

5
868

PREM 19/1260

506

K MT

Confidential Filings

The Yorkshire Ripper Case
Allegations against the Chief
Constable of West Yorkshire -
Mr. Gregory.

HOME
AFFAIRS

November 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
25-11-80							
3-4-81							
1-6-81							
13-1-82							
14-1-82							
26/3/84.							
PREM 19/1260							



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 March, 1984

Peter Sutcliffe

The Prime Minister was grateful for the Home Secretary's minute of 22 March, explaining why he proposes to direct Sutcliffe's removal from Parkhurst Prison to Broadmoor Hospital.

As you know, the Prime Minister at first had some doubts about the use of the word "grave" in the third line of the draft announcement. But in the light of the further explanation which you provided by telephone, and subject to any comments from colleagues, the Prime Minister is content for the Home Secretary to proceed as proposed.

I am sending copies of this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office) and to Steve Godber (Department of Health and Social Security).

DAVID BARCLAY

Nigel Pantling, Esq.,
Home Office

PRIME MINISTER ⁽¹⁾

Peter Sutcliffe

You thought it might be better to omit the word "grave" from the Home Secretary's announcement.

I have had a word with the Home Office. They say that the argument for including the word "grave" is two-fold.

First, it helps to distinguish his current condition from his condition at the time of the trial, when the jury concluded that any mental illness from which he was suffering was not so serious as to diminish his responsibility for the crime. (They did not rule out the possibility that he might be suffering from mental illness to some degree.)

Secondly, the law requires the Home Secretary to be satisfied that a prisoner is suffering from a grave mental illness before he can order his transfer to hospital.

Content, in the light of this explanation, for the present wording to stand?

Davis

Yes Mr

23 March 1984

Extract No.

Info for review by
MI5/SB/OGD

Info to be Redacted

Details of
mental state of
Peter Sutcliffe

N/A

FOI Exemption

S40(2)

Date due to open

2047

Reason/Justification for closure

Medical details

Sutcliffe is
dead. S.40
not available

P 12/2/23



Prime Minister (1)

The Home Secretary proposes to transfer Sutcliffe (the Yorkshire Ripper) from Parkhurst to Broadmoor. Content, subject to colleagues?

PRIME MINISTER

Do you need the word 'grave'. It could be argued that the larger the subject is, the better he had from it. Is that not so?

PETER WILLIAMS SUTCLIFFE

I propose shortly to direct Sutcliffe's removal from Parkhurst Prison to Broadmoor Hospital under section 47 of the Mental Health Act 1983.

DWB
22/3

Sutcliffe (the "Yorkshire Ripper") was convicted in April 1981 of 13 charges of murder and seven of attempted murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment (the mandatory sentence for murder). The defence offered pleas of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, but the judge decided that the issue of responsibility should be tried by the jury. Despite unanimous evidence from eminent psychiatrists that Sutcliffe was mentally disordered and therefore his responsibility was substantially impaired, the jury found him guilty of murder, and the verdicts were upheld by the Court of Appeal in May 1982.

During 1982 and again in September last year, my predecessor and then I received recommendations from psychiatrists that Sutcliffe should be transferred from prison to a special hospital. On each occasion we decided that a transfer was not imperative and that the medical case for it was outweighed by the wider consideration of public confidence. A Parliamentary Answer on behalf of my predecessor undertook, however, that Sutcliffe's condition would be kept under review and that the question of transfer would be reconsidered if his condition deteriorated; and when I looked at the matter I directed that further attention should be given to it in the New Year. The President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists took the case up with me.

I have now received further medical reports on Sutcliffe, including a very full report from the Medical Director of Broadmoor Hospital. The reports leave me in no doubt that Sutcliffe's condition has deteriorated to a degree requiring his removal to a hospital. He suffers from paranoid schizophrenia which involves delusions from auditory hallucinations; but he has no insight into his condition and will not voluntarily accept any treatment. (In prison, medication could be administered to him only with his consent). The reports suggest that, without treatment, he could now present

a grave danger to prison staff and other people who come into contact with him.

Security at Broadmoor is, of course, a matter for the Secretary of State for Social Services, but the hospital handles many highly dangerous offenders who have committed the gravest offences and I am satisfied as to the precautions which will be taken to prevent Sutcliffe escaping. At this stage, there is no means of knowing whether he will have to remain in hospital indefinitely or whether he will recover his mental health sufficiently to allow him to be sent back to prison to continue his sentence.

The transfer will inevitably attract media attention, and it may be suggested that we are going behind the jury's verdict. The answer to any such suggestion is, of course, that in the three years since Sutcliffe's conviction his psychiatric condition has very substantially deteriorated. I should also stress in any background briefing the danger that Sutcliffe presents to prison staff. I do not propose to announce my decision before the transfer takes place, but have it in mind to do so on the same day by way of a Reply to an Arranged Question on the lines of the attached draft.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Lord President of the Council and to the Secretary of State for Social Services.

L. B.

22 March 1984

DRAFT OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER (TO BE ARRANGED)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what further reports he has received on the mental condition of Peter Sutcliffe, and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT REPLY

I have received recent reports from which I am satisfied that Sutcliffe's mental condition has seriously deteriorated and that he is now suffering from a [grave] form of mental illness. He could now represent a serious danger to prison staff and others. The reports indicate that he requires treatment which can only suitably be given in a hospital.

I have therefore directed Sutcliffe's removal to Broadmoor Hospital, under section 47 of the Mental Health Act 1983, and he was removed to the hospital today.

I am satisfied that the most stringent security precautions will be taken at Broadmoor Hospital, where there is considerable experience of treating dangerous patients in secure conditions.

If Sutcliffe's mental health improves, he may be sent back to prison to continue his sentence.

E2 M153884



Home Affairs

Yorkshire Ripper (Investigations)

3.36 pm

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. William Whitelaw): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement on the review of the Yorkshire Ripper case carried out, at my request, by Mr. Lawrence Byford, one of Her Majesty's inspectors of constabulary.

I asked him to report on any lessons which might be learned from the conduct of the investigation and which should be made known to police forces generally. Mr Byford was assisted in his review by the external advisory team set up in November 1980. He was also able to take account of views put to him about this tragic case by relatives of the victims, who greatly appreciated the opportunity to voice their misgivings.

I have now received and considered Mr. Byford's report and I am extremely grateful to him for it. I should like to let the House know of its main conclusions and recommendations. A more detailed summary has been placed in the Library.

It is apparent from the report that there were major errors of judgment by the police and some inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels. In particular, excessive credence was given to the letters and tape from a man claiming responsibility for the series of murders and signing himself "Jack the Ripper". Another serious handicap to the investigation was the ineffectiveness of the major incident room which became overloaded with unprocessed information. With hindsight, it is now clear that if these errors and inefficiencies had not occurred Sutcliffe would have been identified as a prime suspect sooner than he was. Mr. Byford's report concludes that there is little doubt that he should have been arrested earlier, on the facts associated with his various police interviews.

I would remind the House that the Ripper case gave rise to the largest criminal investigation ever conducted in this country, imposing a great strain on all concerned. It would have been surprising if in this unprecedented situation there were no mistakes. What we now have to do is to respond constructively to the considerable experience gained in the course of it in order to ensure that future investigations of crimes such as this are carried out as effectively and quickly as possible.

I turn, therefore, to the lessons for the future and to the recommendations made by Mr. Byford. As will be seen from the statement in the Library, they deal comprehensively with the management requirements of the investigation of a series of major crimes, the training of senior detectives and personnel working in major incident rooms, the command of investigations involving a number of crimes which cross force boundaries, the harnessing for such investigations of the best detective and forensic science skills in the country and the use of computer technology.

I welcome Mr. Byford's recommendations on those matters. They are already being followed up with representatives of the police service. They provide valuable guidelines for the operational conduct of very large criminal investigations in police forces generally. They will require a constructive commitment at all levels of the police service.

Mr. Roy Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook): First, I thank the Home Secretary for making this statement today. It contains matters that the House will consider to be both distressing and distasteful, but in the light of the report, discussion of them today is unavoidable.

The House will note—I quote from the summary of the report—that

"the vast majority of the officers involved in the case worked diligently and conscientiously."

We must all take comfort in that. We also take comfort from the fact that the report makes no attempt to protect the individuals involved or to excuse the failures of the service. However, having said that, some facts are tragically inescapable. The summary of the report, a copy of which the Home Secretary was kind enough to give me in advance, makes three matters clear. There was inefficiency and serious error and the incident room involved was ineffective. Many senior officers proved incapable of the efficient discharge of the duties that were placed upon them.

The Home Secretary quotes the summary as to the results of those failures. He said that Peter Sutcliffe should have been recognised as the prime suspect much earlier and should have been arrested much earlier. In the light of that, I must ask the Home Secretary a stark question. Is it not a fact that those failures resulted in the deaths of women who should have been saved from the awful fate that overcame them?

Since the answer to that question must, I deeply regret, be "Yes", I ask the Home Secretary to take three courses of action that are necessary for the re-establishment of confidence in the police forces of Britain. I ask him to promise three things. First, he promised in his statement to follow up—those were his words—the criticisms of the police force contained in the report. We need far more than that from him today. We need a much stronger statement of his intention. Will the Home Secretary promise the House here and now to take whatever action is necessary to remedy the faults that the report describes?

Secondly, we need assurances from the Home Secretary—which I ask him now to give—that he will immediately take whatever action is necessary to avoid similar errors in the detection of serious crime in police forces outside West Yorkshire. I fear that the report will reverberate throughout Britain and undermine confidence in other areas as well as in the one to which the report refers.

Thirdly, what action is being taken about the officers who were clearly responsible for the errors that prolonged the tragedy? Are they still in charge of the investigation of serious crime within their area? If that is the case, the House and the country would regard it as wholly intolerable.

Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for recognising that it was important that an oral statement should be made to the House. I took the view, somewhat exceptionally in such cases, that it was essential that I should do so. I also took the view that it was quite essential that I publish in the Library a summary of the report which held back nothing and which did not try to cover anything up. That was most important in all the circumstances and whatever may be the other criticisms of what has happened, that will be recognised as a fact.

The right hon. Gentleman asked me a question that can never wholly be answered, but from what I said I must

[Mr. Whitelaw]

accept that if Sutcliffe had been arrested earlier some of those who were subsequently killed would not have been. One cannot avoid that. With the benefit of hindsight, one must accept it.

I turn to the other points that the right hon. Gentleman makes about the future. First, he asked that we should take whatever steps are necessary to improve the position in the future. This morning I discussed the report with the leader of the West Yorkshire council and with the appointed members of the police authority. I am grateful to them for having come to London today to discuss the matters with me. They will have a meeting with their police authority. Together we are determined to learn all the lessons from the failures and we are determined to ensure that the efficiency of the force in such matters is improved in the future. We are all perfectly clear about that and we all accept immediately the responsibility that that places upon us.

As to the need to ensure that the lessons are learnt by other forces, it was right to supplement the report made internally by the deputy chief constable with a report by the inspector of constabulary, because there are wider lessons to be learned for the police service as a whole. That is why I asked Mr. Byford, with a team of advisers, to consider the matter. They have spent five months doing so and they have uncovered much in that time, as is proper. My purpose was to make absolutely certain that the lessons should be properly learnt on this occasion and should be transmitted to all the police services in Britain. Through the inspectors of constabulary I intend to ensure, with the chief constables, that all the lessons will be learned. Less than that would not do justice to an important report and to much hard work from all those concerned.

Mr. Hattersley: I am sorry to press the Home Secretary on my third question, not least because I accept with great appreciation the forthright answers that he gave to the first two questions. However, he will recall that I asked him whether the officers responsible are still in charge of the investigation of serious crime in the area. That is a most important question, and I hope that the Home Secretary will answer me now.

Mr. Whitelaw: I could not guarantee an answer in every case. It would be wrong for me to do so without checking all the facts. However, I can assure the right hon. Gentlemen that the chief constable and all those concerned are determined to learn the lessons. I shall transmit the right hon. Gentleman's point to the chief constable. It would be wrong for me to respond positively to everything that the right hon. Gentleman said.

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley): The Liberal Party is also glad that the Home Secretary has brought the Byford report directly to the Floor of the House, together with West Yorkshire's Sampson report, which illuminates the fatal lack of computer power that could have directed towards Sutcliffe months earlier the enormous amount of information that was put on pieces of paper. Yorkshire Television viewers saw those pieces of paper being sifted over in enormous numbers of shoe boxes in the incident room.

Does the Home Secretary agree that the full and continuous use of up-to-date technology will not be provided by ratepayers to the police unless each police

authority can reassure itself continuously that its police force is capable and willing to use technology in the detection of serious, specific crimes and not for any other purpose? Does the Home Secretary agree that he could take steps to ensure that there is a consistently better relationship between police authorities and police forces to ensure that information provided by modern technology—which should certainly be made available to police forces—will not be used for the invasion of human rights?

Mr. Whitelaw: I take the hon. Gentleman's point about the importance of the role of police authorities. I have stressed consistently the importance of a close relationship between police authorities and police forces in Britain. Equally, I accept that information that was readily available was not used to the best advantage because of failures in the incident room. I also accept that we are still learning in the police service—as, indeed, throughout the nation—the best use to make of computers and modern technology. We have lessons to learn from this and I must ensure that we learn them.

There is always a conflict of interest, in all problems concerning computer technology, as to what information is given and how it is used. A balance has to be struck in regard to the police service.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I propose to allow 20 minutes for questions on the statement. If hon. Members are brief and to the point, that should be sufficient time to accommodate all hon. Members who have been rising.

Mr. Marcus Fox (Shipley): During the long investigation, did the police authority give its full support to the chief constable?

Mr. Whitelaw: My hon. Friend is particularly interested in this matter, having a constituency in the area concerned. The police authority, both before the election, when control changed hands, and since, has given the force the fullest possible support, morally and financially. It has put a considerable strain on the force but it has done its best to help in every way it can.

Mr. Joseph Dean (Leeds, West): Will the Home Secretary accept that the report and his statement on it throw no new light whatever on the subject? What is contained in the report and the statement has been said by the people and by the media in West Yorkshire for the past 12 months, and the scars left by these events and by the savage murders still linger in the area. Will he accept that the scars are so deep that women are still reluctant to go out in certain areas of West Yorkshire? Will he give an undertaking that the police reorganisation will be examined with a view to providing people with the maximum protection that they are entitled to expect?

Mr. Whitelaw: We all appreciate the problems which have been created for the hon. Members in the area concerned and for their constituents, and I hope that I have discharged our responsibility to them by setting up the inquiry and by asking the inspector of constabulary to supplement the internal review by the West Yorkshire force in order to get at the roots of all the problems. I believe that my statement, and the stark nature of much that I have said, will show that we have gone to the root of the problems. It is now for the police service in West Yorkshire and for the police authority to act on them. That

was fully accepted by the appointed members and the leader of the West Yorkshire county council when I saw them this morning. Everyone concerned must ensure that the lessons are learned fully for the future.

Mr. John G. Blackburn (Dudley, West): Will my right hon. Friend, in reflecting on the report of Her Majesty's inspector, always hold fast to the cardinal rule of British law that a man is presumed to be innocent until he is found guilty? That is natural British justice. Many hon. Members found it offensive, after the arrest of Sutcliffe, that there were continual appearances on television by police officers who were responsible for the arrest. If a charge is made, a statement should be given to that effect. Will my right hon. Friend agree that at that point the whole case is sub judice?

Mr. Whitlaw: It is true to say that many statements were made at the time of the arrest of Mr. Sutcliffe which reflected on what was said by the police and what was said and done by the media. Everyone concerned learned from those statements and I do not wish to add to them this afternoon.

Mr. Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South): Although I welcome the constructive proposals and hope that they will be accepted by the police, what will the Home Secretary do if any police force is not prepared to give the constructive commitment for which he is asking?

Mr. Whitlaw: I believe that the commitment will be given, and it is most important that it should be. Under the Police Act 1964, there is a safeguard. The Home Secretary has a right, through the inspectors of constabulary, to make proposals to various police forces if they do not carry out their duties to the standards expected of them. I believe that my action in asking Mr. Byford, as inspector of constabulary, to inquire into the case, and the way in which the report has been accepted by all concerned in West Yorkshire, shows that our system is right, and we must follow it through.

Mr. Jonathan Aitken (Thanet, East): Does my right hon. Friend expect any senior police officers in West Yorkshire to resign or to be moved as a result of the report and, if not, why not?

Mr. Whitlaw: Under the 1964 Act, I could take a drastic step in regard to the chief constable who, of course, is operationally responsible for the whole affair, but that would be only if I were satisfied and could establish that to do so would be in the interests of efficiency. In making that judgment I would have to satisfy myself not simply on the basis of one failure in a force area, however serious and important, but having regard to the general performance of the force as a whole over a period of time and its likely performance in the future. I must make it clear that I am not so satisfied.

Mr. Edward Lyons (Bradford, West): Will the Home Secretary agree that the Byford recommendations make it clear that scarcely a police force in the country is adequately trained or equipped to deal with an inquiry on the scale of that required as a result of the activities of my constituent, Mr. Sutcliffe? In those circumstances, is not there some responsibility on people much closer to the top, much higher than the West Yorkshire police force? In addition, in view of the urgent need for training in management techniques, when will it be implemented for senior officers?

Mr. Whitlaw: These are lessons that we have been learning. If I may say so, I and my predecessor as Home Secretary have done a great deal in recent years to bring to the notice of police officers, through the inspectors of constabulary, the need for training in all these fields. Under the right hon. Member for Leeds, South (Mr. Rees) and myself, the Home Office has adopted a very much more positive role in all these matters. It is right to do so and it will continue to do so in the future.

Mr. Gary Waller (Brighouse and Spensborough): Nearly all the murders took place within 10 miles of my constituency. I congratulate my right hon. Friend unreservedly on his statement, and on the fact that he is placing in the Library a summary of Mr. Byford's report. In order to ensure that public confidence in the police persists, it is essential that it should be clear to the whole of the public that there has been no attempt at a cover-up of the sad deficiencies revealed by the inquiry.

Can my right hon. Friend say whether it is true, as the internal report to the police committee by Mr. Sampson suggested, that at the time of the Sutcliffe inquiries no suitable computer system existed? Some of those who have an interest in information technology find that claim difficult to believe.

Will my right hon. friend ensure, in relation to any future inquiries of a similar nature in any part of the country, that police forces will have access to computer facilities which are suitable to ensure that facts of the sort which could have led to the apprehension of Mr. Sutcliffe emerge from the plethora of irrelevant information?

Mr. Whitlaw: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for his remarks about the need to have no cover-up. After the publication of the statement—and, indeed, the summary which I have placed in the Library—no such charge could be fairly levelled.

It is true that we have yet to develop successfully the computer facilities that are necessary for use in the police service. Those facilities had not been sufficiently developed at the time in question, and that may be a criticism of all concerned. For the future, we have to ensure not only that computers are available but that they are used to the best advantage.

Mr. Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford): Will the Home Secretary now confirm to the House that he has already taken action in putting a ban on the promotion chances of senior officers of the West Yorkshire police force? If that is the case, does that ban include officers who have not been involved in the Sutcliffe case?

Mr. Whitlaw: I have not exactly put on a ban. I have represented to the West Yorkshire police authority that there are certain officers in the force whom I would not be prepared to agree should go forward for promotion to assistant chief constable. I believe that to be a correct decision. There are other officers in senior positions, who were not necessarily involved in the inquiry, to whom no such bar would apply when the question of promotion prospects arose.

Mr. John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge): In view of this serious report and other allied matters, does my right hon. Friend consider that the time has now come for the police force to recruit and train an officer class of

[Mr. John Stokes]

the highest educational standard, in the same way as the Armed Forces do, rather than depend entirely on promotion from within the ranks?

Mr. Whitelaw: I hope that what we are seeking to do, and what we have done, to improve the career prospects in the police service, together with the improvements we have made in the training facilities in the service, not just during my time at the Home Office but before, will improve the standing and efficiency of the police service in this country. That is what we are all seeking to do and I hope that by these means we can achieve it.

Mr. K. J. Woolmer (Batley and Morley): Does the Home Secretary accept that the comments of those who have followed this matter for a long time now are based not on any inherent criticism of the police but in recognition of the stress and strain placed on them and on the victims and their families? Having said that, is he aware that anything less than the very fullest publication of the report will not satisfy the public of West Yorkshire? Until one has had time to look at it, it is impossible to know whether the summary which has been published meets that requirement.

Secondly, could the right hon. Gentleman comment on whether or not the police authority was properly able to carry out its responsibility on behalf of the public and whether, in the event, the police authority did carry out the kind of questioning and the kind of responsibility that it ought to have done?

Thirdly, is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the public, however unfortunate this may be for the officers involved, will expect the responsibility for any errors properly to be borne and that if the outcome appears to be that, when millions of pounds have been spent and many people tragically murdered, the responsibility of these officers is not seen publicly to have been carried out, people will be seriously concerned?

Mr. Whitelaw: Yes, and of course some of the matters to which the hon. Gentleman referred are inevitably matters which concern both the police authority and myself. That is why I thought it right this morning to ask to speak to the appointed members of the police authority and—I was most grateful to him for coming—the leader of the West Yorkshire County Council.

The hon. Gentleman asks whether those people will have the fullest information about the report. I have made it clear—I made it clear when the inquiry was originally set up and Mr. Byford was asked to produce the report—that because it was a report from an inspector of constabulary to the Home Secretary, it would have to enjoy the normal confidentiality which such reports have always had, and be written on that basis. However, I have said to the police authority this morning that, in addition to the very full and clear summary that has been placed in the Library, I have agreed that the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Mr. Byford himself will be prepared to answer any questions put orally to them by the police authority, concerning the efficiency of the force. They have seen them this morning and they will be prepared to go and answer any questions concerning the efficiency of the force put by the police authority in West Yorkshire. I do not think the police authority could be given a fairer or fuller opportunity than this to discharge its duties.

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough): Does the Home Secretary agree with me that, no matter what computer facilities existed or did not exist, the number of leads to this man, who was interviewed about nine times, was so massive that there must have been culpable negligence in not following them up and arresting him much earlier? Does he further agree that this man was not caught in West Yorkshire? He was actually caught and brought to the local police station in my constituency, in South Yorkshire, where all the women were as terrified as those in West Yorkshire? Would he finally accept it from me that if some major heads in West Yorkshire do not roll as a result of this, and if that police force is left undisturbed at the top level as a result of this inquiry, there will be grave disquiet throughout the whole of West and South Yorkshire?

Mr. Whitelaw: I do not think I could go along with the phrase "culpable negligence". That would be a mistake. What I can agree is that, with the benefit of hindsight, it is clear, as I said in my statement, that if errors and inefficiencies had not occurred Sutcliffe would have been identified sooner as a prime suspect. There is no doubt about that.

As to where he was arrested, all I can say about that is that he was arrested, as the hon. Gentleman says, in his constituency—

Mr. Flannery: By sheer chance.

Mr. Whitelaw: That is perfectly true but many of the great criminals in history have been arrested by sheer chance. As for where it was done, I do not mind whether it was in the hon. Gentleman's constituency or anywhere else. The great thing is that he was arrested and was brought to justice.

Mr. Thomas Torney (Bradford, South): In view of the great number of women who were murdered and the long, long time that constituents of mine were terrorised, does the Home Secretary agree that either he or some inspector of constabulary or somebody in high authority should have stepped into West Yorkshire, particularly in view of this report which is now showing inefficiencies in the West Yorkshire force, to ensure that outside assistance—the best brains in the country, in fact—was brought into West Yorkshire to take control of the inquiry long before this actually happened? May I remind the right hon. Gentleman that outside help was brought in only when I raised the matter here?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The length of questions is going to prevent my calling some hon. Members.

Mr. Whitelaw: What the hon. Gentleman says is not quite true, though, as always, there is some substance of truth in what he says. In November 1979, before the hon. Gentleman raised the matter, at the invitation of the chief constable, Commander Nevill and a detective chief superintendent of the Metropolitan Police examined the investigation, and in January 1980 made recommendations to the chief constable. In November 1980, after, it is perfectly true, the hon. Gentleman and others had raised the matter—I do not object to that; after all, if I am not here to respond to what Members of Parliament and others say to me, what on earth am I here for?—I did respond properly to what the hon. Gentleman had said, and I suggested to the inspector of constabulary, Mr. Byford, that we bring in outside people.

ember 1980, through Mr. Byford and Mr. Gregory, we brought in Mr. Emmott, the deputy chief constable of the Thames Valley Policy, Mr. Sloan, the national co-ordinator of regional crime squads, Mr. Gerty, assistant chief constable of the West Midlands Police, Mr. Harvey, commander, Metropolitan Police and Assistant (Crime) to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Mr. Kind, director of the Home Office Central Research Establishment, Aldermaston. We brought all those people in, and I think it was right to do so. This House recommended that I do it, and I responded to that.

As for the final arrest, although it was certainly by chance, it was also to some extent as the result of good police work on the beat.

Mr. David Ginsburg (Dewsbury): As well as criticism, there is the question of praise, as the Home Secretary has just said. Can he confirm that there is some reference in the Byford report to the role of Sergeant Rigg of Dewsbury whose decisive action led to the proper investigations into the crime being undertaken?

Mr. Whitelaw: No, I am afraid that I shall not refer to individual officers. If I did so, I would get into a difficult area and that is exactly what I should not do. What I can say—it is something I neglected to say to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Sparkbrook (Mr. Hattersley)—is that many officers, detectives and others worked with great dedication for an enormous number of hours and had great strain placed on them and on their families in pursuing this inquiry. I think that they deserve our thanks, despite the fact that there are some criticisms as well.

Dr. Shirley Summerskill (Halifax): Will the Home Secretary bear in mind the fact that one of the Ripper's victims was a constituent of mine? Will he clarify his reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Batley and Morley (Mr. Woolmer)? Am I correct in understanding the Home Secretary to say that he will not be publishing even a summary of the main conclusions and recommendations in Mr. Byford's report? It is inadequate simply to place the summary in the Library. The constituents in areas where the Ripper's victims lived, and the entire population, should be able to see and study that distressing and worrying report.

Mr. Whitelaw: I am anxious to be as forthcoming as possible. I thought that by placing the report in the Library

I would ensure that it would become widely available. I believe that the report is published, but if it is not I shall look into the matter. I have placed the summary in the Library and I shall ensure that it is available widely.

In addition, I have made it clear that the police authority can ask oral questions of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Mr. Byford. If, by placing the summary in the Library and making my statement today, I have not given the fullest information to the public and the press I shall ensure that I do so.

BILLS PRESENTED

NEW TOWNS

Mr. Secretary Heseltine, supported by Mr. Secretary Younger, Mr. Secretary Edwards, Mr. Leon Brittan and Mr. John Stanley, presented a Bill to increase the limit imposed by section 60 of the New Towns Act 1981 on the amounts which may be borrowed by development corporations and the Commission for the New Towns: And the same was read the First time; and ordered to be read a Second time tomorrow and to be printed [Bill 47].

RAPE

Mr. Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, supported by Mr. Andrew F. Bennett, Mr. Peter Mills, Miss Jo Richardson, Miss Janet Fookes, Mr. Tony Speller, Mr. Jim Craigen and Mr. Malcolm Thornton, presented a Bill to amend the law concerning the offence of rape: And the same was read the First time; and ordered to be read a Second time upon Friday 7 May and to be printed [Bill 48].

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS, &c.

Mr. Speaker: With the leave of the House I shall put together the questions on the two motions relating to statutory instruments.

Ordered.

That the draft Oil Taxation (Gas Banking Schemes) Regulations 1982 be referred to a Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments, &c.

That the Fishing Vessels (Acquisition and Improvement) (Grants) Scheme 1981 (S.I., 1981, No. 1765) be referred to a Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments, &c.—[*Mr. Pym*.]

Noise Induced Hearing Loss

4.11 pm

Mr. Ron Leighton (Newham, North-East): I beg to move, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make further provision for persons suffering from noise induced hearing loss.

I declare an interest. Before coming to the House I worked in a newspaper machine room and was subjected to between 106 and 108 dB of noise and my hearing suffered as a result. Many of my former colleagues still work in such conditions.

Noise induced hearing loss is one of society's most common diseases. The social cost of being deaf is enormous to the individual. It causes tension, fatigue, nervousness, sleeplessness, stress and, perhaps above all, social isolation. It is a strain to communicate at work and at home. Terrible loneliness and isolation can result.

If deafness were an unavoidable handicap for a few, perhaps our indifference and lack of concern would be understandable, if not forgivable, but it is estimated that between 1 million and 2 million people have had their hearing damaged as a result of noise at work. The terrible fact about this type of deafness is that it is preventable. Perhaps because it does not cause physical disfigurement, it is neglected. It can and must be prevented in future. It is a classic case of prevention being better than cure, because such deafness is incurable.

The connection between noise and deafness has been understood for many years. As far back as 1886 a certain Dr. Barr studied boilermakers in Glasgow and discovered that nobody engaged in boilermaking for any length of time escaped injury to hearing. In 100 years our progress has been very slow indeed.

The industry and the factory inspectorate have at various times argued that industry should be encouraged to reduce noise on a voluntary basis. The voluntary approach was epitomised by the 1972 code of practice for reducing the exposure of employed persons to noise.

How successful was that voluntary approach? A study by the factory inspectorate in 1971 showed that 9 per cent. of workers in manufacturing industry were exposed to over 90 dB. Three years later, despite the code, the same companies were exposing 8 per cent. of workers to over 90 dB. The study showed not only that the effect of the code was minimal, but that in 1971 18 per cent. of workers exposed were offered ear protectors and that three years later that figure had risen to 50 per cent. That means that not even the 1 per cent. improvement was the result of reducing noise levels. Industry adopted the short-term, cheap solution. It put people in ear muffs.

My conclusion is that the voluntary approach has failed. The Health and Safety Commission recognised that last year when it issued the first comprehensive set of

regulations for the reduction of noise in Britain. All the regulations put right the toll of years of neglect in many industries? I regret that it will not.

The TUC has stated that a 90 dB limit is far too high to protect most workers. It asks what is the point of introducing a set of regulations that will not achieve an acceptable level of protection. The TUC does not argue that that can be done immediately, but it is unwilling to accept a standard that is patently unsafe in case we are still arguing about new regulations in another 100 years' time.

The other main criticism of the draft regulations is that they do not place sufficient weight on reducing noise at source. Trade unionists know that employers will opt for the cheap solution. That is what they did in response to the 1972 code. There is no doubt that they will do it again. Techniques exist to reduce noise in industry to below the level that is dangerous to workers. Noisy machines can be insulated acoustically. For example, newspaper presses can be put in sound-proof boxes.

What is the substance of industry's objections? Why has the CBI obstructed progress on the regulations for 10 years? The reason is the cost involved. On one level that is the employers' perennial excuse. Such an argument can be used to oppose every social advance, from the abolition of child labour to the reduction of the working week.

In all my discussions with those involved I have the overwhelming sense that the problem is not just one of cost but of the lack of priority and will in relation to noise reduction. It can involve reorganisation only, rather than expensive noise suppression. Designing noise out at source is relatively cheap, but employers do not demand quiet machinery so manufacturers do not design it.

Unnecessary noise is allowed to creep in everywhere. A print room such as that in which I worked may be noisy, but we turn quiet office environments into "print rooms" with new word processors. The printer does not need to be in the office but somebody, somewhere, decided that deafening office workers was not important—if it was considered at all.

The time has come to make the issue a social and political priority. The Government must give the lead. They must emphasise to the Health and Safety Commission that the new regulations must be tightened in the two crucial respects that I have mentioned. Many other parts of the regulations are uncontroversial and should be welcomed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ron Leighton, Mr. Michael Welsh, Mr. Don Dixon and Dr. M. S. Miller.

NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS

Mr. Ron Leighton accordingly presented a Bill to make further provision for persons suffering from noise induced hearing loss: And the same was read the First time; and ordered to be read a Second time upon Friday 19 February and to be printed. [Bill 49].



CONFIDENTIAL

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

13 January 1982

Dec Mike

md

*Prime Minister
Here is the draft
statement mentioned
in Cabinet, together
with the Report.*

THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER CASE

Following my letter of 28 May to you about the Yorkshire Ripper case, the Prime Minister asked to be kept informed of the outcome of Mr Byford's review.

*MAD
14/1*

I enclose a copy of Mr Byford's report. This reveals some serious shortcomings in the police handling of the Ripper case. The Home Secretary therefore proposes to make an oral statement about this in the House on Tuesday, 19 January and to place a somewhat fuller summary of the report's conclusions and recommendations in the Library. Final drafts of these statements are also enclosed.

The report raised difficult issues about the future of Mr Gregory as Chief Constable and the efficiency of the West Yorkshire force. The Home Secretary intends to take the line that, in all the circumstances, it would not be justified for him to take the drastic step of requiring the removal of the Chief Constable under section 29 of the Police Act 1964. However, as you will see from the draft statements, he has decided to be very frank about the mistakes made in the police investigation so that there can be no question of a cover-up, at the same time emphasising the need for the police service to respond constructively to the lessons learned.

The Home Secretary plans to meet the Chairman and selected members of the West Yorkshire Police Authority on Tuesday morning before he makes his statement in the afternoon. The precise form of words and the tone of his remarks in the House will, of course, take account of the outcome of that meeting.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Hayhoe and to Jim Nursaw (without copies of Mr Byford's report).

*Yours sincerely
C J Walters*
C J WALTERS

M A Pattison, Esq.

cc BI

DRAFT STATEMENT

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement on the review of the Yorkshire Ripper case carried out, at my request, by Mr Lawrence Byford, one of HM Inspectors of Constabulary.

I asked him to report on any lessons which might be learned from the conduct of the investigation and which should be made known to police forces generally. Mr Byford was assisted in his review by the external advisory team set up in November 1980. He was also able to take account of views put to him about this tragic case by relatives of the victims, who greatly appreciated the opportunity to voice their misgivings.

I have now received and considered Mr Byford's report and I am extremely grateful to him for it. I should like to let the House know of its main conclusions and recommendations. A more detailed summary has been placed in the Library.

It is apparent from the report that there were major errors of judgment by the police and some inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels. In particular, excessive credence was given to the letters and tape from a man claiming responsibility for the series of murders and signing himself "Jack the Ripper". Another serious handicap to the investigation was the ineffectiveness of the Major Incident Room which became overloaded with unprocessed information. With hindsight, it is now clear that if these errors and inefficiencies had not occurred Sutcliffe would have been identified as a prime suspect sooner than he was. Mr Byford's report concludes that there is little doubt that he should have been arrested earlier, on the facts associated with his various police interviews.

I would remind the House that the Ripper case gave rise to the largest criminal investigation ever conducted in this country imposing a great strain on all concerned. It would have been surprising if in this unprecedented situation there were no mistakes. What we now have to do is to respond constructively to the considerable experience gained in the course of it in order to ensure that future investigations of crimes such as this are carried out as effectively and quickly as possible.

I now turn, therefore, to the lessons for the future and to the recommendations made by Mr Byford. As will be seen from the statement in the Library these deal comprehensively with the management requirements of the investigation of a series of major crimes; the training of senior detectives and personnel working in Major Incident Rooms; the command of investigations involving a number of crimes which cross force boundaries; the harnessing for such investigations of the best detective and forensic science skills in the country; and the use of computer technology.

I welcome Mr Byford's recommendations on these matters. They are already being followed up with representatives of the police service. They provide valuable guidelines for the operational conduct of very large criminal investigations in police forces generally. They will require a constructive commitment at all levels of the police service.

DRAFT LIBRARY STATEMENT

A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MY BYFORD'S REPORT
ON HIS REVIEW OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER CASE

Mr Byford's report covers the police investigation of the Yorkshire Ripper case carried out mainly by the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police. The Greater Manchester ^{force} and a number of other forces were also involved. Full consideration was given by Mr Byford to the many criticisms made of the investigation. He also took full account of the views of a wide range of interested persons including relatives of the victims.

2. The report finds that there were major errors of judgment by the police and some inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation at various levels.

3. A serious error was the excessive credence given to the letters and tape from a man claiming responsibility for the series of murders and signing himself "Jack the Ripper". The available evidence did not justify the conclusion that the author was the killer.

4. Another serious handicap to the investigation was the ineffectiveness of the Major Incident Room. This should have been the effective nerve centre of the whole police operation but it became overloaded with unprocessed information with the result that vital connections between certain related pieces of information were overlooked.

5. Insufficient attention was given to the significant common elements in photo-fit impressions obtained from surviving victims of hammer assaults or assaults involving serious head injuries on unaccompanied women.

6. Sutcliffe was interviewed by the police in connection with the Ripper investigation on nine occasions between 1975 and his arrest in January 1981. The attitudes of interviewing officers were in some cases conditioned by the credence given to the letters and tape and in some interviews the officers concerned were simply not positive enough in their approach. Often they were inadequately briefed before the interviews, principally as a result of the ineffectiveness of the Major Incident Room.

7. The vast majority of officers involved in the case worked diligently and conscientiously throughout the Ripper investigation. However, with hindsight, it is now clear that if the errors of judgment and inefficiencies in the conduct of the operation had not occurred Sutcliffe would have been identified as a prime suspect sooner than he was. Mr Byford's report concludes that there is little doubt that he should have been arrested earlier, on the facts associated with his various police interviews.

Lessons for the future

8. In the light of the experience gained in the Ripper case the report makes the following recommendations for the general handling of "series" crimes:-

Major Incident Rooms

Standardisation of the procedures for Major Incident Rooms must be achieved so that systems compatible with one another are introduced in all police forces. Major Incident Rooms should be adequately staffed. Policy decisions on major lines of inquiry likely to lead to a consequential flow of information from the public on a large scale should include a forecast of the staff required. The operational efficiency of a Major Incident Room will greatly depend on the extent to which staff allocated to it are specially trained. A Major Incident Room index system should be subjected to a continuous process of audit. The crucial consideration is that the misplacing of a single card in a nominal index system can jeopardize a whole inquiry.

Computerisation of Records

Computers should be able to offer a senior investigating officer in a major crime inquiry a more simple and effective means of handling the information flow generated. One computer project designed to meet this need is to be given a full-scale trial shortly but there is a pressing need to have a shorter term solution to the many problems experienced in the Ripper case and which might arise in future. The Home Office should make available to Chief Constables guidance in the use of computers in a crime investigation.

Senior Investigating Officer in "Series" Crimes

Where crimes within a connected series occur, especially in different force areas, special arrangements need to be made for the command of the co-ordinated inquiry. There needs to be one officer in overall command with the authority to direct the course of the investigation in all the police areas affected.

Management of "Series" Crime Investigations

An inquiry into "series" crimes calls for a high degree of corporate management. There should be regular meetings of the senior management team, and the recording and circulation to officers involved of major policy decisions. The senior investigating officer in a "series" crime investigation should not have any other responsibility. The career development, training and selection of senior detectives need to be improved so that they have the management skills to meet the demands of an inquiry on the Ripper scale.

Training requirements

There should be better training of senior investigating officers of the rank of Assistant Chief Constable to equip them with the management skills required for the conduct of a large-scale inquiry. Similarly there needs to be appropriate management training for officers of Chief Superintendent or Superintendent rank. There should be adequate training for staff of Major Incident Rooms. When records are computerised it would be essential to ensure that these staff are well trained in the use of visual display units and printer terminals. The techniques of interviewing deserve great attention within police training programmes and should be dealt with very thoroughly during detective training courses.

The Appointment of an Advisory Team

In major "series" crime investigations there must be a means of harnessing the best detective and forensic science talent in the country. To this end an ad hoc advisory team should be immediately available for use on a consultancy basis as required. HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in consultation with chief officers should designate the team and make arrangements for the identification at an early stage of cases in which it should be employed.

Specialist and Scientific Support Services

In a "series" crime investigation it is important to co-ordinate the wide variety of specialist and scientific departments serving the police. There should be appointed a senior scientist to act as adviser to the senior investigating officer throughout the investigation. There should also be appointed a senior police scenes of crime officer so as to ensure that each scene of crime in the series is examined by the same personnel. Attachment of forensic scientists to busy police forces and an inter-change between scientists with predominantly bench functions and those normally in the field is recommended.

Eliminating factors

A major lesson to be learned is that the use of categorical eliminating factors, scientific or otherwise, is fraught with danger unless they are conclusive. There can be a temptation for senior investigating officers to mis-use elimination factors in an attempt to reduce an otherwise excessive number of people any one of whom might be within the suspect category.

The Police and the Media

The public are entitled to accurate information about serious crime from the media. The police need to understand that they have a positive duty to assist the media to report and comment responsibly and should make appropriate arrangements to this end.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

The major criticisms come
in pairs

273

368/9

376-9

384

397

401-3

440

MAP -

CONFIDENTIAL



HOME OFFICE
POLICE ACT 1964

THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER CASE

**REVIEW OF THE
POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE
BY LAWRENCE BYFORD, Esq., CBE., QPM.,
HER MAJESTY'S
INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY**

Presented to the Secretary of State for the Home Department

DECEMBER 1981

*Copy destroyed.
A redacted copy can be
found on the gov.uk
website*

*S. Gray
25/9/2013*



HOME OFFICE
POLICE ACT 1964

THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER CASE

**REVIEW OF THE
POLICE INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE
BY LAWRENCE BYFORD, Esq., CBE., QPM.,
HER MAJESTY'S
INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY**

Presented to the Secretary of State for the Home Department

DECEMBER 1981

Har
Affair

CF to file?

1 June 1981

Thank you for your letter of 28 May
about follow-up action on the Yorkshire
Ripper case.

The Prime Minister has noted what is in
hand, and would be grateful to be kept informed
of the outcome of Mr. Byford's review.

MAP

C.J. Walters, Esq.,
Home Office.

JS

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister

2.

cc Press



ms

The Home Secretary has decided against any formal enquiry into police handling HOME OFFICE of the Ripper case, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

28 May 1981

but you will see that he has asked for a review by the Inspectorate, in addition to the West Yorkshire internal enquiry.

Dear Mr. He

You asked for a note on the follow-up action which is being taken on the Yorkshire Ripper case.

MAD 25/

During the course of the trial at the Old Bailey, which was concluded last week, a number of shortcomings were revealed in the massive and protracted police investigation which eventually led to Sutcliffe's arrest. He was in fact questioned by the police on a number of occasions during the investigation, and had he been arrested earlier the lives of some of his victims would have been spared. The failure to regard him as a prime suspect was partly due to a lack of co-ordination of the various strands of the investigation and partly to the mistaken assumption, based on the tape which purported to have been made by the Ripper, that the man the police were looking for had a North Eastern accent. This assumption can now be seen as a serious error of judgment which led to other important leads not being properly followed up. Although it is easy to criticise with the benefit of hindsight, the West Yorkshire Police have not come well out of the trial and the subsequent publicity. (The Chief Constable's personal conduct is also under investigation by another Chief Constable).

In the circumstances, it was to be expected that there would be criticism of the police and pressure for a public inquiry into their conduct of the investigation. Interest in the case seems to have died down since the week-end, but may well be resumed when Parliament reassembles next week. It would be possible for the Home Secretary to institute a formal inquiry under Section 32 of the Police Act 1964, as has been done in the case of Lord Scarman's inquiry into the Brixton riot. The Home Secretary has, however, concluded that this form of public inquiry - which would inevitably be in the nature of an inquest into the way in which the police handled the investigation - would serve little useful purpose. What is important now is not so much to criticise the police as to ensure that the proper lessons are drawn from this case and made available to the police service generally to assist in future investigations. For this purpose an independent professional review of the case is needed. Accordingly, the Home Secretary has asked Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for the region, Mr. Byford, who has kept him informed of developments during the investigation, to carry out a review of the case and to report to him. Mr. Byford will be assisted in his task by the advisory team which was set up last November to review the progress of the investigation and which includes senior detectives and forensic science experts from outside West Yorkshire. Mr. Byford's report will be additional to the internal inquiry which the West Yorkshire Police have put in hand under their Deputy Chief Constable.

M. A. Pattison, Esq.

/cont.....

2.

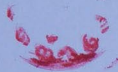
Mr. Byford was asked to undertake this review as soon as the trial ended. The Home Secretary will probably refer to it in answering Parliamentary Questions next week. We will let you know the outcome in due course.

Yours sincerely
C. J. Walters

C. J. WALTERS

28th MAY 1981

28th MAY 1981



28th MAY 1981

Extract No.

Info for review by
MI5/SB/OGD

N/A
12/12/23

Info to be Redacted

allegations of
regarding
Constable
Chief ~~Inspector~~

Gregory -

deceased 2010

FOI Exemption

~~Redacted~~

Date due to open

Reason/Justification for closure

CONFIDENTIAL

2.
Home
Affairs

PRIME MINISTER

There may be some media coverage over the weekend of allegations laid against the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. The nature of the allegations is not being publicly specified.

We understand from the Home Office that these relate to suggestions that Mr. Gregory was prepared to trade sexual favours for information about the conduct of the ripper investigations. Whilst these allegations may provide material for salacious reporting, they are perhaps not as damaging as other recent corruption enquiries related to bribery involving professional criminals.

The Home Secretary has to handle this with care, as he would finally have to take a decision on the outcome of the enquiries, given that they involve officers at this level. The Home Office will not reveal the nature of these allegations, at least until enquiries are completed.

MA

ms

3 April 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Home Affairs

2

PRIME MINISTER

cc:- Mr Whitmore

The Home Office tell me that the
Home Secretary has now firmly decided
that he will visit Leeds and Wakefield
next Friday, 12 December, to talk to the
Yorkshire Ripper Team.

MJS

ms

4 December, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL



Home Affairs
a digest

subject

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 November 1980

Dear John,

THE YORKSHIRE RIPPER CASE

The Prime Minister raised the case of the Yorkshire Ripper when she and the Home Secretary met this morning. Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Brian Cubbon were also present.

The Prime Minister said that the local police had so far failed totally in their enquiries into a series of murders which constituted the most appalling kind of violence against women. It was now a question of public confidence. There were doubts whether the investigation was being conducted as effectively as it might be, and something needed to be done to restore the faith of the public in the performance of the police. One possibility which was being canvassed more and more widely in the Press was that Scotland Yard should be associated with the hunt for the murderer. It was quite likely that the matter would be raised with her at Question Time that afternoon.

The Home Secretary said that he too was disturbed by the way the enquiry was going. The fact was, however, that the Chief Constable was operationally independent and he could not be compelled to do what outsiders wanted him to do. Nonetheless, the Home Secretary continued, he had decided yesterday to make use of the Inspectorate of Constabulary in this case and an Inspector had been sent up to see Mr. Gregory, the Chief Constable. They had agreed, subject to the approval of the Police Authority which was meeting today, to change the man in charge of the enquiry and to give him, as a source of outside advice, a Consultative Committee made up of senior officers from outside the area, including a Home Office Inspector of Constabulary. This would show the public that the local force was drawing on outside experience, though without bringing in Scotland Yard. The Yard had been involved in the enquiry earlier on and had generally endorsed the way it was being conducted. If they were brought in again, this would cause a lot of resentment locally: moreover, the Yard themselves were deeply reluctant to get involved.

In further discussion it was agreed that there would be considerable advantage in the Home Secretary visiting West Yorkshire. It would probably not be wise, however, for him to do this before Friday of

/this week

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

this week, since this was the day when the murderer had threatened to strike again. The best moment for a visit might be on Monday morning when the Home Secretary was returning to London from the north of England, but the precise timing should be kept under review in the light of developments in the case. In the meantime it should be suggested to the Chief Constable that if the Police Authority approved the establishment of an outside body to provide independent advice, it would be better not to call it a Consultative Committee but to find a more dynamic and purposeful name such as a Task Group. If the enquiry was raised with the Prime Minister at her Question Time, she might say that a large team of police officers, including some from outside the immediate area, were already engaged on the case and the resources of all other police forces throughout the country and of the Home Office forensic and technical support services were available for the West Yorkshire Constabulary to call upon. Sir Brian Cubbon said that he would provide a precise form of words for the Prime Minister to use.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours mv,

Kevin Whinnery.

John Halliday, Esq.,
Home Office.

CONFIDENTIAL