



LEGAL SECRETARY
071-828 1968

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Julian Miller
Private Secretary to the
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

7th January 1991

OUR REF: 400/90/243

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of ~~4~~ January. I am writing to confirm advice given orally to the resident clerk on Saturday.

WITH COP? I.P.M.'S Box?

The Attorney regards the offering of a reward in this case as essentially a matter of policy, provided the reward is lawful. He is content that a reward should be offered on the understanding that the provisions of section 23 of the Theft Act, referred to in your letter, will be complied with. This means that the advertisement of the reward should avoid mentioning the amount on offer and should also avoid use of any adjective such as "appropriate" or "adequate". HMG should also avoid, as your letter suggests, any public suggestion that the person producing the goods will be safe from investigation or prosecution.

On the understanding therefore that an immunity will not be publicised, the Attorney has agreed that an individual can be told that he will "not be prosecuted for any offence of theft, dishonest handling of stolen property, criminal damage or vehicle interference associated with the appropriation of, or subsequent dealing with, the property in question". The DPP is content with this immunity

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and the Lord Advocate has agreed that it should extend to any corresponding offence in Scotland.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, the Director General of the Security Service, the Director of Public Prosecution and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

Juliet Wheldon

JULIET WHELDON