



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

1.4.1

Ms Diana Johnson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

*Dear Ms Johnson,*

I am responding to the Point of Order, and Question to the Deputy Leader of the House, which you raised yesterday. You were concerned that two of your constituents were stopped by security staff and asked to remove t-shirts at the Cromwell Green Entrance.

In short, this was a well-intentioned mistake. The House has decided that those entering the estate must wear appropriate clothing and that clothing with political or offensive slogans is not permitted. The two visitors in question arrived slightly ahead of the main group and were wearing t-shirts with a slogan that, in the security officer's opinion, was questionable and clarification was therefore requested from the Duty Police Inspector. In the meantime, the visitors were told that if they wished to continue through the search point they should remove their t-shirts (or turn them inside out). The Duty Inspector spoke to the Serjeant at Arms who agreed that the slogan would not cause offence; permission was granted to allow access to those wearing the t-shirts. I believe that the rest of the group therefore proceeded unimpeded as normal.

The security team acted in good faith and without any wish to cause offence or unnecessary delay. That said, the time taken to get appropriate guidance may have been a factor and I have taken steps to make sure there is a quicker way to obtain the necessary clearance.

I have written a letter along similar lines to Mr Speaker and I have sent a copy of this letter to the Leader of the House.

*Yours sincerely,  
Mike N*

Mike Naworynsky OBE  
**Deputy Serjeant at Arms**

Department of Chamber and Committee Services  
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

T: 020 7219 3040 F: 020 7799 2178 E: [naworynskym@parliament.uk](mailto:naworynskym@parliament.uk)