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www.gov.uk/number10

Head of the Direct Communications Unit

12 June 2020

Dear Sir George

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Prime Minister on behalf of your constituents. The Prime Minister understands your constituents' concerns, and greatly appreciates the sacrifices being made every day by families fighting the spread of COVID-19. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

On 24 May, the Prime Minister explained that Mr Cummings had given him a full account of his actions and the reasons for his decisions, which Mr Cummings then set out publicly on 25 May. Mr Cummings explained that he believed he acted appropriately because of the need to care for his young child and protect his family at a time when his home in London had become a target for abuse. The Prime Minister accepted Mr Cummings' explanation of his conduct and stated that "reasonable people may disagree about some of the decisions that he took, but I don't think reasonable people can disagree about what was going through his head at the time and the motivations for those decisions."

Durham Constabulary have made clear they are not taking any further action against Mr Cummings and that by locating himself at his father's premises he did not breach the regulations. The Prime Minister has said he believes Mr Cummings behaved reasonably and he considers the matter closed.

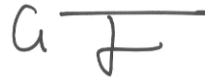
The Prime Minister authorised Mr Cummings' statement to the media on 25 May, in accordance with paragraph 13 of Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, given the continuing public interest in this matter.

As the event related to Mr Cummings' conduct in his official role, the Cabinet Secretary considered it appropriate for the No 10 Press Office to facilitate it on Government premises.

It is now time for the country to move on and focus on tackling the coronavirus pandemic together – and in doing so, we all must stay alert, to control the virus and save lives. I would be grateful if you could share this reply with your constituent.

Thank you, once again, for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cursive 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a stylized 'J'.

CHRIS JENNINGS

The Right Honourable Sir George Howarth MP