



EOB

NBPm  
dr.

PRIME MINISTER

DRUG ABUSE

We now have an attractive package of solid proposals for Ken Clarke to announce to the Party Conference. I am most grateful to you and colleagues for your co-operation in making this possible.

I am, though, anxious that, after so much work, our proposals should receive the maximum favourable publicity.

This means that they should be kept entirely confidential until their disclosure in Ken's speech; that all relevant Departments' press officers should adopt a coherent line in briefing; and that full explanation of the measures should be made to the press at Brighton. The second and third of these are fully in hand. Ken is ensuring co-ordination of briefing. There is to be a joint press conference by Ken and David Mellor after Ken's speech. It is, therefore, all the more important to ensure that the substance of Ken's announcements on sentencing, police, customs officers, treatment, security and publicity is in no way pre-empted by announcements or leaks before he stands up to speak on Wednesday. I am sure that you and colleagues will agree about the importance of this.

I am copying this minute to Nigel Lawson, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Fowler, Douglas Hurd, Keith Joseph, Peter Rees, Kenneth Clarke and Sir Robert Armstrong.

L.B.

5 October 1984

BEMACO.

c. O. Letwin



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 October 1984

The Prime Minister has now seen the Home Secretary's letter of 28 September about drug abuse. She very much welcomes the proposals set out in the letter including the proposal to announce and design an effective publicity programme. The Prime Minister also welcomes the proposal by the Secretary of State for Education and Science set out in his minute of 1 October that teachers in particular should be trained to recognise and help children at risk. She believes that the package of proposals which has been developed will be an effective response to the understandable concern about drug abuse which is likely to be expressed at the Party Conference, and she commends those who have been involved in drawing them up.

I am copying this letter to Margaret O'Mara (HM Treasury), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Department of Education and Science), John Graham (Scottish Office), Colin Jones (Welsh Office), Steve Godber (Department of Health and Social Security), Graham Sandiford (Northern Ireland Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Stephen Alcock (Kenneth Clarke's Office, Department of Health and Social Security) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(Timothy Flesher)

Nigel Pantling, Esq.,  
Home Office

A handwritten signature in the bottom right corner of the page.

Prime Minister

The Home Secretary's minute is at flag A; Sir Keith at flag B. I agree with Oliver letwin: this is a positive response for the Home Secretary in an area

MR FLESHER

2 October 1984

DRUG ABUSE

Yes mb

Government was becoming vulnerable to criticism. Respond as proposed?

The Home Secretary's minute is most encouraging. He and his special adviser, Robin Harris, have used the Prime Minister's letter to spur officials into action, and it now appears that Ken Clarke will have something substantial to announce at the Conference.

JF

2/10

Keith Joseph's suggestion that teachers and others should be trained to spot and appropriately deal with drug-users is also a step in the right direction. But it does not need more money: the small amount of time and effort required by local authorities and teacher training colleges could easily be accommodated within existing budgets.

The only contentious issue is the proposed 'publicity campaign'. The Home Office want market research to design an effective campaign, whereas the DES want market research to find out whether a campaign would be effective. So far as we can see, this is an exercise in self-parody by the DES. If you want to achieve results, you obviously start by asking how to do something properly, and give up only if you cannot devise a solution.

We recommend that the Prime Minister should reply to the Home Secretary, thanking him warmly for his response and backing all his proposals, including the intention to announce and design an effective publicity programme, but adding support for Keith's wish to train schoolteachers.

Oliver Letwin.

OLIVER LETWIN



WBPm

JW

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP  
Secretary of State  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London SW1H 9AT

9 October 1984

Dear Home Secretary

**DRUG MISUSE**

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the Prime Minister of 28 September. I have also seen a copy of your minute of 5 October.

2 On the question of numbers of Customs officers, Barney Hayoe and I were in the course of reviewing the manpower plans for Customs and Excise for 1985-86 and subsequent years. We had already agreed that the Department's manpower allocation should be increased by a total of 185 over the previously planned level for 1985-86. This will include 160 posts allocated to the field of customs preventive controls. 100 will be new posts for boosting controls in the fight against drug smuggling and will be used in the areas most likely to yield results, for example by increasing Customs' intelligence efforts and improving their selective controls. The balance of 60 posts will be used to make permanent an allocation which Customs made temporarily for 1984-85, as a result of one year's slippage of other requirements, for the enhancement of preventive control of passengers and freight.

3 I agree that Kenneth Clarke should refer specifically to these 160 posts in his speech to the Party Conference. In order to set this announcement in the context of overall Customs numbers we shall parallel it on Wednesday with a Treasury press release which will give our decision in full.

CONFIDENTIAL



4 As to the proposals in paragraphs 4 and 5 of your letter, the additional costs would fall on the health programme. I would expect Norman Fowler to find the additional costs within agreed allocations, as he has already agreed to do on the cash-limited part of his programme.

5 I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to Keith Joseph, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards, Norman Fowler. Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Clarke and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely*

*Richard Braddock*

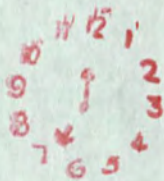
for PETER REES

*[Approved by the Chief Secretary]*

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HOME Affairs: Drugs Dec 82

9 OCT 1984





ccno

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*From the Minister for Health*

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
Parliament Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 3AG

5 October 1984

*Dr. Reid.*

*H  
shw*

DRUG ABUSE

You will by now have seen the correspondence between the Prime Minister and Leon Brittan on drug abuse, in connection with the speech that I will be making at Party Conference.

The package of announcements that the Prime Minister has endorsed includes the proposal that the Government intends to make available more Customs staff to reinforce controls to prevent drug smuggling. I understand that Treasury Ministers have agreed this measure.

My speech stresses the action that every part of the Government is taking to cover every aspect of the problem. It would look rather odd if the Treasury content was lacking and your announcement was made elsewhere, in a speech on the economy. I can assure you that this is not an attempt on behalf of DHSS Ministers to take over Customs and Excise! My speech will use a phrase such as "Nigel Lawson has asked me to say that he will today etc ...". Leon has adopted this approach in suggesting to the Prime Minister that his Home Office announcements should be part of a statement of the Government's total policy. I would be grateful for your support.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister and Leon Brittan.

*Kenneth Clarke*

KENNETH CLARKE

Home Affairs

Dec 82

Drug Abuse