



Home Office

Rt Hon John Hayes MP
Minister of State for Security

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Sir Keir Starmer MP
House of Commons,
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06 JUN 2016

Dear Keir,

Thank you for your letter of earlier today regarding the review of the operational case for bulk powers, which will be announced tomorrow during Report stage of the Investigatory Powers Bill. I can confirm that the basic framework for the review will be as set out in your letter.

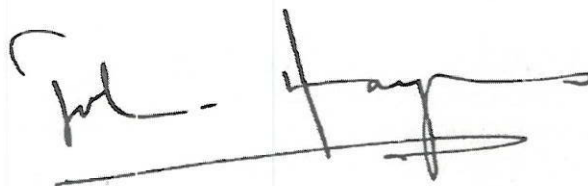
On your point about the composition of the review team, you are quite right that the team will consist of a security cleared barrister who has significant experience working as a special advocate acting against the Government in terrorism cases, a technical expert who supported David on his investigatory powers review, and a former senior law enforcement officer with significant operational experience and knowledge of the use of a wide range of investigatory techniques. David Anderson has hand-picked this team and we are confident that together they have the range and depth of knowledge needed to undertake a comprehensive review.

In relation to your second point, it is absolutely the case that this review will be assessing the specific question of whether the bulk capabilities provided for in the Bill are necessary. The review team will critically appraise the need for bulk capabilities, which will include an assessment of whether the same result could have been achieved through alternative investigative methods.

On your third point, the Terms of Reference for the review makes clear that the Government and Security and Intelligence Agencies will provide David Anderson and his team with all necessary information, access and assistance as is needed for the review to be undertaken effectively. We are absolutely clear that there is nothing to be gained, and much to be lost, by in any way restricting the review team's access to sensitive and classified material where this is necessary to inform the review process.

On the issue of timing, you are correct that the review will be concluded in time to inform Parliament's consideration of Parts 6 and 7 of the Bill at Lords Committee. We are confident that David Anderson and his team will have the necessary time and resources to undertake a detailed assessment of the necessity of these provisions.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to offer these binding assurances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Rt Hon John Hayes MP