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BY EMAIL ONLY

Michael Lockwood
Director General IOPC
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Dear Michael,

Sir Richard Henriques' questions in relation to Operation Kentia

I am clear on the necessity to demonstrate that the policing system is responding to the issues that have arisen from Operation Midland and subsequent reviews. I welcome the work you have done to improve the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), but there remain concerns about the conduct of Operation Kentia which perpetuate this sense of injustice.

I am glad that, as part of the Home Affairs Committee inquiry on the police complaints system, you will likely have the chance to address some of these concerns head on. I would be grateful if, ahead of this, you can respond directly to the points raised by Sir Richard Henriques in his open letter published in the Daily Mail on 11 February. In particular, responding to the following questions which are specific to decisions taken by the IOPC in relation to Operation Kentia:-

Q4: Whose decision was it to investigate mere misconduct as opposed to gross misconduct or criminal conduct when a district judge was misled by false evidence?

Q5: How can the exoneration of the DAC without cross-examination be justified?

Q6: Whose decision was it to exonerate the DAC and detective superintendent (DSU) after four months – long before an attempt was made to interview the more junior officers?

Q8: Why did it take some three years to complete an investigation when the two most senior officers were exonerated after four months?

Q9: Why was a person lacking the appropriate skill and experience appointed as lead investigator in such a high profile and important investigation?

In the interests of transparency, I would be grateful if you could publish your response so that it is available to the Committee and to the public.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP