

Public statements made by the Home Office regarding the death of Alexander Litvinenko in November 2006

24/11/2006

Media statement: Home Secretary John Reid

“The Metropolitan Police are currently investigating the death of Alexander Litvinenko which is believed to be linked to the presence of a radioactive substance in his body. As part of this investigation, the police have called in expert assistance to search for any residual radioactive material at a number of locations. The health authorities will keep the public informed as appropriate. Anybody who is concerned should contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647, who have been briefed about this issue.”

27/11/2006

Oral Statement: Home Secretary John Reid

“This statement provides a factual account of the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Litvinenko on 23 November 2006. There is an ongoing police investigation and for obvious reasons I am limited in what I can say to ensure the integrity of any judicial process. I, along with the Foreign Secretary and Health Secretary have co-ordinated the government's response on this incident. In the late afternoon of Thursday 23 November the police confirmed with the Health Protection Agency that a significant quantity of the radioactive isotope Polonium-210 had been found in Mr Litvinenko's urine. The material was identified following extensive tests by forensic toxicologists. In response to this finding police liaised closely with experts to search for any residual radioactive material at a number of locations in London. Police have now confirmed that traces of Polonium-210 have been found at certain locations including the Itsu sushi restaurant at 167 Piccadilly, in some areas of the Millennium Hotel, Grosvenor Square and at Mr Litvinenko's home in Muswell Hill, London. Tests are continuing at a number of locations. The police are continuing with an extensive examination of CCTV footage to trace possible witnesses, to examine Mr Litvinenko's movements at relevant times, including when he first became ill and identify people he may have met. Following the confirmation of the presence of Polonium-210, the Health Protection Agency investigated clinical areas at Barnet Hospital and University College Hospital. One area in the intensive care unit remains closed at University College Hospital. All other areas at these hospitals are functioning as normal on the advice of the Health Protection Agency. The Health Protection Agency have requested that anyone who was in the Itsu restaurant, Piccadilly, or who was in the Millennium Hotel on 1 November to contact NHS Direct where further advice is available. In addition the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, issued advice to GPs and hospitals on the risks and clinical implications of exposure to Polonium-210. NHS Direct have so far received approximately 500 calls relating to this incident. A small number of people have been invited to take follow-up tests as a precaution. I emphasise that the Health Protection Agency have made clear the very precautionary nature of this invitation. The ITSU restaurant remains closed and the Government Decontamination Service are in discussions with the owners about the clean up process. A bar and various locations at the

Millennium Hotel are currently closed to the public. Ongoing work is taking place at the hotel and at Mr Litvinenko's residence. The Coroner will decide if a post mortem will take place following advice from the Health Protection Agency. Mr Litvinenko's body is currently at a London mortuary. The Russian Ambassador was called to the Foreign Office on 24 November. He was asked to convey to the Russian authorities our expectation that they should be ready to offer all necessary cooperation to the investigation as it proceeds."

28/11/2006

Media statement: Home Office spokesperson

"The Home Secretary today chaired a meeting of COBR to oversee the events surrounding the death of Alexander Litvinenko. COBR received reports from the police and health authorities amongst others. Purely on a precautionary basis scientific teams have been testing a number of locations identified as part of the police investigation over the last few days. Today they have started tests on two aircraft at Heathrow Airport and are making arrangements for a third plane to be tested. This is to assess if there is any risk to public health. The Home Secretary expects to make a statement to Parliament tomorrow."

30/11/2006

Oral statement: Home Secretary John Reid

"This statement provides an update on the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Litvinenko on 23 November 2006. As I made clear to the House on Monday, I remain limited in what I can say to ensure the integrity of the police investigation. I continue to work with my colleagues across government to ensure an appropriate response to this developing situation. In my previous statement, I highlighted the issues being addressed by government in response to the death of Mr Litvinenko. I confirmed that traces of the radioactive isotope Polonium-210 had been found in Mr Litvinenko's urine and at several London locations. To date, around 24 venues have or are being monitored and experts have confirmed traces of contamination at around 12 of these venues. Police continue to trace possible witnesses and examine Mr Litvinenko's movements at relevant times. It is probable that the investigation will continue to bring additional locations to our attention for screening. I would stress that the Health Protection Agency continues to reassure members of the public that the risk of exposure to this substance remains low. As at 23.00 on 29 November NHS Direct had received approximately 1700 calls. 69 people have been referred by NHS direct to the HPA as a precaution. 52 people have been contacted and 18 referred to a special clinic or have been referred to an appropriate clinic in their area. To date 29 urine tests have been returned, none of the results show any cause for concern. Earlier today, the Coroner opened the inquest into Mr Litvinenko's death. That inquest was formally adjourned pending further scientific evidence and investigation by the Police. The post mortem is expected to take place tomorrow. As confirmed last night, two British Airways aircraft are being monitored by experts at London Heathrow. I can confirm early results show low levels of a radioactive substance onboard both aircraft. The risk to public health is low but passengers who wish to receive further advice should in the first instance contact the special helpline or website set up by British Airways to confirm if they were on one of the aircraft. If they were and are concerned they should contact NHS direct for further advice. A third BA aircraft is on the ground in Moscow (Domodedovo airport). BA has decided not to return it to London until the position is clearer and the Government is in contact with BA over the next steps. A fourth aircraft of interest, which is a Boeing 737 leased by Transaero arrived at London Heathrow Terminal 1 this morning. Passenger details will be collected and HPA will contact individuals if any matters of concern are found. Scientists continue to monitor the aircraft. The Foreign Secretary spoke to the

Russian Foreign Minister on Wednesday 29 November and requested all necessary assistance with the public health aspects of the incident. In addition, she formally requested all necessary co-operation with the ongoing investigation. The Russian foreign minister assured her this co-operation would be forthcoming. We will be contacting other governments where planes may have landed. I hope that this statement and various bulletins issued by the health authorities have given a degree of reassurance in what is an understandably worrying time for many travellers.”

Public statements made by the Home Office regarding the subsequent attempt to extradite Andrey Lugovoy from Russia for the murder of Mr Litvinenko in 2007

22/5/07 and 14/6/07

Media statement: Home Office spokesperson

“It is long standing policy that we do not go into detail about individual extradition requests.”

5/7/07

Media statement: Home Office spokesperson

“We can confirm we have now received a formal response from the Russian authorities through the established channels. This has been forwarded to the CPS who are the prosecuting authority. It is now for the Crown Prosecution Service to assess that response.”

Date

[XX June 2014]