

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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Lynn Hubert and David Dixon 15 Lebanon Road Croydon CR0 6UT

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Thank you for taking time to meet me last Friday while you were visiting Costa Rica on the second anniversary of Michael's disappearance. I'm sorry we had to meet under such sad circumstances. It was moving to hear first hand from you about the impact of Michael's disappearance on your family and I admire your resolve to leave no stone unturned in your search for answers.

You asked me to speak to the Costa Rican authorities to pass on your request for a formal invitation to issue to the Metropolitan Police. I raised Michael's case with the Vice President and Vice Foreign Minister at my meeting with them later that day.

The Vice President and Vice Foreign Minister expressed their sympathy with you and your family and confirmed again that any new evidence would be investigated. They also agreed to ask the Costa Rican police to issue a formal invitation to the Metropolitan Police to help review the information available. However, as I explained when we met, it is then for the Metropolitan Police to decide the extent to which they can become involved. This is something that you may wish to explore with them directly. As I mentioned, you may also want to talk to your MP to see if they can offer any help.

I am sorry that you have not felt properly supported by the UK police. I understand that David has been appointed a Family Liaison Officer, DI Andy Rees, who remains open to assisting you in whatever way he can.

I understand that you were able to provide DNA samples to the police in Costa Rica before you left. I am pleased that our consular staff were able to help facilitate this. I recognise that this may have been a difficult step to take, but it will be important information to have available as the search for Michael continues.

Our consular staff will continue to maintain contact with the authorities and to keep you informed of any updates. If you have further questions please contact Annette Banas, Desk Officer for consular matters in Costa Rica at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 020 7008 0192.

Yours sincerely,

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Jeremy Browne MP Minister of State