

MANAGEMENT - IN CONFIDENCE

Prime Minister⁽²⁾HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

16 November 1984

To note. I understand that these changes may be trailed
Dear David, in the Sunday press.

JMS
16/11

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METROPOLITAN POLICE - FORCE RE-ORGANISATION

The Prime Minister will wish to be aware that Sir Kenneth Newman will next week announce his intention to make major structural changes in the Metropolitan Police force.

These changes have been discussed in detail with the Home Secretary and carry his full support.

The primary objective is to provide the managerial and organisational structure which will best support the strategy and goals of the force and ensure that its resources are used in the most effective and efficient way. The present structure of 75 Divisions, 24 Districts, 4 Areas and Headquarters will be streamlined by replacing the two middle tiers by 8 Areas, thereby creating a single intermediate level of command. And the size of the Headquarters organisation will be reduced by devolving to the Areas or Divisions functions which can be dealt with at a lower level, thereby changing the emphasis away from ancillary and support roles towards operational policing.

The 4 Assistant Commissioner posts (Operations, Crime, Traffic and Personnel and Training) will remain but with functions redistributed as follows:

Territorial Policing - looking after all the business of Area and Division, including Traffic and CID;

Specialist Policing - looking after force-wide (mainly crime-related) functions;

Personnel and Training - as at present; and

Management Services - providing for management an overview of all force functions, and in particular monitoring the quality of service.

No reduction is envisaged in the 17 Deputy Assistant Commissioner posts (8 of whom will take charge of the 8 new Areas). The major personnel change will be at the level of Commander (who at present command the Districts) and it is estimated that about 20 of the 54 Commander posts will be abolished over the next few years, together with some 20 Chief Superintendent posts.

The plan involves no overall increase in resources but the reduction of numbers at Headquarters will enable more resources to be concentrated on operational policing "on the ground" at Divisional level, which should lead to a better service to the public. No police stations will be closed. There will be no change in the present arrangements for Royalty and diplomatic protection or the Special Branch.

The Commissioner proposes to implement his plan over a period of two years. Although the major structural changes outlined above are now fixed,

consultations will be necessary within the force to determine more detailed changes and the Commissioner has undertaken to consult the Home Secretary at appropriate stages.

The Commissioner plans to announce the major changes at a Press Conference on Tuesday, 20 November at 3 p.m. The same day, the Home Secretary proposes to answer an Arranged Parliamentary Question and the Commissioner will be writing personally to each Member of Parliament with a constituency within the Metropolitan Police District.

I am ever,
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N A PANTLING

David Barclay, Esq.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1984

METROPOLITAN POLICE - FORCE REORGANISATION

The Prime Minister was grateful to see, in your letter to me of 16 November, Sir Kenneth Newman's proposed structural changes in the Metropolitan Police Force. She has noted its contents.

(DAVID BARCLAY)

N.A. Pantling, Esq.,
Home Office.