Public Disorder

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

As a former police surgeon, I have personally witnessed the great professionalism of our police forces in the face of extreme provocation. This week they have faced extreme violence as well. At all times they have been identifiable and therefore accountable. Is it time for us to make it an offence for anybody involved in rioting and demonstrating to cover their faces, so that they too can be both identifiable and accountable?

David Cameron (Prime Minister; Witney, Conservative)

The hon. Lady makes an important point. In my statement I said that we would extend the power that the police have at present they can do it only in limited circumstances with limited people so that they have a more blanket power of insisting that people remove face masks.

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