

Met ready to send 'Plebgate' evidence to prosecutors



Andrew Mitchell resigned as Chief Whip over the affair Yui Mok/FA

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Scotland Yard is preparing to send a file to prosecutors on the confrontation between Downing Street police and a Cabinet minister.

"Plebgate" arose last year after a police log of the incident — in which Andrew Mitchell, the Chief Whip, swore at officers when they stopped him riding his bicycle through the Downing Street gates — was leaked to the press.

Mr Mitchell resigned from his post, despite consistently denying that he had insulted the police officers by calling them "plebs".

It later emerged that one alleged witness to the incident was an off-duty police officer who allegedly fabricated his account of events.

The Met has conducted a lengthy inquiry, taking statements from hundreds of officers in its diplomatic protection group, and is expected to send a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service in the next few days.

Three serving officers and a relative of an officer have been arrested over the account and the passing of information to the media. Four other officers are being investigated for potential disciplinary offences.

Separately, the Independent Police Complaints Commission said it had received referrals from three forces about the conduct of Police Federation representatives who held a meeting with Mr Mitchell at his constituency office.

The officers, from the West Midlands, West Mercia and Warwickshire forces, are being investigated over allegations that they misrepresented Mr Mitchell when they gave interviews after the meeting.

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