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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

18th March 1986

Dear Mark,

CRIME PREVENTION

at trap

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18/3 -

Your letter of 11th February reported the Prime Minister's agreement to the setting up of a Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention, to be chaired by Mr. Shaw. You will see from the attached copy of a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that interested Departments have now been invited to a first meeting, to be held on 26th March.

Perhaps you would draw the Prime Minister's attention to these developments. The Groups, like MGMD, would benefit from involvement from No. 10 and Mr. Shaw wondered whether Mr. Booth might attend?

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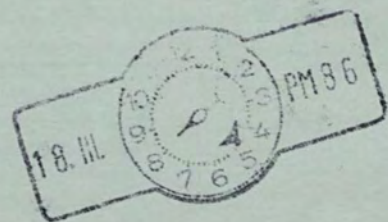
Yours ever

Steve Pike

yes not

S. J. PIKE
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq





HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

18th March 1986

Dear Nigel

MINISTERIAL GROUP ON CRIME PREVENTION

In his letter of 6th February to the Prime Minister the Home Secretary explained his proposal to establish a Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention. The Prime Minister has agreed and I am now anxious to get the Group established as soon as possible: I should like to chair a first meeting before Easter.

In order to prevent the Group becoming unnecessarily large, I suggest that its regular membership should be restricted to a Minister and one official from each of the participating Departments. There will naturally be occasions on which, due to other commitments or the items on the Agenda for a particular meeting, different Ministers or officials may wish to attend; there may also be meetings at which the attendance of Ministers or officials from particular Departments may be unnecessary. Nonetheless, I hope that we can keep the membership of the Group as constant as possible in order to promote a sense of continuity and purpose.

Soundings taken by officials suggest that you and most of those to whom I am copying this letter could be represented on the morning of 26th March and I should be grateful if you would take this letter as a formal invitation to be represented then. I should be grateful if my office could be told who will attend and further details of the meeting will then be provided.

I do not think that the first meeting need be very long (perhaps an hour and I suggest that the meeting should concentrate upon identifying those areas in which the Group can best make a contribution: we already have the Standing Conference on Crime Prevention, and a number of Working Groups, involved in a variety of projects, and the Ministerial Group should not attempt to duplicate their efforts. Our main tasks should be to keep up the pressure for crime prevention; to promote inter-departmental co-operation; to identify publicity opportunities (since public awareness is crucial to success); and to take an overview of crime prevention to ensure that Government policy is effective and, where it is not, to propose changes.

/As a start,

The Rt. Hon. Nigel Lawson MP

Prime Minister ④

For information, The new Ministerial
Group on Crime Prevention is now being
set up. Hooten Boote will be on it.
MFA 21/3

As a start, I should like to see a brief progress report from each Department responsible for the action points which emerged from the Prime Minister's seminar taken at the first meeting.

It is clearly important that the Group's existence should be publicised. We intend to do this by means of an arranged Parliamentary Question and accompanying press notice, which will give the Group's terms of reference and list the participating Departments. A draft will be circulated shortly.

Copies of this letter go, as invitations to be represented, to Keith Joseph, Peter Walker, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Fowler, Nicholas Ridley, David Young, Paul Channon and Malcolm Rifkind, and to John Patten and Nicholas Scott, who have already agreed to represent their Departments on the Group.

Yours
Giles

(GILES SHAW)





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 March 1986

CRIME PREVENTION

Thank you for your letter of 18 March. The Prime Minister will be pleased to learn that the Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention is getting under way. I have spoken to Hartley Booth, and he would be delighted to attend meetings of the Group.

(Mark Addison)

S.J. Pike, Esq.,
Home Office.