



Phone hacking scandal escalates

The *News of the World*, Metropolitan Police and the prime minister's director of communications are facing increasing condemnation for their respective roles in the phone-hacking scandal.

Since the *New York Times* revealed the *NotW*'s illegal practice last week, the tabloid has been accused of hacking into thousands of voicemail accounts, while the Met has been criticised for curtailing its investigation so as to avoid a fallout with the influential paper.

Andy Coulson, *NotW* editor during the alleged events, is expected to be hauled in by police for questioning, which has caused a rumble of discontent among his Tory peers and may put his position in the government at serious risk.

Coulson will be expected to answer revelations



revealed by a former colleague that he "actively encouraged" the use of illegal methods. Coulson denies any allegations, and has said he is willing to talk to police.

But the police are also being criticised, with the *New York Times* quoting unnamed sources who claim that Scotland Yard's "close relationship" with News International, the owner of *NotW*, hampered the inquiry.

The shortened investigation, and the Met's decision not to reveal the truth to the public has suggested that the power of the paper has extended to throttling police investigations.

The investigation into phone-hacking led to former *NotW* royal editor Clive Goodman being imprisoned in 2006. (Sources: [MediaGuardian](#), [journalism.co.uk](#), [New York Times](#))

Chief police officer attacks Moat coverage

The live coverage of the last hours of gunman Raoul Moat's life has been criticised by the chief constable of Manchester police.

"It cannot be right that the last hours of a man's life are broadcast on live television with members of his family looking on," said Peter Fahy on his blog.

Not only did he hit out at the dubious moral justifications for 24-hour news's obsession with Moat, but he also stated his concern for how such



media attention affects the police in highly emotional circumstances.

"The advent of 24-hour news has had a profound effect on policing," he wrote, suggesting that in some cases "over 50 per cent" of a commanding officer's time will be spent dealing with the media.

"It cannot be right that an officer commanding such an incident has to consider how it might look on television as if he/she was a film director," said Fahy. (Source: [Press Gazette](#))

Canvas stirs local ire

Project Canvas, the BBC-backed on-demand video service, is ignoring the interests of the local TV industry according to the Community Media Association.

Jaqui Deveroux, director of CMA, urged the BBC and other partners to make Canvas "available to smaller community broadcasters".

"There is a danger that they aren't going to, as their current plans don't include us," said Deveroux.

The CMA's concerns join recent complaints of the project from Virgin Media and Six TV, the latter of which warned that Canvas would be "catastrophic for small-scale services".

(Source: [Media Week](#))

Porn man to run C5 kid's TV

Channel 5's childrens department is to be managed by the head of Richard Desmond's adult programming business, Portland TV, reports *MediaGuardian*.

Milkshake! will be based at Portland TV's London Docklands offices, also the home of Television X – the self-proclaimed "home of British porn".

Paul Dunthorne will manage the strand, alongside his duties managing Desmond's adult television channels.

Desmond considers Milkshake! one of Channel 5's "success stories", and it may benefit from the £300m-a-year budget he plans to invest in 5.

(Source: [MediaGuardian](#))

News in brief

Croydon Ad freed



The *Croydon Advertiser* will become freely distributed in an effort to attack plummeting sales figures.

The move puts the *Advertiser* in direct competition with the *Croydon Guardian*.

The redesigned paper will include more pages and a new sports pullout and will be distributed to around 70,000 homes in the Croydon area.

(Source: [Press Gazette](#))

Some say the Stig is "sacked"



The fallout between the BBC and the racing driver revealed to be Top Gear's Stig, has escalated, with Jeremy Clarkson announcing that Ben Collins is "sacked".

"He's history as far as we are concerned," said the presenter after the BBC failed to halt the publishing of Collins' autobiography.

He added that the BBC's most successful export is "damaged but not out".

(Source: [MediaGuardian](#))

Future to launch iPad mag



Future Publishing is to launch an iPad version of its gadget magazine, T3.

The digital magazine will exploit the benefits offered by a digital outlet, including video, 360-degree animation and interactive galleries.

Future has seen a sixfold increase in US print sales of the magazine since April.

Future chief executive Stevie Spring claimed that digital publishing represented "more than a quarter" of revenue for the six months to the end of March.

(Source: [MediaGuardian](#))

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World Service broadcasts face choking cuts

The BBC World Service could be forced to withdraw its broadcasts in countries like Burma, where the shadow foreign secretary warns, "the only other messages blend threats and propaganda".

The BBC is currently holding talks to stem proposed cuts to the World Service budget, which could result in a deficit of up to 25 per cent from April 2011.

According to one diplomatic source quoted by the *Guardian*, "the human rights argument doesn't hold much sway with the new foreign office".

The World Service currently receives a £272m grant from the foreign office, a figure that, if cut, will mean the service will have to pull out of countries where free speech is at a minimum.

Services most at risk are those in Burma and Russia, the latter of which reaches around 700,000



listeners and a further million via its Russian-language website.

David Milliband, shadow foreign secretary has called on the government to ensure that the service remains available, warning that scrapping the World Service in Burma "would be a gift to the military junta, and an insult to political prisoners locked in Burma's jails for no crime".

Talks are expected to last for around six weeks, with the outcome of the consultation to be revealed on 20 October.

A World Service spokesperson told the *Guardian* that it will "continue to argue confidently that the service is one of Britain's most effective and vital assets in the global arena, particularly at a time when other governments are increasing, not reducing, their own investments in international broadcasting". (Source: *MediaGuardian*)

BSkyB rewards top staff with big payouts

BSkyB has awarded its top staff top bonuses and big pay rises after a recession-busting performance last year.

Salary figures released by the broadcaster showed chief executive Jeremy Darroch took home a pay packet of over £2.6m last year, including a £1.7m bonus for hitting the maximum performance expected of him. The year before Darroch took home £2.33m.

However Darroch is being paid less than his predecessor, James Murdoch. Rupert's son took home over £1m a year as chief executive.



The company's only other executive director, Andrew Griffith, also saw a rise in his wage slip, taking home £1.24m – a 17 per cent top up from the year before.

BSkyB also reported an 11 per cent increase in revenues to £5.9bn for the year to 30 June.

Sky recently signed up its three millionth subscriber to its high definition services, and with a reported 9.86 million customers, is just shy of reaching its target of 10 million subscribers by the end of the year.

(Source: *MediaGuardian*)

Police reminded they can't stop photographers

A chief police officer has reminded forces across the country that they have no right to stop people taking pictures in public.

The chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' media advisory group, Andy Trotter, told forces that the practice is "unacceptable" and "undermines public confidence" in the police.

He also warned that officers have no power to force photographers to delete images, following reports that police have been using terrorism laws to do so.

Writing in a letter to forces, he said: "We must



acknowledge that citizen journalism is a feature of modern life and police officers are now photographed and filmed more than ever.

"Unnecessarily restricting photography, whether for the casual tourist or professional is unacceptable and it undermines public confidence in the police service."

Trotter went on to remind forces of the relationship that photographers and police have: "We need to cooperate with the media and amateur photographers. They play a vital role as their images help us identify criminals."

(Source: *Press Gazette*)

Social media digest

Social experiment for publisher



Publisher Random

House has started its own 'interactive story' experiment, using social media website Stardoll to publish *Mortal Kiss*.

Characters from the book will have profiles on the website, and Stardoll members can vote to change the storyline.

But Random House is hoping that the majority will spend real money on items relating to the story to decorate their own profiles.

Stardoll claims to have more than 100 million members. *Mortal Kiss* will be serialised on the website until 31 October.

(Source: *Brand Republic*)

iPlayer joins the social network

The BBC is attempting to converge its iPlayer platform and social media in a recent update to the on-demand video player.

The developments enable users to connect an iPlayer profile to Facebook and Twitter accounts, where they can send and receive recommendations among friends.

"We wanted to connect iPlayer up with the users' online interactions with friends – to bring a social dimension to watching and listening," wrote head of iPlayer James Hewines.

"This next step is about allowing users to interact with the service and each other around our programmes."

(Source: *Media Week*)

Quote of the week

“On-demand is spoken about as the great white hope but in the short-term it is totally cannibalistic.”

Channel 4's Andy Barnes is cautious about on-demand's benefits. (Source: *Media Week*)

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