



Home Office

HOME SECRETARY

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Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
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Dear Boris

23 JAN 2014

WATER CANNON

Thank you for your letter of 6 January setting out your 'in principle' support for water cannon being made available to the MPS for those circumstances where its absence would lead to either greater disorder or the use of more extreme force.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable David Shaw, national policing lead for conflict management, have both told me that there are circumstances in which water cannon – alongside other public order tactics - may be of use in future. Like you, I am keen to ensure that forces have the tools and powers they need to maintain order on our streets.

I note that you intend to undertake a public consultation in January and February; I will be very interested to see the outcome of this and look forward to receiving confirmation of your final decision.

At that point, if still wanted by the police, I will make a decision on whether or not to authorise the use of water cannon in England and Wales.

Yours ever

T May

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP