



**To: Alun Cairns MP**

**Date: 16/04/2012**

**RE: CFBM/10022**

**Ref: Maurice Kirk (A7306AT)**

**Your ref: VoG/K/M/Dec10**

Dear Mr Cairns

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Mr Kirk and the number of calls you have been receiving regarding his welfare.

I can confirm that Mr Kirk is a Litigant in Person and as such has been exercising the right to represent himself in his various court cases. However, as Mr Kirk applied for legal aid, Judge Curran instructed him to appoint a solicitor by the end of March, but Mr Kirk has failed to do. I have been asking Mr Kirk for the Solicitors contact details now for several weeks, without success, so I can assure you that Mr Kirk's rights to see a solicitor have never been declined nor compromised by HMP Cardiff. Mr Kirk and his supporters have raised several complaints around this particular issue, but there seems to be some discrepancy over the actual issue – is the complaint that Mr Kirk is not allowed his files as a Litigant in Person (this is untrue, however he has had to be limited to the number of files because he has previously had a fire in his cell), that he has had his right to see a solicitor refused (which as you can see from my earlier statement is also untrue) or that he has not been allowed to have legal visits from his alleged appointed McKenzie Friends (this is in part correct, he is allowed to have visits with them, but as they are not Solicitors they are not permitted to have the legal privileges afforded to them such as Legal Visits, therefore he has to have domestic visits with them)?

As for Mr Kirk's well being, he has again declared he is on hunger strike, however, he has been seen by our Health Care team and they have confirmed there are no adverse effects on his health from any food refusal and he is not de-hydrated. I can also confirm that as I have been monitoring the situation carefully, Mr Kirk is not on hunger strike because he has been eating fruit, and buying products such as cereals, chocolate biscuits, tomato soup, tea, coffee, chocolate bars, drinking chocolate and milk from the Canteen. So as you can see we are fully aware of Mr Kirk's situation and are doing all we can to ensure his health and wellbeing.

I hope that this will shed some light for you on Mr Kirk's situation, and that it will alleviate any concerns you may have about his welfare and treatment at HMP Cardiff.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Murray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H Murray  
Residential Governor