ANDREW MARR:
My next guest, Theresa May, enthused the Tory conference with her tough words about immigration. She was widely applauded for refusing an American demand that a British internet hacker should be extradited. This week’s police commissioner elections are close to her heart, but they haven’t excited very much enthusiasm around the country. She’s also been toying with the idea of a single big inquiry into the child abuse stories (real and imagined) which have made so much mayhem, including of course at the BBC. Home Secretary, welcome. Perhaps I could start by asking you about the BBC? What’s your reaction to last night’s news and how serious do you think the crisis is? I mean what needs to be done next?

THERESA MAY:
Well I think it was the right decision that George Entwistle took last night to resign. I think it is a serious issue. I think there is a question of trust and credibility and rebuilding some trust and credibility into the BBC. It’s a renowned national institution, but also it has a worldwide ground as well. And I think the issue is that of course at the core of the question about the Newsnight piece on North Wales was a question about quality of journalism, and of course that goes to the heart of what the BBC is about.
ANDREW MARR:
What the BBC is for, absolutely. On the general child abuse issue, there are so many inquiries now going on inside the BBC, outside the BBC, all around the place, there has been the argument made that there should actually be a single, big, judge led national inquiry into it all.

THERESA MAY:
Yes, that argument has been made. It’s been raised in the House of Commons and outside Parliament. At the moment I think the important thing is to make sure that we get the facts straight and that’s why I think the police investigation and the inquiry into the Waterhouse Inquiry in relation to North Wales particularly are so important - looking back to just ask the question was everything done properly, was everything followed that should have been followed? As you know, in relation to North Wales, Keith Bristow, who’s Director General of the National Crime Agency, has been asked by the Chief Constable to come in with the assets of the NCA, SOCA, CEOP and others, to look at was everything followed that should have been because there are some allegations that actually the inquiry didn’t go as far as it should have done.

ANDREW MARR:
Indeed there have been. So you don’t sound like you are persuaded at the moment that there is a need for another big independent inquiry?

THERESA MAY:
No, not at the moment.

ANDREW MARR:
Right, okay.

THERESA MAY:
I’ve said that if at the end of establishing the facts, there is a case, then of course we will look at it. But I think the important thing now is let’s let the police and others get on with the job of doing … of establishing the facts and of course in the police investigations seeing whether there are any criminal charges that need to be followed.
ANDREW MARR:
We were talking in the paper review about the Leveson Inquiry. Everybody is waiting for that; it’s coming soon. You’re quoted in one of the papers, The Mail on Sunday, as being among the cabinet ministers who really don’t want to see statutory regulation of the British press. Is that right?

THERESA MAY:
Well I’ve said, and I said indeed in my evidence to Leveson, that I thought it was important that we retain a free press. I’m not going to say whether I’m for statutory regulation or not because I’m actually one of the recipients of the Leveson Report. So together with Maria Miller, the DCMS Secretary, we are the people to whom Leveson will be reporting, so I don’t think it’s right for us to pre-judge at this stage.

ANDREW MARR:
But just to quote the Prime Minister’s words, he said that he would accept the proposals made by Lord Leveson unless they were “bonkers”. That remains the case, does it?

THERESA MAY:
Well I’m expecting that we’re going to get a very full report from Lord Leveson. We will look at it very carefully. But, as I say, it’s not for me to pre-judge that or to pre-judge our response.

ANDREW MARR:
Let’s look forward to this week’s police commissioner elections. This has been touted as a way of getting direct democracy across the country - England and Wales - into the running of the police. And yet if it turns out that perhaps only 15 or 20 per cent of people bother to vote, what kind of mandate will these new commissioners really have?

THERESA MAY:
Well they will have more of a democratic mandate than the police authorities that they are replacing. But I think…you know as I go out and about the country - as you might
imagine, Andrew, I’ve been around and about looking at campaigns, seeing what is happening out there on the streets - actually when you talk to people about police and crime commissioners, they are interested in it and they do think it’s a good idea because only 7 per cent of people know that police authorities are there that they can go to if they’ve got an issue with the police. We now know … We’ve got elections coming up. The latest survey showed 62 per cent of people were aware of police and crime commissioner elections. So we’ve got people … elections coming up that will be for an individual … People will know, they will have had an opportunity to vote; and if that individual doesn’t do their job, they can then be ousted at the next election.

ANDREW MARR:
But turnout really does matter, doesn’t it, because these new commissioners will no doubt have tough conversations, to put it politely, with the top local copper, and if it turns out relatively few people have voted for them, they are going to have less authority to make big and controversial changes? I mean the policemen may well say I’ve got more people in my force than voted for you.

THERESA MAY:
What I think police and crime commissioners will do and what I’m seeing from candidates is they will genuinely be a voice for local people because they’re not just going to sit behind a desk. I think they’re going to get out and about. They’re going to be able to talk to the chief constable about what really matters to people on the ground. And what we saw under the last government was that there was too much control from Whitehall, too much target setting, trying to tell the police what to do because government decided what was important. Actually what’s important is what matters on the ground to local people …

ANDREW MARR:
No, I do understand the principle.

THERESA MAY:
… and that’s where the voice of the Police and Crime Commission will be.

ANDREW MARR:
I completely understand the principle, but I mean you must be slightly disappointed. There was a great deal of optimism that you know independent minded, unusual people from all around would come and stand for election. Actually that proves very expensive to do if you don’t have a party machine behind you and what you’ve got is an awful lot of political retreads, without being too unpleasant to them.

**THERESA MAY:**
We have got 54 independent standing across, but these are new elections obviously and it sometimes takes time for people to feel that they can stand in these elections. We’ve got out of the 192 candidates, I think it is in total, 54 of them are independent. The Labour Party does have a large number of ex MPs standing. Indeed they’ve had …

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yeah, yeah. Okay, no names, no names.

**THERESA MAY:**
... an MP actually standing …

**ANDREW MARR:**
No names. *(May laughs)* We must be very careful about that. But there is going to be conflict presumably with chief constables. That’s part of the point.

**THERESA MAY:**
Well no, I think … I don’t think … there doesn’t have to be conflict with the chief constables, and this is the important point. The chief constables retain their operational independence. They decide who they’re going to arrest, who they’re going to investigate. The Police and Crime Commission have set a strategic direction for the police. I don’t think there will be the conflict. Just look at the example that we’ve got because we have a Police and Crime Commissioner in place already in London. It’s effectively, although it formally happened in January this year, effectively the Mayor of London and his deputy has been the Police and Crime Commissioner for some time.
ANDREW MARR:
There was a fair amount of friction there going back to the previous chief copper in London.

THERESA MAY:
But what we’ve seen, what we’ve seen (coughs) excuse me from the Mayor is he absolutely laid out you know in strategic terms, there were certain areas that he wanted to see being tackled - things like problems … late night London transport, late night and so forth. That has happened.

ANDREW MARR:
Yeah.

THERESA MAY:
So he’s been able to do that and take the voice of the people to the police, but on the other hand champion the police as well.

ANDREW MARR:
Let’s turn to immigration. David Cameron famously said he wanted it to be down to tens of thousands. You’re nowhere near that. It’s still enormous compared with his ambition. And I think the number of people as it were who’ve absconded, we don’t know where they were who’ve come into this country is something like the population of Iceland. There is a real problem of grip here, isn’t there?

THERESA MAY:
On the … First of all in relation to the tens of thousands, that is still our aim - that we will get migration down to the tens of thousands. In the last figures, which were to the end of last December, we saw the first significant fall - 30,000 fewer net migrants - first significant fall for many years. And if we look at the visas situation to June of this year, June 2012, we see a significant cut in the number of visas, particularly in students - 90,000 down just by actually getting out abuse of the system. So there’s more work to be done. There is …

ANDREW MARR:
There’s a huge amount more work to be done.

**THERESA MAY:**
There’s a huge amount more work to be done and there is more work to be done on enforcement. We’re stepping up our enforcement activity. So we are acting across the board on this, but we still have that intention. Immigration has been good, but it needs to be controlled and that’s what we’re doing.

**ANDREW MARR:**
The archive is getting bigger though, isn’t it, of the cases that haven’t been resolved?

**THERESA MAY:**
We are stepping up our … There are some issues to deal with in the UK Borders Agency, but we are stepping up our enforcement activity. We are now you know removing more people, we are getting more people on planes to countries where they should be rather than here. But this does take time. This is not something that you can wave a magic wand and suddenly it changes overnight.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yes. Do you think there is a realistic practical chance of delaying the arrival of Romanian and Bulgarian free migration to this country? Yvette Cooper, your opposite number, said that Labour would support you on that, but the legal position vis-à-vis the EU is very, very difficult to turn round.

**THERESA MAY:**
Well I’m looking at free movement generally across the EU.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Yuh.

**THERESA MAY:**
*(coughs)* Originally it was free movement of workers. It’s been extended through gradually over the years and I’m looking at this in three areas. First of all, there is a growing group of countries in the European Union who are very concerned about the
abuse of free movement. That’s looking particularly at issues like sham marriage, forged documents and so forth, and we’re working together to reduce abuse of free movement. I will be looking at the transitional controls on Romania and Bulgaria end December 2013. I will be looking at what we call the pull factors - what is it that attracts people sometimes to come over here to the United Kingdom - so looking at issues about benefits and access to the health service and things like that. And then we’re doing a wider piece of work across matters relating to Europe more generally but including free movement about that balance of powers between us and the EU.

**ANDREW MARR:**

But it’s really quite soon now that the Bulgarian and Romanian issue will be tested by people arriving at our airports and our ports and the question is are you going to be able to stop them coming in?

**THERESA MAY:**

There are no further transitional controls that we can put on …

**ANDREW MARR:**

So the answer is no.

**THERESA MAY:**

… but the transitional controls end in December 2013, but that’s where the importance of looking at some of the issues about what it is that is attracting people to come here in terms of things like our benefit system and access to the National Health Service is so important.

**ANDREW MARR:**

One of the trivial stories in today’s papers really but it’s caused a lot of comment is Nadine Dorries on I’m A Celebrity. We were just discussing it just now and somebody said this is setting the cause of women in politics back considerably. Do you agree with that?

**THERESA MAY:**

Well what I agree with is that Nadine shouldn’t be in the jungle. She should be
actually doing her job as an MP.

**ANDREW MARR:**
The other jungle, the Westminster jungle?

**THERESA MAY:**
*(laughs)* Well some might call it that. But I think she should be doing her job for her constituents and in the House of Commons.

**ANDREW MARR:**
And if she comes back and does that, can she come back into the Conservative Party, do you think?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well that would be a matter for the whips to take decision at the time. But I think that what she should be doing is being here and doing her job.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Alright, let’s just finish briefly by returning to the BBC story if we may. There are people who think this is so serious that things like the future of the licence fee, the royal charter, the institution itself will come under threat if this is not well handled. Just analyse for us the nature or the scale of what’s happening here? Is this one of those embarrassing, difficult, awful things that occupies the papers for a few days and then goes away or is there something fundamental?

**THERESA MAY:**
Well I think, if I may say, I think it’s sort of between the two in a sense in that there is an issue here about quality of journalism, which is what the BBC has been renowned for over the years, so that strikes at the heart of the BBC. What matters now is how the BBC deals with it and what the BBC puts in place to ensure that it can restore public trust and can make the sort of programmes, carry on making the sort of programmes that people respect it for.

**ANDREW MARR:**
So you would expect to see quite a lot of changes to come …

**THERESA MAY:**
Well I expect …

**ANDREW MARR:**
… both in people and in structures?

**THERESA MAY:**
I think the BBC has got a job to do to restore that trust.

**ANDREW MARR:**
Home Secretary, thank you very much indeed for joining us. And a reminder that the police commissioner elections take place on Thursday and you can find full details of all the candidates standing and all 41 police force areas affected on the BBC news website. Just type police elections into the search box and all … well almost all your questions will be answered.

**INTERVIEW ENDS**