



Home Office

Baroness Williams of Trafford
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25 February 2021

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your email to the Home Secretary of 2 February about Julian Assange. Your correspondence has been passed to me for reply as the Security Minister has taken a temporary leave of absence for curative surgery.

I note your comments about the extradition request for Mr Assange, but the request has been dealt with strictly in accordance with the UK's extradition law, the Extradition Act 2003 ("the Act").

As you are aware, following an extradition hearing the District Judge decided that the statutory bars in the Act prohibited Mr Assange's extradition to the US. The Crown Prosecution Service, acting on behalf of the US authorities, has applied for leave to appeal against the Judge's decision.

You ask that the Home Secretary reviews the decision to order Mr. Assange's extradition. However, as the District Judge decided not to send the case to her, the Home Secretary has no role in the case under the Act. As the matter is still before the courts it would not be appropriate for me to comment further.

You also ask that Mr Assange be released with immediate effect and express your concern that he has not been granted bail. The issue of whether a person is remanded in custody or granted bail is a matter for the courts and it is not a matter over which the Home Secretary has any jurisdiction. Similarly, decisions about the placement of a particular prisoner within the Prison Estate are operational decisions made by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.

Finally, I must disagree with your assertion that Mr Assange has been arbitrarily detained without due process. His case has been handled in full accordance with the UK law and his detention has been authorised by the court.

BARONESS WILLIAMS OF TRAFFORD