

Chief Constable Jon Boutcher
Operation Kenova

10 June 2020

Dear Chief Constable

As you may know, the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the UK Government's new proposals for dealing with legacy issues in Northern Ireland. This inquiry follows a written statement made by the Secretary of State to the House of Commons on 18 March on *Addressing Northern Ireland Legacy Issues*. A link to the inquiry terms of reference can be found [here](#). And here is a link to the written evidence that the inquiry has received <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/282/addressing-the-legacy-of-northern-irelands-past-the-uk-governments-new-proposals/publications/written-evidence/>.

A significant part of the Government's new proposals is its approach to the investigations process of legacy cases, with a new independent body due to be set up to manage the legacy system. The Government has said it will ensure that "investigations which are necessary are effective and thorough, but quick", but that "only cases in which there is a realistic prospect of a prosecution as a result of new compelling evidence would proceed to a full police investigation and if necessary, prosecution", with remaining cases being permanently closed.¹

Several Members of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee have raised your providing evidence to the inquiry on Operation Kenova, which is relevant to the Committee's inquiry. However, the Committee is aware that Operation Kenova involves live investigations into sensitive matters, which might well constrain your remarks and the Committee's questions. With that point in mind, the Committee would like to know whether you would be kind enough to answer some questions on broad policy in writing? In that case, the Committee would publish your answers as written evidence to the inquiry.

Without referring to individual cases, the Committee would be interested in your views on:

- Operation Kenova's approach to its investigations process and management of cases;
- What steps the Operation Kenova team takes to try to ensure that its investigations are ECHR Article 2 compliant;
- How those working under Operation Kenova manage family liaison and engagement and maintain confidence in the process from victims, families and interested parties;
- The role and importance of the Independent Steering Group and Victims Focus Group in Operation Kenova;

¹ [Addressing Northern Ireland Legacy Issues](#), Written statement by Brandon Lewis MP, 18 March 2020

- What lessons the Government could learn from Operation Kenova and apply to its new legacy investigations process; and
- Any other comments you might like to make on the Government's new plans for legacy investigations.

IF you have any questions about this request or any other aspect of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's Legacy inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Inquiry Manager (Apprentice)
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

House of Commons

