

**From: Matthew Baggott QPM, BA (Hons)
Chief Constable**



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My Ref: CC/jps

Your Ref:

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Not for Publication or Broadcast

Dear Sir

Since the beginning of May 2007 my Force, Leicestershire Constabulary, has had the responsibility for co-ordinating the UK Law Enforcement response to Madeleine McCann's disappearance. As the Chief Constable I have become increasingly concerned regarding the continued speculation and rumour surrounding this investigation, hence this exceptional request of you.

I would be most grateful if you could ensure restraint in reporting on the case while the Portuguese Authorities complete their inquiries and conclude their judicial processes. Over recent weeks I have been surprised at the reporting of some alleged facts that, as far as I am aware, bare little relation to the evidence. I am deeply concerned at the implications this may have for all involved.

Recent reports have quoted anonymous Leicestershire Police sources. I am confident that the very few officers who know the detail of the inquiry have not and will not divulge confidential detail to the media, nor do they brief others who have provided specialist assistance or who have a legitimate interest in the inquiry. I know you will appreciate that the implications of Portuguese judicial secrecy mean that we are not in a position to release information, brief the press on the investigation's progress, or confirm or deny any specifics relating to the case.

At the heart of this inquiry is an innocent little girl who went missing on 3rd May. Our focus remains on doing everything in our power to assist the Judicial Police and the Portuguese Authorities to find out what has happened to Madeleine.

Yours faithfully



**Matthew Baggott
Chief Constable**

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