

PRIME MINISTER

ASSASSINATION AND DEATH OR INJURY IN SERVICE

1. Mr. Gow's minute of 15 November (Flag A) records the outcome of the interdepartmental review into the compensation provisions for dependants of civil servants killed by terrorists. Ministers recommend:-

- (i) an increase in the "transitional" pension of six months; and
- (ii) doubling the six months lump sum death benefit.

You had earlier (Flag B) supported these two improvements.

2. Ministers did not favour your other suggestion that the maximum pension for widows of assassinated officers should be increased from 45 per cent to 50 per cent for the reasons described in paragraph 6 of the note by officials (Flag C) ✓
In brief, an increase to 50% for widows pensions would give public servants an even bigger lead over the private sector. Instead Ministers recommend that there should be an ex gratia "special category" payment on the lines suggested in paragraph 3 of the officials' note. The amount of the payment would be a matter for judgement, perhaps related to the victim's salary and/or the circumstances of dependants. It is not expected that the armed forces, police and fire services would qualify since they have their own arrangements.

3. This special category payment would also be tailored so as to mitigate any disadvantage to the public servants as a result of the discount rate used by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in calculating compensation. If the discount rate was to cause any problem, this could be taken

into account in settling the size of the special category payment.

4.

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5. So, agree

- the two particular improvements to the pension schemes referred to in paragraph 1 above; *Yes*

- the introduction of a scheme for ex-gratia payments; *Yes*

-

N.L.W.

(N.L. Wicks)

Charlyson
no

19 November 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

20 November 1985

ASSASSINATION AND DEATH OR INJURY IN THE SERVICE

I have shown the Prime Minister the minute of 15 November from the then Minister of State, Treasury, reporting the review of compensation provisions for the dependants of public servants who are killed on duty in circumstances similar to those of Mr. Kenneth Whitty and Mr. Percy Norris. The Prime Minister has also seen Len Appleyard's letter of 18 November which proposes certain payments to the widow of Mr. Percy Norris.

The Prime Minister is grateful for the work which has gone into this review and she is generally content with its outcome. In particular, she agrees the two improvements in the pension schemes referred to in paragraph 2 of the note by officials (an increase to six months in the transitional pension and doubling to six months the lump sum death benefit) as well as the proposal for the new ex-gratia "special category" payment.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Stephen Boys Smith (Home Office), Rob Smith (Department of Education and Science), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence), Robert Gordon (Scottish Office), Tony Laurance (Department of Health and Social Security), Jim Daniell (Northern Ireland Office), Robin Young (Department of the Environment) and Michael Stark (Cabinet Office).

(N.L. Wicks)

M.W. Norgrove, Esq.,
Minister of State's Office,
H.M. Treasury.

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BMJ

18 November 1985

MR WICKS

ASSASSINATION AND DEATH OR INJURY IN SERVICE

The most important proposal in the Treasury note of 15 November is ex-gratia special category payments for dependants of public servants killed on duty in circumstances like those of Mr Whitty and Mr Norris. This is a good idea, which we support. Otherwise we have no comments on the paper.

David Willetts

DAVID WILLETTS





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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 November 1985

Dear Nigel,

Assassination and Death in the Service

The Foreign Secretary has seen the minute of 15 November to the Prime Minister from the Minister of State at the Treasury in which he recommends, in addition to two improvements in the public service pension schemes already agreed, a "special category" ex-gratia payment in certain cases of politically motivated assassination or maiming. The Foreign Secretary welcomes this compromise proposal. If the Prime Minister accepts it, he would like to recommend, as suggested in Mr Gow's paragraph, that an ex-gratia payment should be made to the widow of Mr Percy Norris, the former Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay who was assassinated there on 27 November 1984.

This sum will be found from FCO resources, although Sir Geoffrey Howe considers that as a general principle payments of this sort should not necessarily have to be met from within the employing Department's existing allocations.

This is also suggested in Mr Gow's paragraph 5. It is hard to compare Mrs Norris's present position with the hypothetical situation of her husband having survived to retiring age, because one needs to take account of further salary increases due to him. The case rests on its own merits. Sir Geoffrey is very anxious that these three payments should all be made before the anniversary of Mr Norris' death on 27 November.

These payments would be in addition to benefits already paid to Mrs Norris under the PCSPS. Those benefits exceed what she would have received as damages by analogy with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in the UK, so she does not qualify for a payment from that scheme.

/ I am ...



I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Lord Chancellor, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Education, Defence, Scotland, Health and Social Security, Northern Ireland and the Environment, to the Minister of State at the Treasury, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

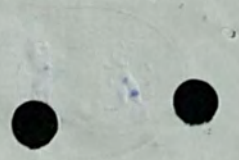
Yours,

Le Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

N L Wicks Esq CBE
10 Downing Street

CIVIL SERVICE: Assassination in service: May 1904



James
W. [unclear]