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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for Home Affairs
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

29 June 1984

Dear Secretary of State

MINERS' DISPUTE: POLICING COSTS

Thank you for your letter of 27th June. I am glad that a way has been found to avoid making it plain to Nottinghamshire, and other authorities which might be affected, that the full cost of additional expenditure resulting from the miners' dispute will be reimbursed. I am therefore content with your draft arranged Parliamentary Answer dealing with the position up to 30th June.

I am also, though with more reluctance, prepared to agree that we should not in the end expect that a police authority's contribution from the rates to the additional costs of policing the miners' dispute should exceed the product of a 3/4p rate. I understand that in Nottinghamshire, and probably in some other cases, the local authority would otherwise require cuts in normal police expenditure of an unacceptable kind.

The rising costs of policing the miners' dispute, together with the difficulty of making savings on other policing, make it necessary to ask you once again to consider what savings can be made elsewhere. They also help show the importance of what is in hand on police pay and of the attention that HM Inspectors, in the course of their normal work, are giving to the efficiency with which resources are used.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to other members of MISC 101, George Younger and Patrick Jenkin, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Paul Rees

PETER REES

(Approved by the Chief Secretary and signed in his absence)

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