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10 DOWNING STREET
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www.pm.gov.uk

From the Private Secretary

8 August 2007

Dear Alice,

IRAQ: LOCALLY ENGAGED STAFF

Thank you for Stephen Hickey's letter of 3 August on the above, covering the information note from the Iraq Senior Officials Group, which I have discussed with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister recognises that this is a genuinely complex area and that we need to consider all the options carefully. Given the concerns about the safety of current and former employees we need to take their security very seriously.

The Prime Minister has asked that the Cabinet Office co-ordinated process quickly completes a review of our policy, in order to reach a coherent Whitehall-wide response to the problem. This should establish a minimum threshold for assistance and consider whether we could offer more help to a subset of Iraqi employees, and if so against what criteria. In particular the Prime Minister has asked that we consider the possibility of settlement in third countries. In considering these options the review should assess their implications, including the impact on our operations in Iraq and other operational theatres, as well as for our asylum policy.

This review should report to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary shortly after Ministers return.

I am copying this letter to Ian Forber (MoD), Howard Taylor (DfID), (HMT), David Young (Home Office), John Oliver (DWP), PS/"C", Gus O'Donnell, Simon McDonald, Margaret Aldred and Richard Mottram (Cabinet Office), and Martin Davidson (British Council).

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Yours ever,



CHRISTIAN TURNER

Alice Carver, FCO

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