

Police *File 55*

MR. GAFFIN

cc. Mr. Lankester
Mr. Duguid

POLICE PAY

Tim has told me that the Home Secretary intends to make an announcement on Wednesday afternoon about police pay, following negotiations between the Police Federation and the employers. Ministers agreed last week that the Home Secretary would not use his power to overturn the Edmund Davies formula, as a result of which the police award will be 13.2 per cent (the average earnings index for May). This will require careful presentation, which no doubt you will wish to discuss with the Home Office (I shall be away tomorrow) but I would suggest that the following thoughts may be helpful:

- (i) The award is indeed much higher than for most other public service groups, but the police are a very special case. In fact, the award is slightly below the top end of the range that was given to the armed forces.
- (ii) We shall be reviewing the future of the indexation arrangement (this must be subject to Home Office agreement to announce this, but I think it has been agreed that Mr. Whitelaw should do so).

It goes without saying, of course, that we want this award to pass off as quietly as possible.

L. M. VEREKER

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