



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

7 March 1986  
N JPA at this stage.

Dear John.

Following representations from the Cambridgeshire Police Authority, strongly supported by local Members, about the burden which the additional costs of policing demonstrations at Molesworth and Alconbury would place on the police budget, Leon Brittan, with Peter Rees' agreement, offered a special payment to the authority for 1985-86. The first payment will shortly be made and we expect the total amount which will be paid out up to the end of 1985-86 to be around £400,000.

I have been considering whether the arrangements should be extended into 1986-87. The policing of Molesworth and Alconbury is a continuing commitment; the demonstrators have been there for a year and it is predictable that they will be there for some time yet. For other special payments, we have rested not only on the exceptional size of the expenditure involved but also on the fact that it was unforeseeable. Since expenditure on policing these bases is foreseeable, it could be argued that the police authority should provide for it. However, this was also the position when our predecessors agreed on the special payment and I would find it difficult to use this argument publicly to defend bringing the special payment to an end.

There has, of course, been one significant change with the increase in police grant for 1986-87. This will be of benefit to the Cambridgeshire Police Authority but not of the same benefit as a special payment. The authority will argue that we are merely giving with one hand and taking with the other. I certainly regard the increase in police grant as strengthening my hand in resisting applications from police authorities for new special payments but it is difficult to apply the arguments where we are already making such a payment. As you know, in announcing the increase in the rate of police grant, I referred to the increasing demands on the police service arising from the need to combat drug abuse, public disorder and terrorism. To allow the benefit of the grant increase in Cambridgeshire to be absorbed entirely by the policing of Molesworth would imply that no contribution was being made to other increased demands on the force.

Furthermore, the police authority could still be left with a significant additional sum arising from the policing of Molesworth and Alconbury. We expect an increase in the level of protest activity as the construction of the base gets fully under way. With a police budget of only about £25m, even additional expenditure on the scale expected this year causes significant problems for the authority.

/The guarantee

The Rt Hon John MacGregor, MP



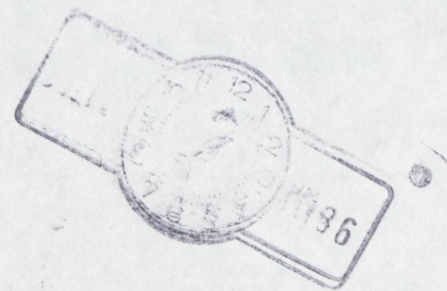
The guarantee of close-ending which Kenneth Baker has now given will benefit Cambridgeshire County Council by nearly £6.5m. However, in setting its precept each year Cambridgeshire has allowed for an expected level of flow-back and I understand that in planning its expenditure for 1986-87 the Council has already taken into account most of the additional sum. Since Cambridgeshire has already done what we hope other local authorities will do as a result of Kenneth Baker's announcement, it is difficult to argue that they should instead see the guarantee of close-ending as a substitute for a special payment.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Kenneth Baker, Malcolm Rifkind, George Younger and John Wakeham.

Lawer

Doug's.







*CCB*



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26th March 1986

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*MB*

*Prime Minister<sup>2</sup>  
Mr Howard and Mr Younger want  
more money for the Cambridgeshire  
police to help them police  
Molesworth and Alconbury.*

*Dear John, attached*

Douglas Hurd sent me a copy of his letter to you of 7th March 1986 on the extension into 1986/87 of the special payment to the Cambridgeshire Police Authority in respect of policing tasks connected with RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury.

*DRS  
26/3.*

We are working to an extremely tight timescale for the development of Molesworth as the second cruise missile facility in the UK - we have less than 18 months for the major part of the construction to be completed before the first missiles arrive. RAF Alconbury will play an increasing role in the development of the base by providing administrative support and providing landing and storage facilities for much of the sensitive equipment. Demonstrations have had little effect on the development programme so far, thanks partly to the excellent relations between the MOD security authorities and the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. But as construction work peaks, and we move towards the delivery phase, we must expect an increasing amount of disruptive action against Molesworth and

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP



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Alconbury. The role of the local police is unlikely to reduce during this period. It would be their responsibility, for example, to keep access roads open for construction traffic despite attempted blockades of the base along the lines of the demonstration on 6th February.

Clearly policing tasks associated with Molesworth and Alconbury have placed a strain on the resources of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority and are likely to continue to do so to an, as yet, unquantifiable degree. Whilst this is, of course, a Home Office matter, it is clear from my Department's dealings with the local authorities that they feel very strongly that this is an area in which Central Government support should be available.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Baker, Malcolm Rifkind and John Wakeham.

Yours ever,  
George.

George Younger

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DEFENCE Policing & Demonstrations 2/8

