

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CEP



RESTRICTED

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

10 September 1997

Ken Lindsay Esq
Principal Private Secretary
Northern Ireland Office
Whitehall
London SW1

File in 10/9.

Dear Ken,

PLASTIC BATON ROUNDS

The Secretary of State for Defence copied to the Home Secretary his letter of 5 September to your Minister of State, Mr Ingram. The letter arrived with us today and I will bring it to the Home Secretary's attention on his return to London later this afternoon.

In the meantime, it seems to me that there may be questions raised as to whether the faulty baton rounds in question were given to police forces in England and Wales. I understand that mainland police forces do not have any of the faulty 1996 rounds. The current position is that the Met have a stock of 1996 rounds which are within specification, for any operational need on the mainland and will be receiving additional stocks of new rounds in October.

In case the questioning does stray onto the position on the mainland, press officers may wish to have available this additional line:

"Mainland police forces, which have never used plastic baton rounds operationally, do not have any of the affected rounds."

I understand that consideration is being given now to how the development is to be made public and I would be grateful if the Home Secretary could be kept in the picture.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Holmes (No. 10), Margaret Aldred (MOD) and to Paul Wilkinson (PS to Mr Ingram).

*Yours sincerely,
Ken Sutton.*

K D SUTTON

RESTRICTED