



Kenny MacAskill MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
St Andrew's House
Regent Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG.

17 July 2009

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Abdulbaset Ali Megrahi

I write as a member of the House of Lords, but also – as it happens – Chairman of the Libyan British Business Council. LBBC has a number of Scottish members who are anxious concerning the case of Mr Megrahi. I have also been involved on the fringes of UK-Libyan affairs for a number of years and likewise have been following events.

As you know Mr Megrahi is seriously ill and may indeed not survive for too much longer. Against this background the question arises as to whether he should be released or repatriated on one basis or another. Release on bail is of course a matter for the Court but transfer under the recent UK-Libya Prisoner Transfer Agreement is for you. Compassionate release, I am advised, is also within your prerogative.

I am of course well aware that none of these options is straightforward. However I believe the matter becomes daily more urgent, not least because of Mr Megrahi's deteriorating condition. Furthermore the Libyan authorities have made it clear that should he die in prison in Scotland there will be serious implications for UK-Libyan relations. This prospect is of grave concern to LBBC members, not just Scottish ones.

May I therefore now urge you to bring this matter to a swift and satisfactory conclusion. If the PTA is your preferred course then Mr Megrahi will have to withdraw his appeal and notify the Court accordingly. I am reliably advised that he is, in principle, ready to do so. Presumably, the Crown is also ready to abandon its separate appeal relating to sentence.

I appreciate that this process may be unattractive to you for one or more reasons beyond my knowledge. In that case, I invite you to consider another route, which I am advised, is open to you – namely Release on Licence on Compassionate Grounds. I submit that these powers vested in you are tailor made for Mr Megrahi's condition and the related circumstances. I hope you agree.



May I end by emphasising that speed is of the essence principally, of course, for humanitarian reasons, but also because of the shadow which may otherwise fall over the UK-Libyan relations – and especially the interests of LBBC Scottish members and indeed others.

Yours sincerely
Trefgarne

Rt Hon Lord Trefgarne PC.