

David Leigh, the Observer, has contacted us and raised five further points which he says will form the basis of a story in the continuing saga of Mark Thatcher, Cementation and Oman this Sunday:

- he put to Downing Street last week that he was proposing to say that Mrs Thatcher had raised the subject of his son and his association with Cementation during a conversation with the Sultan in Salalah. He wants to confirm that we are still offering no comment;
- he will refer to a company called Blake-Down Chipman with which Dennis Thatcher is associated, Cementation invited this company to bid for a land-scaping contract last year at the University. (When asked he said he was stating this as a matter of fact and not drawing any inference);
- he is going to say that Mark Thatcher might have got a commission payment of up to £1million on the deal. There has been no denial of suggestions in the press this week that MT received at least **£350,000;**
- he will say Cementation made payments to four Omani Government Ministers through a company called Sico. These payments totalled between £5-10million;
- he will say negotiations were held over the Oman contract between Downing Street and Tim Lamdon - he is a middle-man in Omani circles. When asked to expand Leigh said that this man had meetings with MT and DT and he was involved in negotiations with officials over the Sultan's State Visit to London.

ANDREA MACLEAN

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