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MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
THE ARMED FORCES

D/Min(AF)/AI 2306/03/Y

2 May 2003

Dear Virginia

Thank you for your letter of 9 April (reference: VB/GC) enclosing an e-mail from your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] about the treatment of Iraqi detainees.

Prisoners of War (PWs) captured by British Forces are being treated strictly in accordance with our obligations under the Geneva Conventions and international law. Captured Iraqis are given prisoner of war status until proved otherwise, and will be treated according to our obligations under the Geneva Convention.

We have worked very closely with the International Commission of the Red Cross (ICRC) who have expressed themselves content with the way we have treated prisoners and detainees throughout this conflict.

We only restrain prisoners if it is felt necessary to do so (for example if we felt that they might seek to escape, or be violent towards the guards or other prisoners). There were a few occasions at the start of the conflict where prisoners were hooded for short periods - this practice has now been stopped.

I hope this is helpful.

The Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP

The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP

Private Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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