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16 March 1984

MR BARCLAY

Prime Minister<sup>(1)</sup>

Agree response at X? *Yes*

*2mg*  
*16/3*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

Leon Brittan's letter is most helpful. It reveals that an enormous amount of good work is under way, and rightly suggests there could be a further report at the end of June summarising progress made in the next 3 months.

I have only four specific comments:

1. Victim support is popular, as the response to Leon's recent speech indicates. It is vital, however, that it is not seen as a soft option. For serious crimes it should be only a small addition to the current sentence. For crimes involving theft of property, there should be more attempt to make the burglars repay the stolen cash or goods, as well as other punishment. For very minor offences, where at the moment there would be no punishment other than a caution, help for the victim could be a suitable additional impost.
2. Reporting of crimes. The question raised was whether the threat or practice of press publicity is used in the right circumstances as a deterrent. Some potential offenders would be deterred by the thought of publicity for wrongdoing (eg kerb-crawlers).
3. The idea about academics is to strengthen support amongst opinion-formers for what the Government is trying to do in fighting the crime wave and developing a commonsense approach to sentencing. I would like to talk further to Leon's officials on this subject as to how it could be undertaken.
4. Leon's letter says that he is holding an important weekend conference at Ditchley in April on the theme "Police and Public". I would like Peter Shipley to attend, and will ask Leon's office about this.

X / I suggest the Prime Minister should welcome Leon's letter, and encourage a further short report at the end of June, particularly commenting on improvements in value for money and in reassessing the efficacy of different kinds of sentencing.

*John Redwood*  
JOHN REDWOOD

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*It is an excellent letter, I think*

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*Lie . ECC*

*fcc Mr Redwood*

19 March 1984

The Prime Minister was most grateful for the Home Secretary's letter of 14 March, setting out his initial response to the paper prepared by the Policy Unit on Criminal Justice Strategy. She thought that the approach set out by your Secretary of State was quite excellent. She looks forward to receiving a further report at the end of June, which she hopes will comment particularly on improvements in value for money, and on assessing the effectiveness of different kinds of sentencing.

David Barclay

Nigel Pantling Esq  
Home Office

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Police Policy  
2/3 n/4

# Home Office

## NEWS RELEASE

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DMS  
17/4

April 18, 1984

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE  
0001 HOURS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1984.

### CRIME AND POLICE EFFECTIVENESS

Crime and Police Effectiveness by Ronald V Clarke and Mike Hough, report no 79 in the series "Home Office Research Studies" is being published today (Wednesday April 18) by Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The price excluding postage is £3.40 net.

The report summarises research on the effectiveness of conventional policing approaches to crime control, such as foot and mobile patrol and criminal investigation and assesses the likely effectiveness of more recent developments, such as community and neighbourhood policing, more focussed patrolling, situational prevention and the initiatives being taken by the Metropolitan Police. The report does not examine the effectiveness with which the police handle their many other duties: the maintenance of order in the streets, crowd control, traffic, responding to fires, floods and similar emergencies and providing a round-the-clock service of assistance to the public.

Its main conclusions are:

Further large increases in manpower devoted to conventional policing methods are unlikely to achieve much overall reduction in crime. Further substantial increases in routine foot or car patrol would alone probably not reduce crime, or substantially improve the clear-up rate.

The Home Office and the police are developing promising new approaches: community and neighbourhood policing; 'targetted surveillance' of certain types of offender; more focussed patrolling strategies; and the 'situational' approach which involves reducing opportunities for crime. In the short term at least the resulting manpower needs can probably be met by re-allocation of resources.

Because the report is focussed solely on crime work; it cannot provide a direct guide to the optimum size of the police service. Additional manpower might, for example, contribute to public confidence, reduce fear of crime, or improve aspects of police work not covered by the report. However the report underlines the message of a circular on effectiveness which the Home Office has recently issued to police forces stressing the need for the most efficient use of existing resources. Its findings are also in line with the recent announcements of Sir Kenneth Newman and the Chief Inspector of Constabulary about ways of enhancing police effectiveness.