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March 2016

RIOT COMPENSATION BILL

I am writing following Second Reading of the Riot Compensation Bill on 26 February. During the debate, you raised the position regarding riot compensation claims that remain outstanding after the August 2011 riots. I agreed to provide an update, which I am now in a position to be able to do.

I would first like to thank you for your support for the Bill and the thoughtfulness of your contribution to the debate. I am delighted that there is common ground across parties that current riot compensation arrangements do need to be improved and modernised, maintaining a safety net for the most vulnerable members of society.

In the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) area there are seven 'uninsured claims' outstanding. Five of these relate to a large national retailer who had five separate stores that incurred minor damage. These are relatively low value claims which are expected to be resolved soon. The reason for the delay has been the length of time taken to receive the claimant's supporting evidence. The other two uninsured claims are part of the Sony litigation case, which I am unable to comment on further given that the matter is subject to ongoing litigation.

There are no other uninsured claims outstanding in the MPS area. There are a further 38 outstanding claims from insurance companies that are awaiting resolution. These claims will not affect domestic householders or businesses whose claims will have already been settled by their insurer.

In the Greater Manchester force area there are two outstanding claims, both of these are from insurance companies. There are also a further two claims from insurance companies being dealt with by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's office. Merseyside do not have any outstanding riot compensation claims.

As you will understand I cannot comment on individual decisions made on claims by Police and Crime Commissioners and the Metropolitan Police Service (on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime).

I hope this letter has addressed your concerns and I would like to assure you that the handling of claims has been entirely in keeping with how insurers handle claims after any major event. I am grateful for your interest in this Bill and look forward to your continuing support.

I am copying this letter to Peers who spoke during the Second Reading debate and will place a copy in the House Library.

With best wishes,



Rt Hon Lord Bates