

Issued as drafted.

DRAFT FOR SIGNATURE OF PS/ MR INGRAM

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Thank you for your letter of 10 August to Mr Ingram. I have been asked to reply on his behalf. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

The Government made it clear in its response to the UN Report that it will not tolerate harassment or intimidation of lawyers and nor will the Chief Constable. Where allegations are made they are investigated and if there is sufficient evidence to substantiate such allegations the appropriate action will be taken. However, as the UN Special Rapporteur states, solicitors have failed to lodge complaints. He has, as the Government has done, encouraged them to do so.

Obviously the documents enclosed must be of concern to Ms Nelson and the others mentioned. The Minister has asked me to say that he hopes that those who produced them can be brought to justice for their threatening behaviour.

We passed the documents immediately to the Chief Constable's office for investigation. They would obviously, given the nature of the material assess the security risk against Ms Nelson.