

12 October 1982

Thank you for your letter of 11 October about the agenda for the Family Policy Group. The Prime Minister agrees with the Home Secretary that the Group should not discuss the question of direct entry to senior officer rank in the police. I understand that Mr. Sparrow is content to follow up his interest in police matters in the way suggested by the Home Secretary.

I am sending copies of this letter to Gerry Spence (CPRS) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

TIM FLESHER

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11 October 1982

Dee *Tom*

Yes

Prime Minister:

you have seen X.

Do you agree that this item should be removed from the agenda; it is in any event peripheral?

JF 11/10

FAMILY POLICY GROUP

requested

X The Home Secretary has now seen our copy of Gerry Spence's letter to you of 30 September and the proposed programme of action which was enclosed with it.

The Home Secretary is concerned about the inclusion of item 4.2.2 on direct entry to senior officer rank in the police. He doubts very much whether a change of this kind would be feasible in the foreseeable future and he sees a danger of creating unnecessary alarm and controversy within the police service if it were thought that the Government had such a proposal under serious consideration. He would therefore be grateful if this item could be set aside from further consideration in the context of the Family Policy Group.

We have however suggested to Mr Sparrow that he might follow up his interest in police matters by visiting the Police College at Bramshill, or by having a talk with senior officials in the Home Office: this will enable him to cover several aspects of police training and the arrangements which are made to identify and equip police officers for senior posts.

I am sending copies of this letter to Gerry Spence (CPRS) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Love ever
John

C J WALTERS

T Flesher, Esq.