

DRAFT

Yesterday I had a meeting with Patrick Jephson (Private Secretary to The Princess of Wales) and DAC David Meynell, on the subject of the personal protection of The Princess of Wales, in order to review the arrangements in place over the last few weeks, and to make plans for the future.

Patrick Jephson made clear that Her Royal Highness recognises that the police consider that it would be in her interests to retain personal protection, despite the reduction in her public life, and that she understands and respects the reasons why they hold this view. The Princess, nevertheless, wishes to continue to dispense with police protection in this country, except when her children are with her, or when there is a (at present unforeseen) level of risk of which she is advised, and which she accepts renders protection necessary.

Her Royal Highness has assured Patrick Jephson that she will give him adequate notice of any intention to travel abroad, privately or officially, so that he can then enable a proper assessment of risk in the country concerned to be swiftly and discreetly made. The Princess has said that she is quite content that the host country may impose whatever reasonable security it chooses on her visit, or travel with police protection from this country if the risk assessment recommends it.

The Princess of Wales has undertaken that, in the event of any incident which occurs when she is without personal protection, it may be stated that the absence of protection was her specific wish, and that she knew of the contrary advice offered by the police.

I have consulted The Queen on this subject, and Her Majesty has approved the contents of this letter. I enclose a copy of a letter written from the Cabinet Office to John Sawers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which you may like to have for the record.

(ROBERT FELLOWES)

Sir Clive Whitmore, GCB, CVO.

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