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Margaret McKinnon
Clerk, Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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 May 2018

Dear Margaret,

**ON THE RUNS ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEME- UPDATE ON CASES REVIEWED
BY PSNI**

I am writing to provide an update following my letter to you of 19 October 2017 where I provided the PSNI's then most recent figures regarding their review of the priority cases identified by Lady Justice Hallett following her review of the OTR administrative scheme.

As previously noted could I remind you that the review and decisions on further lines of investigation are operational matters for the PSNI, who regularly update the OTR Oversight Board on general progress (but not individual cases).

Please find attached a table of figures which was provided by PSNI to the Northern Ireland Office in April 2018. I would draw to your attention the fact that this table is a snapshot from that particular moment in time and that some of the figures may change should new information come to light during the review process.

If you have any further questions about the detail and composition of these figures, I would recommend they are raised directly with the PSNI.

Yours,

Jonathan Stephens

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Permanent Secretary
Northern Ireland Office

PSNI LEGACY INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH
UPDATE TO NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

The Report by the Rt. Hon Dame Heather Hallett DBE published in July 2014 relating to the on the runs administrative scheme made a number of recommendations. The OTR Oversight Board, chaired by the NIO, is satisfied that the majority of these recommendations have been actioned. A recommendation which involves ongoing operational work for the PSNI is “the PSNI give priority in their review of OTR cases to the 36 individuals whose status changed under Operation Rapid in 2007/08”.

This update is to report on progress with this work. Regular written updates are to be provided by the head of the PSNI Legacy Investigations Branch (LIB) to the NIO Permanent Secretary on 1 October and 1 April of each year, with additional ad hoc updates provided as necessary.

In brief, the way in which the PSNI is conducting its review of the OTR cases is as follows. The LIB identifies incidents potentially associated with the OTR individuals. These incidents are then reviewed for any evidential leads. This review may result in the conclusion that there are no such leads and that incident will then be considered closed. If the review results in the conclusion that there are potential evidential leads, that incident will be passed on for investigation. The review and investigation of incidents linked to the 36 individuals whose status changed under Operation Rapid is given priority, along with a further 4 individuals identified for priority review by Operation Redfield, but the review covers all living OTRs.

Please note these figures provide a snapshot of the situation at a specific time.

Number of nominals who were considered as part of the on the runs administrative scheme.	228
Number of “priority one” nominals identified by Lady Justice Hallett.	36
Number of additional “priority one” nominals identified by Operation Redfield.	4
Number of reviews to be conducted for “priority one” nominals.	482 Priority One reviews. This includes those already completed; however this figure may increase when further research is carried out.
Number of incidents for which forensic submissions have been made to date for “priority one” nominals.	77 submissions made in relation to 52 incidents.
Number of reviews completed for “priority one” Nominals	389
Number of “priority one” nominals whose linked incidents have all been completed. (This may change if additional information becomes available at a later date).	15

Date of provision by Legacy Investigation Branch: 13th April 2018.

Glossary of terms

Nominal	Individual considered as part of the on-the-runs scheme. Not all nominals received OTR letters.
Priority 1	Individuals identified by the Hallett review (36 nominals) or the PSNI (4 nominals) where their 'wanted' status changed.
Review	The examination of the potential involvement of a nominal in an incident. If 4 nominals are linked to one incident, 4 separate reviews will be conducted.
Incident	A specific event, such as a murder or terrorist attack.
Forensic submission	A formal request for forensic examination of exhibits.
Completed	The involvement of OTR nominal(s) in an incident has been examined and there is no evidential or credible opportunity to progress the investigation.

