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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Michael Jay KCMG  
*The Permanent Under Secretary of State*

Telephone:  
Facsimile:  
e-mail:

Ms Sue Street  
Permanent Secretary  
DCMS  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

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*Dear Sue,*

#### SECURITY IN IRAQ

My letter of 10 July set out the security arrangements we and DfID were putting in place for secondees from other Government Departments to the CPA in Iraq. You might like to know where matters now stand.

The joint FCO/DfID package is in place and continues to grow to meet the operational requirements of staff working in CPA. Our security experts have reviewed the measures and procedures following the bomb at the UN (they were in Iraq at the time) and have increased the assets we are providing. The guarding arrangements for CPA offices are under the control of the US military, so our additional measures focus mainly on transport and security management for UK civilian staff.

We now have 18 armoured vehicles in Baghdad for travel outside the Secure Zone. By the end of November there will be 68 vehicles in country, including for staff working for CPA in Basra and the Governorate Teams which are being established outside Baghdad. For each of these vehicles there is a 2-man Armed Protection Team (APT). The contractors (Control Risks) now have 72 personnel protecting our staff in CPA and will be providing a total complement of 110 men, including for CPA Basra and the Governorate Teams. All the vehicles are provided with radios and hand held radios are available for the use of CPA secondees when travelling outside the Secure Zone.

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FCO/DfID secondees are providing security management structures (to assess threats, brief staff and prioritise the use of security assets) in both Baghdad and Basra. We have also drawn up strict security guidelines which all staff must observe in planning and carrying out their travel commitments.

We have succeeded in moving rapidly to enhance the security of the CPA secondees. The feedback from CPA staff in Baghdad on the effectiveness of arrangements now in place has been positive. They have played an essential part in reassuring secondees from all Departments that their safety is paramount and that we have the necessary structures and assets in place to manage the risks of working in such a dangerous environment.

We are now working hard to get the additional assets to Iraq as soon as possible. Given the changing security situation, we are keeping the arrangements under constant review.

I am copying this to Wednesday morning colleagues.

*Tans am,*  
*Michael*

Michael Jay

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