

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th June 2021

Dear Confront,

RE: POLICE CORRUPTION.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of police corruption and accountability. I have read your comments on this issue with interest.

I wholly agree that the police service should, and must be, a transparent, accountable institution. *The Policing & Crime Act* contains several provisions to ensure that this is the case.

The Act gave the Independent Office for Police Conduct, or IOPC (formerly the Independent Police Complaints Commission) greater powers. Crucially, these include the ability to control who in a police force is notified of an investigation and to obtain evidence confidentially. This is designed to protect the identity of whistleblowers.

Of course, investigations need to be genuinely independent. In order to ensure the IOPC's independence and accountability, the organisation's structure was reformed so that it is headed by a single Director General who cannot have worked for the police. I understand that since reforms introduced by the Government have taken effect, the IOPC has seen a substantial improvement in their operational performance.

I also understand that the police disciplinary regime has been strengthened substantially. Former officers now fall under the disciplinary regime where an allegation arose before they resigned or retired. In addition, the College of Policing holds a 'Police Barred List', which includes former members of the police force who have been dismissed and cannot re-join the police. More information on this can be found published on the College of Policing website.

In terms of your specific concerns relating to the *Leveson Inquiry*, the Government announced in 2018 that it would not bring forward 'part two' of the inquiry. While I imagine you are disappointed with this decision, I have been assured that the original inquiry and subsequent police investigations were comprehensive, with more than three-hundred people coming forward to give evidence resulting in the conviction of over forty people during three major investigations. In addition, the media landscape has changed significantly since 'part one' of the inquiry took place. Reopening the inquiry would cost millions of pounds, and Ministers firmly believe that it is no longer appropriate, proportionate, or in the public interest to do so. There have been extensive reforms to police practices, as well as significant changes to press self-regulation.



I hope this response reassures you of the commitment to holding our police to the highest standards and ensuring proper accountability.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,
Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**