



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Robert Buckland MP

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London, SW1H

9 April 2020

Dear Robert,

I am writing as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights regarding comments made by Northamptonshire Chief Constable, Nick Adderley on measures being considered to enforce the lockdown.¹ We completely support the use of reasonable measures to combat the spread of Covid 19 and recognise the enormous strain that police forces are under at this time.

However, several of the comments by Nick Adderley raise questions around human rights. I am referring in particular to the suggestion that the police will install roadblocks and search people's shopping trolleys. This would have no basis in law and would arguably violate Article 8 ECHR (the right to private and family life).

As you are the Secretary of State responsible for human rights can you please let me know:

- a) if you were aware of the comments of the Chief Constable,
- b) whether, and if so on what basis, you believe them to demonstrate an understanding of the need to act proportionately,
- c) if you have discussed with the Home Secretary the need for the police to respect human rights as they go about their vital work supporting the national effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

I look forward to hearing from you.

I wish you well in your work and hope you and your family are staying safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

¹ <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/breaking-police-chief-issues-lockdown-21838760>