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CS, HMT

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 October 1985

Dear Mr. Timmins,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September, enclosing a copy of the resolution passed by members of your Society concerning the implications for the career structure of the Crown Prosecution Service arising out of the present proposals as to salary scales and grading.

I reaffirm my view that the provision of adequate resources for the maintenance of law and order must be a fundamental priority for any Government. Our intention is that the staff who will serve in the Crown Prosecution Service should receive fair and reasonable remuneration, having regard both to the job to be done and the need to attract and retain staff of the requisite calibre. This is completely in accord with what the Solicitor General told the House of Commons in April.

I understand that the Law Officers received a delegation from your Society early in September when these and other areas of difficulty were discussed. Officials also attended your recent Annual Conference. The Government shares your concern for the efficiency and effectiveness of the new Service. The Solicitor General is giving careful consideration to all which was said to him and to officials,

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and will also give full weight to the more detailed information you have agreed to collate and provide as to the practical effect on your members of the present proposals.

In these circumstances I do not think that the meeting you seek would serve any useful purpose, but I can assure you that I do take a close interest in these matters and shall continue to do so.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Dichte

J.M. Timmons, Esq.,