

The press reports in the Times and the Guardian last Friday, which I assume are the ones you are concerned about, refer to the MPS investigation finding "*no evidence that police officers lied*". The articles refer to a file being passed to the Crown Prosecution Service but do not actually quote from it. While this does not rule out the possibility of the MPS file having been leaked, it also raises other possibilities, either that someone who may have been connected to the investigation or in possession of material had a conversation with a reporter, or that the author/s of the articles were reporting speculatively – I note, for example, the references in both stories to "*...it is understood that..*"

Both the MPS and CPS issued public statements the previous day about a file of evidence having been sent by one and received by the other. The CPS statement was: "*We have received initial papers but we have not received a full file of evidence and we now await the conclusion of the police investigation before considering charges.*" This followed an email which was sent by a CPS lawyer to the MPS late on Thursday afternoon, with a list of

questions for the police, including requesting a date by which their enquiries, including all the technical analysis, would be complete.

I should add that any leak enquiry would need to look at who was in possession of the information allegedly leaked, i.e. not only police officers, but also the Crown Prosecution Service and indeed myself. (For the sake of completeness, I can confirm that I received a sealed box containing the file on Thursday afternoon, and this remained unopened until Friday morning.) While I fully understand your concerns about these press reports, it appears to me that the public interest is best served by ensuring that the MPS are indeed carrying out a robust and thorough investigation into the initial incident and its aftermath. Should you wish to formally pursue your complaint in the meantime, I understand that DAC Gallan is happy to meet and discuss with you in the first instance, and I will keep the situation under review.

I advised you that I would be personally reviewing the evidence to ensure that the investigation was indeed thorough and robust, and I have reviewed the detailed file that was delivered last week.

There is further material I have not yet seen but will need to review, and as the CPS noted, the results of some further enquiries – in particular, forensic and technical work - are still awaited, so the file is not yet complete. But I can confirm at this stage that the MPS has 740 statements, 44 of which were described as “key” and were enclosed, as well as the full transcripts of interviews with seven police officers and one member of the public under caution, and 39 pages of documents. I am advised by the MPS that there are currently, in total, 133 exhibits and 93 documents, all of which will be reviewed.

The MPS has specifically asked the Crown Prosecution Service for advice and guidance surrounding the future course of the investigation, in relation to potential criminal charges. Both the CPS and the IPCC are entirely independent of the MPS, and we both have a role in ensuring that the investigation has followed all necessary lines of enquiry. I will be meeting with the CPS reviewing lawyer when they have completed their initial review, I hope within the next two weeks, to consider this further. The CPS will make the final decision in relation to whether there is sufficient evidence and in the public interest to charge anyone.

I also understand that the continued passage of time before this situation is resolved, during which speculation will inevitably persist, is extremely frustrating for you. I can only assure you that I am doing all I can to bring this

to a fair conclusion – and that the relevant evidence will be published as soon as it possibly can be.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Glass', written in a cursive style.

Deborah Glass

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)