



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

8 May 1979

Dear John.

Police Pay

The Home Secretary raised at the informal meeting of Cabinet Ministers this afternoon, the question of announcing the Government's decision on police pay. The Prime Minister approved Mr. Whitelaw's proposal that this should be announced tomorrow and she would be grateful if he, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would arrange for this to be done.

The question was also raised whether the decision on the Armed Services should be announced concurrently with that of the police: it was pointed out that this entailed consideration of the TSRB Report since the pay of the highest-ranking officers, along with Judges, senior civil servants, etc. was dealt with separately from the rest of the Armed Services. The Prime Minister indicated after the Cabinet meeting that while she recognised the force of this, she hoped that the Armed Forces pay could still be dealt with quickly and she would welcome urgent proposals from the Secretary of State for Defence and other colleagues concerned for bringing the matter to a conclusion.

The question was also raised on the extent to which the cost of the police settlement would be met in the Rate Support Grant. The Prime Minister indicated that it should be met in full for the police but not - certainly at this stage - for the teachers.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President, the Secretaries of State for Industry, Energy, Trade, Environment, the Minister of Transport, and to Sir Ian Bancroft.

cc DES.

Yours
Ken Stone

John Chilcot, Esq.,
Home Office.

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Home Office

NEWS RELEASE

50 Queen Anne's Gate London SW1H 9AT
Telephone 01-213 3030/4050/5050

213 3000 (night line)

May 9, 1979

POLICE PAY

The Government is committed to implement in full the Edmund-Davies pay award for the police. The Home Secretary is accordingly arranging for the immediate payment of the second stage of the award. Following discussions with representatives of the police authorities and police service today, the necessary regulations will be introduced into Parliament as soon as possible.

The Home Secretary, the Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP, said: "By this action the Government has demonstrated very clearly its support for the police and their role in society.

The police, in their turn, can be expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and efficiency and to give a total dedication to maintaining a peaceable and orderly society".

Note to Editors

The Edmund-Davies report on police pay (Cmnd 7283), published in July 1978, recommended substantial increases, ranging from 30% to 45%, in the pay of all ranks of the police service. A special allowance of £650 a year was recommended for the Metropolitan Police.

The previous Government accepted these recommendations but decided on implementation in two equal instalments - September 1978 and September 1979. The new Government's decision brings forward the second instalment of the police pay award from September 1 to May 1.

The basic pay of a police constable will now be £3600 on joining (£4300 if he is 22 years old) rising to £5700 after 15 years' service. The basic pay of sergeants will be £5450 to £6250. London police will receive an additional £969 a year. (This includes £319 London weighting.)