



OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
Offensive Weapons Bill Committee
Mike Gapes MP (Co-Chair)
James Gray MP (Co-Chair)

By email: scrutiny@parliament.uk

20 July 2018

Dear Mr Gapes and Mr Gray,

Offensive Weapons Bill: Further information for the Committee

During my appearance at the Committee's oral evidence session on the 17 July, members inquired as to my view regarding clauses 15 and 16 of the current Bill and promised that I would respond in writing.

The Bill must strike the right balance between ensuring that it goes far enough to effectively reduce the risk of serious violence while not unduly impacting small businesses that may design and make specialist knives for a range of purposes.

In accordance with the Code for Crown prosecutors, the CPS will always consider whether a prosecution is a proportionate response and in the public interest. As such, the CPS would not seek to criminalise individuals unfairly and so accepts that the Bill must contain provision for such a defence.

Please let me know if you require any further information or clarification regarding the above.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW PENHALE
Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS North-East