



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

21 October 1987

NBM.

Dear David,

"SAFER CITIES"

We spoke recently about the place of the Home Office's proposed "Safer Cities" initiative within the Government's overall inner cities approach. The Home Secretary has asked me to confirm the points I then made to you.

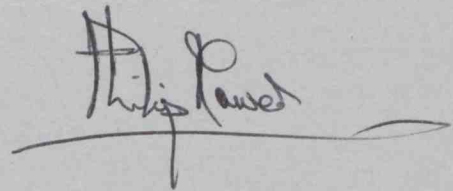
The Home Secretary attaches considerable importance to the "Safer Cities" initiative, which he described in his minute to the Prime Minister of 6 August and for which he has now obtained funding. Together with the formation of the national crime prevention organisation promised in the Conservative Party manifesto, he intends that it should make a substantial contribution to the Home Office strategy for preventing crime and the fear of crime. But because the intention is to focus the "Safer Cities" programme on some of the most run down (and crime-troubled) urban areas, it should also be capable of contributing very usefully to the Government's wider urban policy. It will therefore be relevant to the work of E(UP). In the Home Secretary's view, a concerted attempt to reduce crime in a targeted area should substantially assist parallel efforts to revive the spirit of enterprise and self-help in those same areas. We shall of course be building on the successful experience of our five-town crime prevention initiative.

As I mentioned to you, the Home Secretary fully recognises the need to develop the "Safer Cities" initiative (and of course to refer to it publicly) in ways which will ensure that it is, and is seen to be, consistent with and complementary to urban policy as a whole. That means that he will wish to ensure that the areas in which the programme is developed are chosen in consultation with other Departments and that any local "Safer Cities" infrastructure relates sensibly to the existing arrangements for co-ordinating Government-sponsored activity in the area concerned, e.g. where appropriate, a City Action Team. He envisages that to the greatest extent possible the areas chosen for the "Safer Cities" initiative should be the same as the areas in which other Departmental initiatives are working, since he is convinced that success in the inner cities depends on all the relevant Departments bringing their energy and experience to bear on the same limited number of discouraged areas. Home Office officials, who already have good contacts with their colleagues in

the Departments with a major interest in urban policy, will shortly be engaging in further discussion to ensure that there is neither misunderstanding nor premature disclosure of our intentions.

I am copying this letter for information to the Private Secretaries to other members to E(UP) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P J C Mawer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P J C MAWER

David Norgrove, Esq.,