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Meg Hillier MP
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Dear Meg,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August to the Prime Minister regarding Mr Dominic Cummings. I have been asked to respond to you as Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, given the Cabinet Office's role in the governance of special advisers, and I apologise for the delay in sending you this reply.

As you know, on 24 May the Prime Minister explained that Mr Cummings had given him a full account of his actions and the reasons for his decisions, which Mr Cummings then set out publicly on 25 May. The consideration of these matters was discussed orally with the Prime Minister. In consequence the information you have requested is not held in permanent form.

Mr Cummings explained that he believed he acted appropriately because of the need to care for his young child and to protect his family at a time when his home in London had become a target for abuse. The Prime Minister accepted Mr Cummings' explanation of his conduct and stated that "reasonable people may disagree about some of the decisions that he took, but I don't think reasonable people can disagree about what was going through his head at the time and the motivations for those decisions."

Durham Constabulary made clear they would not be taking any further action against Mr Cummings and that by locating himself at his father's premises he did not breach the regulations. The Prime Minister has said he believes that Mr Cummings behaved reasonably and he considers the matter closed.

I am copying this response to Sir Bernard Jenkin, Chair of the Liaison Committee.

Yours ever,

Chloe Smith MP
Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution