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PRIME MINISTER

DRUGS

You will recall that at the meeting with Cabinet Ministers on 31 May, the Home Secretary indicated that extra posts in the regional crime squads would be an effective way of improving the investigation of drugs related crimes, and that a joint steering group involving both Customs and the police should be set up.

The Home Secretary's minute at Flag A welcomes the report (Flag B) which the ACPO crime committee has drawn up, and which contains the proposals foreshadowed by the Home Secretary. You do not need to look at the report in detail but there is a useful summary on pages 71-77. The ACPO council today endorsed the report, and the Home Office have welcomed it, saying they will be responding to the recommendations shortly. The key ones are:-

- (i) A National Drugs Intelligence Unit (NDIU), with Customs participation, under the control of a national coordinator.
- (ii) The strengthening of the regional crime squads.
- (iii) A single data base for drugs intelligence.

The Home Secretary believes the report represents a major step forward because it indicates that the police and the Customs will be prepared to try and work more closely in the future.

The Home Secretary is proposing to announce next week his acceptance of the report as a package, and the appointment

of Mr. Colin Hewett, currently Head of the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Squad, as the new national coordinator.

The main difficulty with all this is resources. The Home Secretary's minute talks of an additional £5 million being needed to fund the organisational changes proposed (i.e. the extra policemen). He points out that you indicated you would look favourably on such a proposal, given the difficulties of otherwise persuading the local authorities to devote extra resources to drugs work.

The Chief Secretary's letter at Flag C argues that the £5 million should be found within the police's share of the £500 million addition to local authority current expenditure which has been agreed. If this proves impossible, Treasury think the Home Secretary should find the money from offsetting savings within his programmes (Hartley Booth suggests that the probation budget might be one place to look for these).

In view of the relatively small sum involved, this seems the right way forward. Home Office however are clear that they will need in some way to demonstrate to the local authorities that the money is additional. At this stage, working out a way of achieving this is something which could be left to the Home Office and the Treasury.

Content that you should:-

- (i) Warmly welcome the ACPO report and its endorsement by the council. *Yes*
- (ii) Agree that the Home Secretary should announce his acceptance of the proposals next week, and that Mr. Hewett should head the NDIU. *Yes*
- (iii) Urge that the Home Office and the Treasury should *Yes*

consider together quickly how the £5 million might be found without increasing overall Home Office provision, and that Home Office should consider how to ensure these resources are devoted to additional police effort in the drugs area?

Mark Addison

Yes

(Mark Addison)

11 July 1985



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file JD

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

15 July, 1985.

The Prime Minister has seen the Home Secretary's minute of 10 July which enclosed a copy of the ACPO Report on Drugs Related Crime.

The Prime Minister warmly welcomes the Report, and is glad to know that it has now been endorsed by the Council. She agrees that the Home Secretary should announce his acceptance of the proposals this week, and that Mr. Hewett should be appointed as the new national coordinator. So far as resources are concerned, the Prime Minister has seen the letter of 11 July from the Chief Secretary's Private Secretary, and has asked that the Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary should consider together quickly how the necessary £5 million might be found without increasing overall Home Office provision, bearing in mind the need to ensure that these resources are devoted to additional police effort in the drugs area.

I am sending copies of this letter to Joan MacNaughton (Lord President's Office), Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Rachel Lomax (HM Treasury), Rob Smith (Department of Education and Science), John Graham (Scottish Office), Colin Williams (Welsh Office), Steve Godber (Department of Health and Social Security), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Jim Daniell (Northern Ireland Office), and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Mark Addison)

Hugh Taylor, Esq.,  
Home Office.

RB

PRIME MINISTER

11 July 1985

POLICE REPORT ON DRUGS

I attach:

1. The Home Secretary's minute of 10 July welcoming the proposals of the Association of Chief Police Officers Drugs Committee. (Flag A)
2. The Report with Conclusions. (Flag B)
3. Annexes at which you might glance, giving the national pattern of the growth of the problem. (Flag C)
4. A Policy Unit note of a visit to the Chairman of the Committee which produced this Report. (Flag D)

You have already seen the need for a common data base. We recommend that national co-ordination proposed is a sensible idea, providing that liaison with Customs is diplomatic. Officials assure us this will be the case.

We recommend that you welcome this Report and agree that the Home Office act vigorously. The £5 million cost of these proposals should be found from existing resources: for example the probation budget could be cut back to allow for this.



HARTLEY BOOTH

*Supervised*



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

16<sup>th</sup> July 1985

*Peter,*

*NBPM  
extra stage*

DRUGS: POLICE RESOURCES

I was grateful to you and to the Prime Minister for your agreement to my proposals for responding positively to the ACPO Report on Drugs Related Crime. The Prime Minister has asked us to consider together quickly the resources, and we need also to bring in Patrick Jenkin.

In your response to my minute of 10 July you focussed on 1986-87. I am sure that the local authorities, whose expenditure you rightly point out is at issue, will do the same. I am also sure you will appreciate how important it will be for me, if our response to the ACPO report is to carry conviction, to be able to say, when asked, that the need for extra resources to permit the strengthening of Regional Crime Squads will be taken fully into account in the forthcoming RSG settlement.

We need also to consider the current financial year. If we are to maintain the momentum which we are building up, we need to plan - and I shall need to be in a position to say publicly that we are planning - for a significant start this year in strengthening Regional Crime Squads. This means that I shall have to persuade (I cannot compel) police authorities to begin seconding more officers to the Squads; and, if their own local efforts to combat the drugs problems are not to suffer, they will have to be able to recruit extra officers to replace those seconded. I do not think that the additional expenditure this year will exceed £½ million (which I shall do my best to match with savings in my cash limited provision), but I believe we must facilitate this by deciding to disregard the extra expenditure for grant penalty purposes.

In order, as I say, to maintain the momentum I propose therefore at my press conference later this week to take the following line on resources:

- (a) the Government will be taking full account of the need for additional resources for strengthening RCSs in the forthcoming RSG settlement;
- (b) this year we will be assisting and encouraging police authorities seconding more officers to the RCSs by approving extra posts in the Regional Crime Squads; paying (of course) 50% police grant on any additional expenditure to replace the seconded officers; and (as a

The Rt Hon Peter Rees, QC, MP





CCHB

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London  
SW1H 9AT

MBPM

18 July 1985

Dear Home Secretary

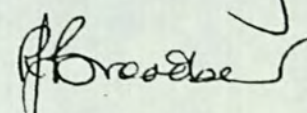
**DRUGS: POLICE RESOURCES**

Thank you for your letter of 16 July setting out your proposals for financing the resources required to implement the recommendations of the ACPO Report on Drug Related Crime.

I am glad to learn that the £½ million of additional expenditure expected in 1985-86 is the overall increase in expenditure by local authorities and that you will seek offsetting savings from your cash limit expenditure for the total amount. I also understand that Patrick Jenkin is now prepared to allow disregard on this expenditure if it proves essential. So am I.

We are still discussing the presentation of the 1986-87 settlement. But, so long as you agree that there is no question of re-opening the £500 million addition to provision, I accept that you should say that the additional needs for spending on controlling drug abuse have been taken into account in the overall settlement.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, Patrick Jenkin, Willie Whitelaw and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely  
  
for PETER REES

[Approved by the Chief Secretary]



Home Affairs: Drugs Pt 2,

