



Home Office

Rt Hon Baroness Neville-Jones DCMG
MINISTER OF STATE FOR SECURITY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

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Rt. Hon. Baroness Williams of Crosby
House of Lords
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10 NOV 2010

Dear Shirley,

GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO UK BORDER AGENCY ESCORTING CONTRACTORS

I am writing regarding a request you made in the House on 2nd November in relation to a question asked by Baroness Neuberger regarding the death of Jimmy Mubenga. You requested that I place a copy of guidance provided to UK Border Agency escorting contractors in the Library. I thought at the time that this was a reasonable request and agreed to make arrangements for this.

The document I believe you were referring to is the Use of Force Manual, which is owned by the National Offender Management Service; escorts are required only to use techniques set out in the manual. However, I have since learned that the document is restricted on the grounds that it could put at risk good order and discipline in our prisons, as the knowledge of specific techniques could be used against officers or to counter attempts to restrain them.

For this reason, I cannot release of a full copy of the manual, but have made arrangements for a redacted version to be placed in the Library. This contains

information about communication skills, medical considerations, personal safety and production of incident reports. However, the sections detailing the various restraint techniques have been removed.

You may also be interested in the UK Border Agency's operating standards for escorts, one of which is about the use of restraint. The standards are available on its website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/immigrationremovalcentres/.

Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the National Offender Management Service is currently conducting a review of the techniques used by escorts on aircraft to see if they can be made even safer. This work is expected to take several months, but if techniques are adapted, they will be reflected in updated instruction manuals for escorts.

I apologise that I cannot release an unedited version of the existing manual, but trust that you will understand the reasons why. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the House Library.

Yours ever,

Paula

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RT HON BARONESS NEVILLE-JONES DCMG