



## Home Office

### HOME SECRETARY

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Dr Hywel Francis MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee on Human Rights  
7 Millbank  
London  
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14 MAR 2013

*Dear Hywel*

### **SCHEDULE 7 TO THE TERRORISM ACT 2000**

Thank you for your letter of 22 January asking that I publish the responses to the recent public consultation on the operation Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000. I know that the Joint Committee proposed, in its report on the Justice and Security Green Paper, that all responses to government consultations should be placed in the public domain as soon as they are received. However, after careful consideration, I have decided to decline your request.

Current Cabinet Office guidance is that publication of responses, whether in full or in summary, is a matter for each department. Responses to most consultations are published in summary form. This is necessary when, as in the case of the consultation on the operation of Schedule 7, responses received from police forces and individual police officers contain operationally sensitive details that it would be inappropriate to publish for security reasons.

There were 395 responses to the consultation, and I am sure you will appreciate that officials have needed time to read through all of those. The Government's response to the consultation is being prepared and will include a breakdown of the answers respondents gave to the consultation questions and a summary of the narrative responses.

When we publish our response later this spring I will write to you again.

*Yours sincerely*

**The Rt Hon Theresa May MP**