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Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

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*Dear Matthew,*

### UK Contribution to Iraqi Police Training

The Prime Minister may find useful an update on the UK activity in support of the efforts underway in Iraq to re-establish the Iraqi police service.

The Iraqiisation of security is a key element of the transition plan. Establishing an effective Iraqi Police Service is one of the major objectives, and the new political timetable has meant that the strategy had to be both accelerated and expanded.

There are around 45,000 operational police throughout Iraq, and all require some level of retraining. Putting all these officers through three-week in service training from now in the course of this year is the CPA's top policing priority. But the country also needs at least an additional 35,000 new officers recruited and trained before law and order can be fully handed over to Iraqis.

British police officers are involved in both strands of the training programme. UK support to the police effort is one of the major planks of our security sector reform strategy in Iraq

#### Basra

24 additional British police officers will be in place in Basra this week in preparation for the start of police training at the Az Zubayr Academy outside Basra on 27 December. Training in the South has also been on-going for some months now through Royal Military Police in MND (SE). Their co-ordinated programme will now deliver a capacity to train 460 in-service Iraqi police every three weeks. The UK effort in Basra is the first to use fully civilian trainers.

#### Recruit training in Jordan

In Jordan, the first tranche of 500 recruits started training on 29 November. Once fully up and running, the Jordan centre should produce 1500 training recruits per month. 36 British police officers are in place and form the largest international contribution to this project: their work to date is reported as being outstanding. But there are problems at the site. Construction is behind schedule and conditions poor. We are working with the US to ensure this is resolved, but there is likely to be a delay before the capacity of the centre increases beyond 500 recruits at a time. A further 40 UK officers are on standby to join the Jordan project as it expands.

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The Iraqi end of the recruit training programme is less advanced, but the aim is to train up to a further 700 per month at three further sites in Iraq. UK Chief Inspector Mel Goudie is currently running the Baghdad Academy with US military police trainers.

#### Mentoring and Monitoring

It is recognised by all those involved in the police training effort that without follow-up mentoring of new officers at their stations, training has little effect. The deployment of 1500 international civpol officers as mentors to newly trained Iraqi police was originally envisaged as a key part of the CPA's overall policing strategy. But security conditions may make it difficult for international police to deploy to Iraqi police stations in such roles in the immediate future. We are continuing to consider the options but meanwhile the military will fill the gap as far as they are able. MOD are deploying an additional two platoons of RMPs in the MND (SE) area for this purpose.

#### Senior police contribution

The UK's senior input to Iraq policing remains strong. DCC Douglas Brand, senior police adviser in the CPA is responsible for overall policing strategy and implementation, and will be in place for a further 6 months. In the South, ACC Stephen White will be replaced from end January. Both officers' teams are currently being strengthened.

#### Next steps

If the current programmes progress according to plan, there should be a significant increase in police numbers by end March when the US hope coalition forces can withdraw from a great deal of day to day urban policing. Around 6000 new trained police will have boosted the total national force to over 50,000, and the total numbers of internationally-trained police will be approaching 20,000. But we need to be realistic about the figures: numbers do not represent capability, and these police are likely still to need a good degree of monitoring, mentoring and support from the multinational presence, as well as back-up from the Iraqi Civil Defence Forces. We will take stock and write again in March on progress against these targets, and what this means in terms of coalition forces' presence on the streets.

I am copying this letter to Desmond Bowen and

(Cabinet Office).

*L. Owen*

*Kara Owen*

(Kara Owen)

Private Secretary

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