

Rt Hon Sir George Halworth MP
george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

Our ref: MGLA230823-4897

Date: 18/10/2023

Dear George,

Thank you for your email on behalf of your constituent regarding the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) investigation into members of the royal family and amid allegations of 'cash for honours'. Your email has been passed to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) to reply to you.

As you will appreciate the MPS is operationally independent, and its criminal investigations cannot be directed by the Mayor or Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC).

In accordance with the provisions of the Policing Protocol Order 2023, the operational independence of the police is a fundamental principle of British policing. Furthermore, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out, under Section 2, the specific provision that a police force is under the direction and control of the Chief Officer of the force. This 'direction and control' includes total discretion to investigate or require an investigation into crimes as he or she sees fit.

As a local policing body, MOPAC do not have the statutory authority either to examine the evidence collated by the MPS amidst the course of a criminal investigation or to instruct the force to set-out its reasons for the manner in which it has chosen to conduct an investigation.

The MPS have advised that should any new information or evidence come to light that requires further assessment, this will be carried out by its Special Enquiry Team (SET).

We appreciate your constituent taking the time to contact us in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Murphy
Head of Operational Oversight of the MPS and National Engagement
Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime