



Home Office

Rt Hon Chris Philp MP  
Minister of State for Crime,  
Policing and Fire

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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7 September 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 23 August to the Home Secretary on behalf of a number of your constituents about the handling of the investigation by the Metropolitan Police into allegations involving the Prince's Foundation. I am replying as the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire.

Police integrity lies at the heart of public confidence in the police and the Government recognises the need for a formal system of police complaints that enables members of the public to raise concerns.

I should explain that police complaints are dealt with under a comprehensive legislative framework which sets out the duties of the police themselves in handling complaints as well as the role and functions of the "police watchdog", the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

While the Government is responsible for this legislation, neither Home Office Ministers or officials are able to intervene in, or comment on, an individual case. This is not due to a lack of concern, but because the police are operationally independent of the Government.

The best way for your constituents to raise their concerns about the handling of the investigation is to make a complaint directly to the Metropolitan Police. The following page of their website includes information about how to do so:

<https://www.met.police.uk/fo/feedback/complaints/complaints/>.

A complaint can also be made by completing the form on the following page of the IOPC's website: <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/complaints/submit-a-complaint>.

Your constituents may also wish to raise their concerns with the Deputy Mayor of London for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden. Like the Government, Police and Crime Commissioners cannot intervene on an operational level, but they are democratically elected to serve their local communities, and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force, including their handling of complaints, on behalf of the public.

I trust this clarifies the Government's position for your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Philp', written in a cursive style.

**Rt Hon Chris Philp MP**