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Dear Mr Taylor

I am replying to your letter of 6 December about the case of Babar Ahmad.

Prosecution in such cases is a matter for the Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS), rather than a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (or formerly for the PCA). To bring charges, the CPS must believe that the evidence would prove beyond reasonable doubt that an individual was guilty of a particular offence. In this case the CPS reached the decision that there was not sufficient evidence.

It was then for the Metropolitan Police Service to make their recommendations on discipline in accordance with the Police Act 1996. They advised that there was not sufficient evidence on which to proceed with formal disciplinary proceedings against any of the officers involved.

The Commission (acting in place of the PCA) then had to consider those recommendations and determine whether there was sufficient evidence to have a reasonable chance of persuading a hearing that any officer was guilty of an assault.

As I have acknowledged, there is clear medical evidence that Mr Ahmad suffered an injury. However, charges in a hearing are brought against *individual* officers, not the collective group who were present.

When I decided that there was not sufficient evidence to bring charges against any individual officer I was not passing any adverse judgment on Mr Ahmad's account, nor denying the medical evidence. Rather, it is a stipulation of both criminal and disciplinary process that one should adduce sufficient evidence against an *individual*.