

MR REDWOOD

Independent Prosecution Service

The Prime Minister saw your note about the Independent Prosecution Service proposals overnight. She agreed that I should speak to the Lord President's Office on the lines you recommended, and I have done so this morning. We await the minutes.

DB

1 March 1984



E.R.

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister (1)

29 February 1984

MR FLESHER

Agree I register these points with the Lord President's Office?

DAW  
29/2

Yes [signature]

INDEPENDENT PROSECUTION SERVICE

The Independent National Prosecution Service is to be welcomed, and is a fulfilment of a Manifesto pledge.

It would be useful if, in discussion at H, the question was raised about how the transfer of staff is to be managed, and how some of the savings are going to be achieved. The paper sets out for illustrative purposes possible savings of £3.2 million. This, however, depends on reducing the number of police posts and, presumably, on transferring some policemen from prosecution work to other duties. The Home Office seems unsure about whether this is or is not practicable. Is it going to create a row with existing staff?

What is envisaged is the establishment of a service with 2,500 people involved. It would be by far the biggest law practice in the country. Its management would therefore require:

- (a) care in recruiting the right calibre of qualified professional staff;
- (b) good management to maintain, measure and control the quality of the service;
- (c) creating a uniform service across the country.

When presenting the new service, it would also be important to stress that we anticipate a substantial improvement in the quality and speed of the service being offered.

Conclusion

||

If the Prime Minister agrees with these caveats, she could ask you to mention them to Lord Whitelaw to see that the questions of management and service quality, and the handling of the transfer or recruitment of staff, are properly considered at H.

[Signature]  
JOHN REDWOOD

CONFIDENTIAL