

CONFIDENTIAL

P 02094

From: J. B. UNWIN
6 June 1986

MR ROBERTS

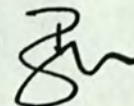
cc Mr Stark
Mr Wiggins

REMUNERATION OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

not yet received
For the record, after clearance with Sir Robert Armstrong I asked you to inform the Attorney General's Office that, in accordance with the usual rules, we are not able to circulate the Attorney's paper (sent to us as E(A)(86)25) until we have confirmation that it has been cleared with the Treasury. Since the Attorney General is to meet the Chief Secretary on Monday, this should not occasion undue delay.

2. In conversation with Mr Brian Gilmore at the Treasury I have asked him to try to establish how the Attorney General's proposals compare with those of the Lord Chancellor (the Attorney's paper asserts that no comparison with present rates is possible, but the Treasury told me earlier that the proposals were tantamount to a 20 per cent increase), and what exactly the nature of the disagreement with the Lord Chancellor's Office is.

3. We must review the situation when we know the outcome of the meeting on Monday between the Chief Secretary and the Attorney General (Mr Gilmore has promised to report this to me) and decide then whether it will be possible to go ahead with E(A) next Thursday as proposed, or whether we should recommend alternative arrangements.



J B UNWIN

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From: J B UNWIN
5 June 1986

MR WIGGINS

cc Mr Roberts

~~E(A)(86)24~~ **ATTACHED** REMUNERATION OF BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

The new proposals by the Lord Chancellor in this paper (a possible 10 per cent and 11.5 per cent in all for the Bar and Solicitors respectively) is not too bad and I think the Treasury will be likely to recommend the Chief Secretary to go along with it (although they will almost certainly oppose the proposal for an Advisory Committee on Fees). The extra cost is fairly modest, and given the possible double figure percentages, I do not think it would be easy for the Bar or Law Society to mount a credible campaign against it.

2. I understand, however, that the Law Officers do not accept the Lord Chancellor's recommendation, and are likely to put in a separate paper proposing substantially higher figures. For obvious reasons, this could cause considerable difficulty, both internally and if, I imagine, any settlement were subsequently subject to legal challenge.

3. I should be grateful if you or Mr Roberts would keep in close touch with the Law Departments and the Treasury (Mr Revolta) on this. Some intercession might be necessary before the papers are taken at E(A). I should be grateful for a word in any case before the Law Officers' paper is circulated.

J B UNWIN

