



PRIME MINISTER

SCOTTISH OFFICE
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Prime Minister ②
The Scottish Office will be broadly following
the Home Sec's line for England & Wales.

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DRUGS MISUSE

In his minute of 10 July, the Home Secretary outlines his proposals for an early announcement of changes affecting the Police and Customs to combat drug misuse.

The ACPO recommendations, on which these proposals are based, do not for the most part extend to Scotland. The main exception is the proposal for an enhanced (and renamed) Central Drugs Intelligence Unit (CDIU) which already serves police forces north of the Border and which is partly financed by the Scottish Office and police authorities in Scotland. I believe that the envisaged changes and, in particular the creation of a data-base for major intelligence common to both police and Customs, will be welcomed by the police service in Scotland.

With the Scottish Crime Squad - which is the broad equivalent of the regional crime squads in England and Wales - operating on an all-Scotland basis, we do not have the problems of co-ordination which the ACPO recommendations are designed to meet. It will be important, however, for well-defined liaison arrangements to be established between the service in Scotland and the National Co-ordinator (whose remit in the operational sense will not of course extend to Scotland). This is an issue which I shall be inviting ACPO (Scotland) to address.

The Association in Scotland are also considering whether the Scottish Crime Squad might be strengthened to ensure that it can tackle both drug-related activity (which at present accounts for around 70 per cent of its case-load) and other serious crime.

I welcome the Home Secretary's proposal to establish a high level Steering Group. It will be desirable for Scottish interests to be represented on the Group.

I note the Home Secretary's comment that you have indicated that additional resources should be made available to allow his proposals to be implemented. The plan to enhance the CDIU will have financial implications for Scotland as will any proposal to enlarge the Scottish Crime Squad. So I would wish the usual formula to apply.

The Home Secretary's announcement will doubtless call for comment from me about the situation in Scotland. To any such requests I would take the line that separate consideration is being given to expanding the Scottish Crime Squad; that I welcome the proposed expansion of CDIU; that Scotland will be represented on the Steering Group and will benefit from the additional resources being made available.

I am copying this minute to Willie Whitelaw, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, Keith Joseph, Leon Brittan, Nick Edwards, Norman Fowler, Peter Rees and Douglas Hurd, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

G.Y.

G.Y.

HOME AFFAIRS: Drugs: P 2

H.C.P.

