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Home Secretary

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Yvette Cooper MP
House of Commons
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10 March 2018

Dear Yvette,

Thank you for your letter of 6 March concerning allegations of Russian state involvement in a number of deaths in the UK.

The Government was aware of these allegations, and takes seriously any suggestion that a foreign state has engaged in murder on UK soil. As you know, police investigations and coronial inquests at the time did not discover evidence of foul play.

As I stated in the House on 8 March, my immediate priority – and that of the police and other operational partners - is responding to the attempted murders in Salisbury, including decontamination, local reassurance and the criminal investigation itself. I do not want to distract from that focus.

However, in the weeks to come, I will want to satisfy myself that the allegations are nothing more than that. The Police and MI5 agree and will assist in that endeavour. I will write to you again with my conclusions.

I am copying this letter to the Foreign Secretary, Andrew Parker, Lynne Owens and Cressida Dick.

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP

