

see NO

Prime Minister⁽²⁾

The Home Secretary prefers to stick to 90% of police costs above the threshold. But Nottinghamshire may need a lump sum as well.

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

24 May 1984

Dear Andrew,

DMS
29/5

MS

COST OF POLICING MINERS' DISPUTE

Thank you for your letter of 18 May about the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Andrew Stewart and Mr Jim Lester.

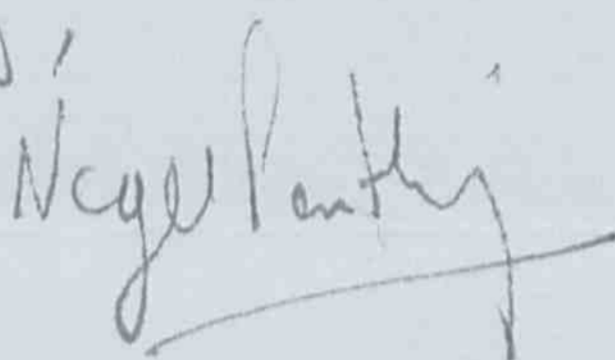
As you know, the Home Secretary announced on 11 May that he would make a special payment of 40 per cent (in addition to the normal police grant of 50 per cent) of gross approved additional expenditure above the product of a penny rate. Expenditure up to the product of a penny rate would rank for 50 per cent police grant in the normal way. I see from your letter that Mr Stewart and Mr Lester were not quarrelling with the threshold of a penny rate, but that that the central Government should pay 100 per cent of the costs above that.

As the Home Secretary said in his letter of 3 May to the Chief Secretary, he thinks it would be wrong in principle for the central Government to pay the full costs: policing is essentially a local matter, and it is right that forces such as Nottinghamshire should absorb some of the additional costs. One of the advantages of leaving forces to pay 10 per cent of the costs above a penny rate is that it gives them an incentive to economise. Subject to one qualification, the Home Secretary considers that the arrangement he announced on 11 May is a generous one.

The qualification is that, as Mr Stewart and Mr Lester have seen, the forces most affected by the dispute - Nottinghamshire in particular - face an open-ended commitment. The Home Secretary said in his letter of 8 May that he did not think that the Nottinghamshire police budget - the estimate for 1984/85 is £45.2 million - could absorb even the additional expenditure which his formula would leave them with without unacceptable consequences. The same may very well apply to the other forces most affected. The Home Secretary therefore said that some additional lump sum payment might also be necessary, but he did not propose to refer to the possibility in his announcement. The time may come, however, when a further announcement about lump sum payments will need to be made.

2.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,


N A PANTLING

Andrew Turnbull, Esq.

NAT

IND.

Arg

Coal



R6

ECL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 May 1984

Cost of Policing Miners' Dispute

Thank you for your letter of 24 May to Andrew Turnbull about the above. The Prime Minister has noted the Home Secretary's view that the arrangements he announced on 11 May are sufficient, subject to the possibility that a lump sum payment to Nottinghamshire may become necessary.

David Barclay

Nigel Pantling, Esq.,
Home Office.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Nigel' or similar, written in a cursive style.