

23 November 2007

Boris Johnson  
County Hall  
Riverside Building  
Belvedere Road  
London SE1 7PB

Dear Boris

I am pleased to hear your recent comments that you would be able to work with me next year were you to become Mayor of London.

However, I am writing to you to say that I consider your comments that it could be argued that MPS officers are "trigger happy" to be outrageous. I would remind you that out of over ten thousand potential firearms incidents attended by the MPS in the past year, shots were fired on only three occasions.

I would suggest in the strongest possible terms that you withdraw your remarks.

In addition, am sure you will also note the inherent flaw in your broader argument that officers' actions in this case, before Jean Charles de Menezes entered Stockwell underground station, were constrained by Health and Safety considerations. That flaw is that, prior to the recent prosecution, no one had ever dreamt of the application of this legislation to fast moving police operations, where life is at risk.

I should add that it remains my view that such a vehicle for prosecution should never have been used and should never be used again.

Yours sincerely

Ian Blair  
Commissioner

cc: Neil Cratchley - Metropolitan Police Federation  
Bill Tillbrook - CO19