

Ten police 'plotted' Plebgate

Isabel Oakeshott and David Leppard Published: 24 March 2013



Former chief whip Andrew Mitchell (David Jones)

played a part.

Sources with knowledge of the investigation said that Pat Gallan, a Scotland Yard deputy assistant commissioner, in charge of Operation Alice, the codename for the criminal inquiry, will send her report on the affair to the Crown Prosecution Service this week.

Keir Starmer, the director of public prosecutions, is expected to make the final decision on criminal charges.

Mitchell was forced out of his job last October, a month after being accused of calling officers "f***** plebs", an allegation he strenuously denied.

His resignation followed a campaign to oust him by the Police Federation, backed by Labour politicians.

Two months later it emerged that a crucial email purporting to be from a member of the public who had witnessed the spat was actually written by an off-duty police officer who had not been present.

Doubts also emerged about a police account of what happened during a private meeting between Mitchell and members of the West Midlands Police Federation to discuss the allegations.

Sir Jeremy Heywood, the cabinet secretary, later admitted Mitchell may have been the victim of a "giant conspiracy", and the Metropolitan police began an investigation.

Three London-based police officers, all members of the elite diplomatic protection group responsible for protecting the prime minister and other VIPs, were arrested. All three are being investigated for misconduct in public office. One has been suspended.

The Metropolitan police said yesterday that seven of its officers, including the three arrested, had been served with regulation 15 notices warning them that they were under investigation for professional misconduct.

One further individual, understood to be a relative of one of the officers, has also been arrested.

It has now emerged that three officers in the Midlands are under investigation by their own forces in an operation overseen by the IPCC.

One of those is Ken Mackaill, chairman of West Mercia Police Federation. Mitchell is said to have secretly recorded a meeting with Mackaill and

AT LEAST 10 police officers are now suspected of involvement in an alleged plot to discredit the former cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell, who was accused of calling Downing Street armed guards "plebs".

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has expanded its role in the criminal investigation into the so-called Plebgate affair after receiving new information.

The inquiry has exposed a complex operation to smear Mitchell, who resigned as Tory chief whip after a clash over riding his bike through the main Downing Street gate.

The 10 officers allegedly involved are from four police forces. Several are accused of fabricating allegations about what Mitchell said during the incident or making false statements to the media afterwards. Others are accused of leaking details of the case to the media.

The growing scale of the inquiry raises new questions about the extent of the alleged anti-Tory plot. Until now, only a handful of officers were thought to have

handed a tape to the police.

The IPCC said this weekend that the inquiry now encompassed officers from four forces: the Metropolitan police, West Mercia, West Midlands and Warwickshire. It would not say what links, if any, had been uncovered between the officers.

It said three senior police federation officers — in West Mercia, West Midlands and Warwickshire — were facing a disciplinary inquiry over remarks made on television.

Mitchell declined to comment.

230 comments



 Michael Daventry

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stephen cullen

11 hours ago

After all the police scandals they will always be plebs to me.

3  Recommend Reply



Karl Dunkerley

11 hours ago

West Midlands police in a fit-up? Sounds familiar. I think I am in an episode of Life On Mars when we go back to the 70s.

5  Recommend Reply



JPR

13 hours ago

OK, so they put the boot in when he was down.
I doubt that it was a concerted plot.

Recommend Reply



N Kraj

13 hours ago

@JPR And the Tshirts with 'PC Pleb and Proud' that the coppers so proudly wore in their press photo-call?? No concert? No managed campaign? Really?

12  Recommend Reply

Gresham's law

14 hours ago

Of course he did and Cameron is a Time Lord.

Recommend Reply

N Kraj

14 hours ago

@Gresham's law Did what? Have you been to the pub?

8  Recommend Reply

Gresham's law

1 hour ago

@N Kraj @Gresham's law

Pointless debating with someone who wasn't there but says "they are right".

Recommend Reply

RWL Davies

16 hours ago

This had fit-up written all over it from the outset.

Irrespective of what anybody and everybody thinks of Mitchell he should get appropriate apologies from all relevant faces in government and opposition.

The plod perps need to be tried for perverting the course of justice.

That Lord Leveson would sort it out; man's a genius.

10 Recommend Reply



Arthur Purvis

16 hours ago

It is past time for this headline to be rewritten using the correct terminology: Plodgate.

16 Recommend Reply



Denis Harding
@Arthur Purvis

16 hours ago

Good principle, but I would suggest ToastGate.

Ed "Toast" Milliband should forever be associated with this fiasco and his utter lack of morals in insisting on Mr Mitchells resignation for allegedly using the word "Pleb" in a private conversation whilst he, Ed "Toast" Milliband used its antonym "Toff" publically, frequently and commanded others to do so.

18 Recommend Reply



Bernard George

13 hours ago

@Denis Harding @Arthur Purvis To be fair, the antonym of plebian is patrician. I do not think Cameron would mind being called that.

Which is not to deny your central point, that Labour in general, and Red Ed in particular, behaved like a lynch mob.

3 Recommend Reply



trieste

17 hours ago

I don't rightly understand why MI5 and SO15 (the former Special Branch now merged with the anti-terrorist branch) haven't been co-opted into this investigation.

An alleged conspiracy by members of 3 police forces, plus the Police Federation and ACPO members? Even in Harold Wilson's term-in-office that would have been enough to engage some heavy-duty resources.

Doors should be being kicked-in (long ago actually) phones and email monitored and individuals placed under round-the-clock surveillance. What was being allegedly performed might sit fine with those who are comfortable with the nation being reduced to tin-pot-state standing, but generally a conspiracy against an elected Minister of the Realm by members of the civil police would normally warrant a response with both barrels from any Commonwealth government.

The conspirators, if found guilty should be thrown to the wolves, just to make it clear that such behavior isn't acceptable and won't be tolerated.

I don't anticipate the Home Office and Treasury will approve a pay rise for officers beyond the RPI this year. And don't be expecting any let-up in budget cuts.

28 Recommend Reply



stephen cole

17 hours ago

I bet anyone anyone who cares to take my money no police officers are sacked

21 Recommend Reply



David

16 hours ago

@stephen cole I won't take that bet. How about a wager on whether they receive the ultimate sanction for public sector miscreants - early retirement with a nice lump sum and an inflation-proof pension for life?

7 Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

15 hours ago

@David @stephen cole Isn't that what happens to MPs, Top Civil Servants and nearly every CEO in the world.

1 Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

17 hours ago

Hmmm Am I the only one that thinks that if he had got off his bike and pushed it through the side gate without any conversation with the police, except something like, "Certainly Constable, Good night, non of this would have happened! He has admitted to reacting badly to the police. Respect is earned not a given right!

3 Recommend Reply



Cheltenham Exile

17 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell on the other hand, the Mitchell affair exposed 10 duff coppers - allegedly ! They over reached themselves big time - it will 'encourage the others'.

11 Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

17 hours ago

@Cheltenham Exile Of course. you are right. The police should no have done it. I assume that you do agree with me slightly. After all Mitchell never revealed what he actually said. What did he have to hide?

1 Recommend [Reply](#)



Arthur Purvis

17 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell

"Respect is earned not a given right!"

Something the police need to hoist in, and swiftly.

12 Recommend [Reply](#)



Dave Blackwell

16 hours ago

@Arthur Purvis @Dave Blackwell You mightd add "Public schoolboys and Oxbridge boys" to that

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



leicabiker

11 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell @Arthur Purvis You have just blown your cover! Not a pragmatic and unbiased commentator after all. Time to change you 'Handle'.

1 Recommend [Reply](#)



Dave Blackwell

10 hours ago

@leicabiker @Dave Blackwell @Arthur Purvis Well! somethingbiker. Time to change yours I think! Dammit. You are right. I have blown my cover M will not be happy at all and Q will certainly stop me using his toys. I suppose I will have to go back and do something that I enjoyed a while back. Sit on a beach and watch a bikini clad woman walk out of the ocean. Very smart of you to see right though me!

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John black

16 hours ago

There is absolutely no justification whatsoever for what the Police, or should I say "these Police" did. It is illogical to speculate as to what might have happened had Mitchell done anything different, as the comments made by the Police were not based on facts in the first place.

Even worse than the 10 involved in this disgusting betrayal of trust, i fear that any sympathy for them from their colleagues will further poison the barrel. It is for this reason that when any of them are convicted, they face the most serious penalties rather than the usual light let off which we sadly have come to expect for crooked Police.

9 Recommend [Reply](#)



Dr Calum MacInnes

16 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell certainly Mitchell was in the wrong, but a police conspiracy to oust a cabinet minister is totally wrong. This has been compounded by what appears to be fabrication of evidence which is a further serious criminal charge. Being rude or arrogant does not give the police the right to have done what it appears that they might have.

2 Recommend [Reply](#)



Dave Blackwell

16 hours ago

That is strange! No-one is either disagreeing with me or agreeing with me but just continue what has been said. "Hit nasty PC Plod" If the facts are indeed what is being alleged then, of course the police involved should be punished. Perhaps it might be a good thing as we might get to find out what exactly Mitchell did say. Don't forget, some colleagues initially said that "Pleb" was something that Mitchell might say! This seems to me to be the beginning of a witch hunt against the police. Something that the Tory Party HQ and Mitchell be relishing brought on by unnamed Tory followers. No, I must be wrong. Politicians wouldn't stoop to such low tactics to denigrate the police force to protect one of their own!

1 Recommend [Reply](#)



Arthur Purvis

15 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell

"Politicians wouldn't stoop to such low tactics to denigrate the police force to protect one of their own!"

The police would, though, as they (and probably you) are demonstrating.

3 Recommend [Reply](#)



N Kraj

15 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell It's not the politician that needs protecting, as recent developments have proven. Seems he's pretty innocent in all of this, save swearing at some cocky coppers at the Downing Street gates, which they probably deserved in spades if they wound Mitchell up. There is no witch hunt. The police seem, on recent developments, to be guilty of a massive stitch-up. All the population want, require and deserve is the truth. Hope that's now clear to you, PC Blackwell.

4  Recommend Reply



Martin Hasler

14 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell No they would have found something else, after all, they made it up! They would have made up something else!

2  Recommend Reply



Graham

14 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell It is the Public Official that have to earn the Public's respect not the Public who have to earn our Public Officials respect.

When a Public Official is being a "Jobs Worth" we should all be entitled to tell them exactly what we think about there pointless petty rules and their attitude to the public.

3  Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

13 hours ago

@Graham Forgive me but your post is tosh. Unless I am mistaken Mitchell is also a public official! We still don't know what Mitchell actually said. I will say it again. IF the police are guilty then they should be punished. Unless you have special information, I don't think they have even been charged. You have just read it in the newspapers and found them all guilty! As far as "Jobsworths" are concerned, they can be very annoying, but they are carrying out orders that they have been given. The Rule must be that only cars pass through the maingate all pedestrians and cyclists use the side gate. If that is right then any normal person would obey that particular rule. Mitchell seemed to think that he is too big and important to get off his bike and walk! If he disagreed with that rule, he was influential enough to try and get the rule changed. Perhaps you are one of those people who try to duck the rules and take it out on the "jobsworth" when you are found out!

Recommend Reply



Freddy Crabbe

13 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell That is true but is perverting the course of justice the correct response to a badly behaved MP?

1  Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

12 hours ago

@Freddy Crabbe @Dave Blackwell No, of course not, Freddy

Recommend Reply



N Kraj

10 hours ago

@Dave Blackwell @Freddy Crabbe you're missing the point. Mitchell regularly cycled his bike through the main gates. On this occasion, however, the copper decided to make him use the side gate and do something that Mitchell ordinarily did not have to do, so he had to dismount and push his bike up onto the pavement, incurring wasted time. And he was provoked in the process. It therefore has little to do with your nonsense about Mitchell thinking himself 'too big and important', PC Blackwell.

2  Recommend Reply



Dave Blackwell

9 hours ago

@N Kraj @Freddy Crabbe Hahahahahahah. I think you actually believe what you just said. Dear Oh, Dear Oh Dear!

Recommend Reply



N Kraj

1 hour ago

@Dave Blackwell @N Kraj @Freddy Crabbe of course I believe what I wrote....it is after all the truth.

Recommend Reply



Gresham's law

18 hours ago

Of course it did. I've never seen one saying my minister has just been sacked.

1  Recommend Reply



Tim Masters

18 hours ago

There has to be more to this than meets the eye surely. I'm not suggesting the police aren't without their critics, and quite rightly so, but it seems to me that if 10 coppers from four different forces decided to give Mitchell a working over through the media, the man may not be particularly pleasant, least of all to the people who are charged with giving him security.

1  Recommend Reply



Hugh Williams

17 hours ago

@Tim Masters Even if it means falsifying the so-called evidence? I don't think so. I hope they throw the book at these conspirators.

14 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



David Heaton

15 hours ago

@Tim Masters I think its a cultural thing. There is no doubt in my own mind that some police officers are bonkers. They do it because they can. I was once threatened with arrest by a frothing, furious off duty policewoman for simply declining to let her barge her car past mine on a pedestrian crossing. When I asked her for her details she returned to earth and left pretty sharply. This incident has stuck with me for fifteen years and, sadly, I could give other examples of this complete abuse of office I have witnessed over the years. Some people are not capable of dealing with the power we give them.

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Hilary Manser

20 hours ago

Is Mitchell going to be reinstated now?

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Robert Wise

20 hours ago

The police attempted to act as a Praetorian Guard. Mitchell should be invited back in government just to show them. Hope he sues the pants off those officers who violated his civil rights for all they are worth.

26 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



John black

16 hours ago

Sadly if he sues them, it will only be the tax payer that ends up paying the bill. The Police, local council workers, NHS employees, and so many more public employees, are all immune from personal prosecution.

2 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



Tacitus

20 hours ago

"His resignation followed a campaign to oust him by the Police Federation, backed by **Labour politicians.**" My only surprise is that the Lib Dems were not part of it!

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John Doy

14 hours ago

@Tacitus

Spoken like a true card carrier.

And had he been a Labour politician the Conservatives would not have bayed for his blood?

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



Tacitus

46 minutes ago

@John Doy @Tacitus I like to think that the rule of law is sacrosanct and that someone is innocent until proven guilty; so, no I do not think that the Conservatives would have acted in the same way.

[Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



Terry Webber

20 hours ago

People come first not the state, The law making process is corrupt and the law enforcers who do the bidding are in a tiff with their masters. Q. Where does that leave the people? A. No trust in the government and no trust in the law.

10 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



Peter De La Roche

18 hours ago

@Terry Webber

Speak for yourself, I for one have trust in the government but am finding it increasingly difficult to have trust in the law. How many times does old excuse "it's only a minority of corrupt/bad police" work?

12 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



John Doy

18 hours ago

@Peter De La Roche @Terry Webber

You have trust in the government?

3 [Recommend](#) [Reply](#)



John black

21 hours ago

Despite all the fine work our decent Police have done, i will be stunned if these despicable individuals are prosecuted with any vigor.

The trust in our Police is a cornerstone of our, and in fact any decent society, and so it is of paramount importance that justice is seen to be done, when individuals damage that trust. These corrupt and morally bankrupt individuals are as bad as terrorists, they are like a cancer in

our society.

25 Recommend Reply



Spike

19 hours ago

@John black If it is true that they conspired i totally agree with you. Any officer who is a trained detective would know that you cannot keep a conspiracy secret someone always tells someone outside of the plot or someone inside attempts to save their own skin. I just find it unbelievably stupid of these officers if it is true. We will wait and see if it turns out as stated..??

3 Recommend Reply



Peter De La Roche

18 hours ago

@John black

We were told that one of the justifications for 8/9 months in prison for lying about transferring speeding points was a punitive sentence to send a message on what was described as the very serious matter of "conspiracy to pervert the course of justice".

Conversely, it seems so so very often that police officers are allowed to resign to avoid justice. Surely, police lying and or conspiring is clearly "conspiracy to pervert the course of justice", so now lets see what sentences are handed out for the following:

- 1) Police involved in illegality over Hillsborough (been waiting a very long time for this).
- 2) Police involved in illegality over selling information to the press.
- 3) Police leaking confidential information to the press.
- 4) Police involved in illegality over phone hacking.
- 5) Police involved in lies and conspiracy to damage the government and a member of government.

15 Recommend Reply



Cheltenham Exile

17 hours ago

@Peter De La Roche @John black can I add to your list, Stafford Police who have failed to take any action (allegedly) concerning the avoidable deaths of 1200 patients as recorded in the Francis Report. The CPS will have to prosecute the Chief Constable for (alleged) misconduct in a public office if he refuses to do his duty !

11 Recommend Reply



Cheltenham Exile

17 hours ago

@Peter De La Roche @John black Mike Cunningham, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, you need to read this, it's a reminder,

"I sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve the Queen in the office of constable, with fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality, upholding fundamental human rights and according equal respect to all people I will, to the best of my power, cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against people and property, and that while I continue to hold said office I will to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law."

5 Recommend Reply



Peter De La Roche

13 hours ago

@Cheltenham Exile **@Peter De La Roche @John black**

Your are totally right. Please add that to the list.

Recommend Reply

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