



Home Office

Sir David Normington KCB
PERMANENT SECRETARY

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

The Rt Hon David Davis MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

8 February 2007

Dear Mr Davis,

COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS – PRESS BRIEFING

Thank you for your letter of 6 February about the media handling of the police counter-terrorism operation in Birmingham last week.

As you will recall, the Home Secretary and Attorney General both expressed concern about the media reporting of the operation on the day of the arrests. Their joint statement on that day reminded the media not to do anything which would prejudice the current operation or the future trial.

Operational issues are a matter for the Chief Constable and it is normal practice in such cases for the police to take the lead in briefing the press and public on ongoing operations and in deciding what can safely be put in the public domain. The Home Office does not comment on operational matters. These practices apply to everyone in the Department, including Special Advisers.

Yours sincerely

David Normington

DAVID NORMINGTON