

FILE
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MR. INGHAM

INNER CITIES/SAFER CITIES

Thank you for your minute of 23 December about the presentational handling of Safer Cities.

I see from our papers that Andy Bearpark wrote to the Home Office on 21 December recording the Prime Minister's preference that the Safer Cities initiative should be announced alongside the Inner City White Paper in February, rather than at a separate press conference in January. No doubt it is this letter which has stimulated the letter which Brian Mower sent you on 23 December.

It is not altogether clear to me, at this stage, what is in fact the best timing for the publication of the Safer Cities initiative. I can quite understand why the Home Office want it to be publicised before the White Paper. But it does not necessarily follow that this is the best way of maximising the presentational impact of the Government's various Inner City initiatives. It could be argued, I think, that if important announcements like this are made before the White Paper, the White Paper would look "stale" with nothing new to say. It could also be argued that the impact of the initiative, and of the White Paper, would be maximised if there were some brief reference in the White Paper to a forthcoming statement on Safer Cities which would be publicised a day or so after the White Paper itself. This would help keep up momentum.

I do not think that we can come to a view on these issues in No. 10. We need to know, in particular, what the White Paper is likely to say and what other initiatives, besides Safer Cities, are imminent.

This is above all an issue on which Mr. Clarke should himself take a view when he knows the full picture. I am sure that he would welcome your advice. But I think it would be better, particularly in view of the Prime Minister's expressed

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preference for the publication of Safer Cities to be announced "alongside the Inner City White Paper in February, rather than at a separate press conference in January", if you left the issue open in your letter to the Chancellor's Private Secretary and did not express a view, one way or the other, in your letter. I attach an alternative draft letter which seeks to do this.

N. L. W.

N. L. WICKS

24 December 1987

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DRAFT LETTER FROM MR. INGHAM TO PETER SMITH, ESQ., PRIVATE
SECRETARY TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

As you may be aware, the Home Office is anxious to launch its "Safer Cities" initiative early in the New Year. This initiative is an important development in the context of both crime prevention and Inner Cities policies. The Home Office has administrative reasons for wishing to go public in mid-January.

Other Departments may well be contemplating other announcements which impinge on your Minister's Inner Cities responsibilities. It would therefore seem highly desirable to achieve a co-ordinated approach to the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper. Accordingly, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster may feel it desirable to canvass Departments about their publicity plans in the run-up to the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper to achieve a co-ordinated campaign.

When the Chancellor has full information about forthcoming announcements relevant to his Inner City responsibilities, we should be in a better position to see how to achieve the best presentation for the Government's Inner City policies, including the publication of the White Paper, over the next few months. In particular, we need to ensure that the various departmental initiatives are not so crowded together, at the time of the publication of the White Paper, that their impact is reduced.

I would be very pleased to discuss this with the Chancellor at an early opportunity when I return to London after the Prime Minister's African visit.

b.c.c. Mr. R. Wilson, Cabinet Office
Mr. E. Sorenson, Cabinet Office



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Press Secretary

29 December 1987

Mr. Wick's

[scribble]

Mr. Gray

to see + p.

Dear Adrian

No sooner had I written to you about the arrangements for coordinating the presentation of Inner Cities, than a practical issue arose which requires our attention.

As you may know, No 10 Press Office wrote on December 21 to the Home Office recording the Prime Minister's preference that the Safer Cities initiative should be announced alongside the Inner Cities White Paper in February rather than earlier and separately.

Brian Mower now makes the point that to launch their contribution to both the crime prevention and inner cities programmes together with the Inner Cities White Paper would risk losing much of the impact for their initiative as well as of skewing the presentation of the White Paper excessively towards crime. While you may feel there is something in these points, you may on the other hand consider that separate publication of the Safer Cities initiative would reduce the force of the Inner Cities White Paper.

I am not in a position to judge because I have yet to see texts of either document, though I am of course aware of reports foreshadowing the contents of the Safer Cities initiative - eg in the Daily Express this morning.

The Home Office clearly has other - administrative - reasons for wishing to go public in mid-January, but other Departments may well be contemplating other early announcements which impinge on the Chancellor of the Duchy's responsibilities.

It would therefore seem highly desirable to achieve a coordinated approach to the build up and the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper. You may therefore wish to canvass Departments about their publicity plans and to resolve the Safer Cities issue in consultation direct with Brian Mower. If we can be of help, for example in convening a meeting, please let me know.

Yours ever
Rose Penderle

pp BERNARD INGHAM

Adrian Moorey Esq

MR WICKS

INNER CITIES/SAFER CITIES

Brian Mower makes in his letter (attached) legitimate points about the launch of the Home Office's "Safer cities" initiative.

This needs to be seen in two contexts:

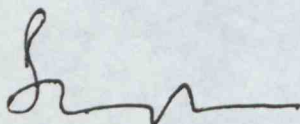
- i. crime prevention,
- ii. its contribution to the inner cities programme.

What is clear is that neither the Home Office nor the Government's objectives will be realised if the announcement of the "Safer Cities" initiative is delayed until, and coincided with, the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper. "Safer Cities" initiative could either be swamped or, perhaps even worse from the Government's point of view could swamp and distort its Inner Cities publicity operation associated with the publication of the White Paper.

"Safer Cities" however identifies a wider issue. For all I know, other important announcements connected with Inner City policy may be contemplated early in the New Year and Government presentation could similarly be affected if they were made to coincide with the publication of the White Paper.

In these circumstances I think it would be useful if you were to write to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Private Secretary seeking a coordinated approach by Government.

I attach a draft.



BERNARD INGHAM
23 December 1987

DRAFT LETTER TO PRIVATE SECRETARY

As you may be aware, the Home Office is anxious to launch its "Safer Cities" initiative early in the New Year. This initiative is an important development in the context of both crime prevention and Inner Cities policies. The Home Office naturally wishes to make the most of the launch, and has administrative reasons for wishing to go public in mid-January.

Other Departments may well be contemplating other announcements which impinge on your Minister's Inner Cities responsibilities. It would therefore seem highly desirable to achieve a coordinated approach to the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper. A

In our view here the Government's objective should be to secure a steady but coordinated build-up of publicity and Departmental announcements to the publication of the White Paper. This seems likely to be achieved only if individual Departments make the most of their own particular announcements in the overall context of the Inner Cities programme, rather than wait for publication of the Inner Cities White paper. There is at least the risk that if the Home Office, for example, were to delay publication until the White Paper their initiative would either be swamped or alternatively would unhelpfully distort the presentation of the White Paper itself.

Accordingly, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster may feel it desirable to canvass Departments about their publicity plans in the run-up to the publication of the Inner Cities White Paper to achieve a coordinated campaign. (He may also feel it would be sensible for the Home Office to go ahead with "Safer Cities" in mid-January.)

Geo R. Wilson



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

23 December 1987

Mr Bernard Ingham
Chief Press Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
London SW1.

Dear Bernard,

We spoke yesterday about our proposal for a "Safer Cities" programme and the arrangements for its launch. In brief, we shall be setting up, in various city centres and under Home Office appointed co-ordinators, projects aimed at reducing crime and criminality. These projects will be based upon experience gained particularly in five pilot projects which have been running over the last two years. The areas will be selected so that crime prevention work there can complement the work of other departments in support of the Government's urban policies.

We wish, therefore, to give a high profile launch to the scheme in mid-January, presenting it both as part of a nationwide crime reduction strategy and also as a contribution to the Government's overall inner cities programme. To launch it together with the Inner Cities White Paper would risk both skewing the presentation of the White Paper towards crime and losing much of the individual impact of "Safer Cities". We should also, of course, have only one, rather than two, good publicity occasions.

We also have a handling consideration. Before the first scheme can start at the beginning of April, our officials need to engage in fairly open discussions with local authorities and voluntary bodies in the selected areas. We must announce the programme before discussions start, or risk its uncontrolled seeping out: and we want to start discussions as soon as possible.

I hope you will agree that we should arrange a separate launch for "Safer Cities". I shall, of course, consult with you about the precise timing.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN MOWER

Prime Minister.

It seems sensible to link the
timing with the White Paper. Content?

PRIME MINISTER

17 December 1987

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SAFER CITIES - A PROBLEM

The Home Secretary wants to announce his Safer Cities initiative in January. We strongly believe that this is an announcement that should be made alongside the inner city White Paper in February.

Already the mini UDCs announcement which could have been some excellent material for the inner cities announcement has passed. Our inner city policy will be seen to be ragged and unco-ordinated if we continue to make announcements that are unrelated. Moreover, it is probably contrary to a decision of your committee which was to try and link announcements properly.

We recommend that you tell the Home Secretary that Safer Cities initiative should be announced in the second week of February alongside the White Paper or in the week when the White Paper is announced.



HARTLEY BOOTH