



HM Government

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Thank you for your letter of 23 May, in which you raised concerns about the conduct of Dominic Cummings, special adviser to the Prime Minister, in respect of the “lockdown” regulations.

On 24 May, the Prime Minister explained that Mr Cummings had given him a full account of his actions and the reasons for his decisions, which he then set out publicly on 25 May. Paragraph 9 of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that: “The responsibility for the management and conduct of special advisers, including discipline, rests with the Minister who made the appointment”. The Prime Minister accepted Mr Cummings’s explanation of his conduct, commenting that: “My conclusion is that I think he acted reasonably, legally ... with integrity and with care for his family and for others”.

The Prime Minister authorised Mr Cummings’s statement to the media on 25 May, in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, given the continuing public interest in this matter. As the event related to his conduct in his official role, I considered it appropriate for the No10 Press Office to facilitate it on Government premises.

As you will appreciate, the determination of whether Mr Cummings’s conduct breached the regulations is ultimately a matter for the Durham Constabulary.

Yours sincerely,

MARK SEDWILL