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Senator Gillibrand,  
Senator Menendez,  
Senator Lautenberg,  
Senator Schumer,

July 2010

Dear Senators,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July 2010 to the Ambassador, to which I have been asked to reply. The Scottish Government shares your concerns about the increased incidence of terrorist attacks.

The decision of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to release Mr Al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds was based on advice from the Director of Health at the Scottish Prison service, who drew on expert advice from a range of specialists. These specialists did not include Professor Sikora, who has been the subject of recent media attention. The decision was also based on the recommendations of the Parole Board and Prison Governor. The medical advice has been made public and is available on the Scottish Government’s website.

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal/lockerbie

The decision to release Mr Al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds was made after careful consideration of all the representations and advice available. The Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament conducted an enquiry earlier this year and published it’s report on 5 February. The report noted that the release of Mr Al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds was considered in the normal way and in accordance with good practice. A copy of the report is available at the Scottish Government’s website.


In light of the above, I hope this will reassure you that the Justice followed due process in reaching his decision and that there is therefore no need for further investigations into his decision.

Yours most sincerely

[Signature]

ROBIN NAYSMITH  
Scottish Government Counsellor, North America