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cc: Prof. Griffiths



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 March 1986

Dear Richard,

REMUNERATION OF BARRISTERS

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 17 March about remuneration of barristers and has noted the way the Lord Chancellor intends to proceed.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(A), Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

Yours

David

(David Norgrove)

Richard Stoate, Esq.,
Lord Chancellor's Office.

DSG



✓ 35

HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

ms

17th March, 1986

David Norgrove Esq
No. 10 Downing Street
London SW1

Prime Minister 2

Dear David,

*JWS
17/3*

REMUNERATION OF BARRISTERS

Thank you for your letter of 3rd March.

As the Lord Chancellor said in his letter of 28th February to the Chief Secretary, his immediate concern has been to ensure that he wins the litigation.

The Lord Chancellor's letter of 7th February announcing the uprating in the criminal legal aid rates from 1st April offered both sides of the profession further discussions. We have had a number of exchanges with both the Bar and the Law Society, but there is no sign that either has a genuine desire for talks until the litigation is concluded. The Bar's case has been listed to begin on 20th March. But the court may well reserve judgment until it has heard the Law Society's case, which is likely to begin on 9th April. And there may well be appeals which would further delay the consultations and negotiations. It is essential to the Lord Chancellor's defence that he wishes to hold these discussions with both sides of the profession; and there could be no question of posing a final decision before they had taken place.

The Lord Chancellor is naturally anxious to ensure that this process can begin as soon as the litigation allows and that the approach to prosecution and defence fees, and to fees for solicitors and counsel, should be consistent. Discussions have been taking place between officials here and in the Treasury, and there is broad agreement on the best mechanisms to ensure this.

The Lord Chancellor will report back to E(A) as soon as it is useful for him to do so. At the moment, I expect that to be once the litigation has been concluded and at least the initial, exploratory discussions have been held with the profession.

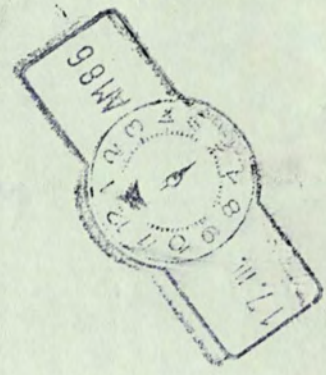
I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries, to members of E(A), Sir Michael Havers, and Sir Patrick Mayhew and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours Sincerely,
David*

R C STOATE

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