

CONFIDENTIAL



FILE

TRIP

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December, 1982

PERSONAL

*Dear Ian*

Thank you for your letter about the follow up to the Cabinet's discussion on interim payments in civil legal aid.

I quite agree with you that colleagues will want more than a mere statement of intention that legal costs and fees will be reviewed; and also that it will be extremely difficult in the time available to produce concrete proposals for changes in these fees. You know that I entirely support what you have been doing for the principle that work done for the Government should be paid for promptly.

On the specific point in your letter on which you asked for a steer, I see no objection to your idea that we should build, with you in the lead, on the system evolved in the last two months - provided, of course, that the Lord Chancellor and our colleagues on H Committee also think this is the right way forward.

*Yours*

*Rapier*

Sir Ian Percival, Q.C., M.P.