



OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Hague, 7 June 2019

L/ODG/219563/19

Director-General

Mr Brendan Whelan

Dear Mr. Whelan,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 25 March and 25 April 2019 that I have read with attention.

You were asked to support the Fact-Finding Mission in the Douma deployment. You remained part of the team until you completed the handover of the confidential material by 3 August 2018, just before you left the OPCW at the end of your tenure on 3 September 2018.

Therefore, you may not be aware of the process and numerous activities that were carried out during the following six months after you left and before the publication of the final report on 1 March 2019. Further information and data, including results of the analysis of further batches of samples conducted by the Designated Laboratories, were collected, analysed, and considered. The deliberations over the preparation of the report were extensive, and multiple views, including those you recall in your letter, were presented, discussed, and weighed.

The conclusions of the FFM report that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a toxic chemical was used as a weapon in Douma remain.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the obligations you undertook when you signed your secrecy agreement with the OPCW. These obligations apply even after you have separated from the OPCW. I trust you will fulfil them.

Yours sincerely,



Fernando Arias