

MARK RECKLESS

Member of Parliament for Rochester and Strood



Lord Ken Macdonald QC
Matrix Chambers
Griffin Building
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LN

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th July 2011

Dear Lord Macdonald

I am sorry that you did not answer my question yesterday as to how much you are paid by News Corporation. It is clearly a matter of very significant public interest, particularly in light of Geoffrey Cox MP QC's statement to the Commons today that you were informed (along with Lord Goldsmith) on 30 May 2006 that:

"a vast number of unique voicemail numbers belonging to high-profile individuals (politicians, celebrities) have been identified as being accessed without authority. These may be the subject of wider investigation"

However, it appears that the CPS under your leadership may have prevented such a wider investigation by advising the police that they had to prove that messages were intercepted prior to being collected by the intended recipient, notwithstanding the clear terms of section 2(7) of RIPA.

I note that your chambers' website promotes you by stating that "he was described in an editorial in *The Times* on the day he stepped down as '*an exemplary figure*'" and "He writes regularly for *The Times* on law, security and politics". Please will you confirm in light of this the total amount that you have been paid by the Times since you stepped down as DPP.

More significantly, please would you disclose the amount of money you have been paid and continue to be paid by News Corporation in light of the Speaker's answer earlier today to my Point of Order concerning your refusal:

"witnesses before Select Committees should seek to be as helpful as possible to Committees, and they have a general obligation to furnish Committees with answers to the best of their ability".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Reckless'.

Mark Reckless MP

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