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Mr John Allman  
Christians Against Mental slavery  
98 High Street  
Knaresborough  
North Yorkshire  
HG5 8HN

Reference: T12849/3

12 December 2003

Dear Mr Allman,

Your letter of 30 October addressed to the Prime Minister, received on 26 November, about the non-consensual technological monitoring or influencing of human thought, was passed to the Home Office. The Home Office, as you know, has policy responsibility for deployment of covert investigation methods.

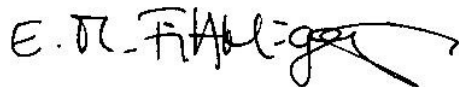
You asked the Prime Minister whether he would be prepared "to declare it the new policy of [his] Government that the non-consensual technological monitoring or influence of human thought ought soon to be declared a crime against humanity worldwide".

As I said to you in my letter of 20 November, for the Government to reach a firm view on such technology there would need to be evidence that the technology, which you claim exists, really were viable and practicable. At the moment it seems that the technological monitoring or influencing of human thought is merely a theoretical possibility. As a result it is impossible to undertake a full assessment of its potential drawbacks or its benefits, which you have previously admitted there may well be.

It is far too premature for the Government to consult publicly on the issue, and consequently to develop a firm policy position.

I would like to repeat that there is little further the Government can add on the matter, that has not been covered in previous correspondence to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Fitton-Higgins", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Fitton-Higgins  
Covert investigation Policy Team.