



Home Office

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Paul McKeever
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05 AUG 2010

Dear Paul

Health and Safety in Policing

Thank you for your letter of 28 June 2010 regarding health and safety in policing.

I would like to offer you my reassurance regarding the Government's intentions in respect of health and safety policy.

As you know, this Coalition Government is committed to supporting professional responsibility by backing frontline officers to use their discretion in dealing with incidents and to exercise a common sense approach to policing. This is partly about stripping away the doctrine and red-tape that can get in the way of officers doing their job effectively, including those health and safety practices that can sometimes present a barrier to police officers from intervening in order to protect the public.


This is why we are now reviewing health and safety law and practice across the public sector and Lord Young's Review will report on this in due course.

I want to ensure that police officers who put themselves in harm's way are properly supported and recognised for doing so. My officials are already working closely with the police and other partners, including the Health and Safety Executive, to look at the best way of achieving this without taking any

action that will put your members at unnecessary risk or removing appropriate safeguards in the legislation.

I am grateful for your offer to be part of this discussion and your regular meetings with the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice present an opportunity to make sure that we engage constructively on this going forward.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theresa May', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Rt Hon. Theresa May MP