Note No 034

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and has the honour to refer to the letter from the Special Rapporteurs dated 22 December 2015 concerning the draft Investigatory Powers Bill.

We continue to study this letter in order to provide a full response to the questions raised in this letter. At this time the United Kingdom Government is in the process of considering the reports of three Parliamentary Committees on the Investigatory Powers Bill: the Joint Committee on the Investigatory Powers Bill (published 11 February), the Intelligence and Security Committee (published 9 February) and the Science and Technology Committee (published 1 February). The Government will return to Parliament with a revised Bill in the coming weeks and therefore we intend to respond in full to the letter of 22 December 2015 once the revised Bill has been published.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Rapporteurs the assurances of its highest consideration.

17 February 2018

UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression,
UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association,
UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights