



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

19 July 1980

Prime Minister

The general approach
was agreed in
E Committee.

POLICE PAY

As you know, the Police Negotiating Board is meeting under Lord Plowden's chairmanship on 23 July to negotiate a police pay settlement for 1980, which is due to come into effect on 1 September.

When we met on 23 June, we agreed that there was no alternative this year to applying the Edmund Davies formula and basing a settlement for the bulk of the police service on the May/May movement in the index of average earnings (i.e. 21.1 per cent). The cost of this will be about £210M in a full year. At the Negotiating Board meeting my officials will argue the case for some offsetting for improvements in annual leave; but, as you and I know, any such offsetting would be marginal and I do not think we should let disagreement on this point jeopardise the chance of a speedy settlement.

For chief officers, the Edmund-Davies formula requires us to have regard not only to changes in the index of average earnings but also to changes elsewhere in the community. This gives us more room for manoeuvre, and I would hope to obtain an overall settlement which is broadly in line with the recent settlements for similar levels of the Civil Service and Armed Forces. However, agreement on the pay of chief officers is unlikely to be reached at the meeting on 23 July.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours
W. Butler

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC., MP.

21 JUL 1980



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Bice

Civil Service Department
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ
01-273 4400

29 July 1980

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Dear Willie,

R3M7

POLICE PAY

I have seen a copy of your minute of 19 July to the Chancellor.

I accept that special considerations apply to the police service. But I think we should be quite clear that in the forthcoming pay round we should not be looking back to Civil Service pay settlements in the previous round, which were in any case rather smaller than the figure you have in mind. But for this round the percentage figure you talk of is going to be of the order of double what the rest of the public services are likely to get. We ought to be well aware of that. The increase will of course run through to those police forces in the Civil Service and elsewhere whose pay is linked to that of the civil police.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever
Christie*

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30 JUL 1980

