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Rt Hon Jack Straw MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
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18th February 2009

Dear Jack,

Peter Sutcliffe – The Yorkshire Ripper

You may be aware of stories in today's press and media regarding Peter Sutcliffe, known as the Yorkshire Ripper, who was convicted of multiple murders in 1981.

The stories are based around Sutcliffe's possible transfer from Broadmoor to a prison pending a decision about whether he should be released on parole in 2011 – thirty years after his conviction. I understand that you will have the final say on whether Sutcliffe should be released.

I am writing to urge you not to allow Sutcliffe to be released in two years time. The effect that this story has had on my constituents and on the public in West Yorkshire has been very powerful. Those old enough to remember Sutcliffe's reign of terror are horrified by the prospect of his possible release in 2011. I hope that before any decision is made, you will examine very carefully the history of the Sutcliffe case and will look at his history of manipulation of all those who had any dealings with him during his arrest, trial and conviction for these dreadful crimes.

What is paramount is the protection of the public – which I know you are passionate about – so I hope that you will take this factor into account above all others before you come to a decision on Sutcliffe's case.

Yours sincerely,

Julian

Fabian Hamilton
Labour Member of Parliament for Leeds North East