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THE PRIME MINISTER

9 May 2011

Thank you for your letter of 9 May.

You kindly told me at the start of the year that you felt that it would be right for you to leave the Government around the time of the local elections.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the service you have given both as Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism in the first year of the Coalition Government, and also for the years in the run-up to the last election in which you advised me and helped draw up many of the policies which the Government is now implementing. I asked a lot when I invited you to step into the world of active politics, and you responded with typical dedication and tenacity.

You can be very proud of the part you have played, and the impact you have made. You drew up the original plans for the National Security Council, and the National Security Strategy which underpins its work. Today the National Security Council is at the heart of the Government's national security machinery, helping to harness the efforts of the entire government to keep this country safe. You have helped to ensure that security and liberty are more appropriately balanced, and dramatically strengthened the Government's strategy to prevent young minds being poisoned and radicalised. You have also rightly insisted that cyber security should receive much greater attention, which is now happening. I am delighted you have agreed to continue to play a role in this vital area.

Above all, I want to thank you for the wise advice you have given me over many years on national security issues. I have greatly appreciated your great experience in this field. I look forward to staying in touch, and wish you the very best for the future.

The Right Honourable The Baroness Neville-Jones