

Cover Sheet

METROPOLITAN POLICE

No. 143A

MEMORANDUM

From

D.C.I. Ferguson

To

14 November
D.C.S. Kneale

19 78

M.P.-77-93804/60M (4) G828

- 1) As you are aware, certain restrictions are placed upon members of the SDS (Field Officers) in relation to their visits to Police premises i.e. they are not expected to visit CO or other Metropolitan Police Offices apart from exceptional or unavoidable circumstances.
- 2) An annual problem arises however with Promotion examinations which take place either on Police premises or in ILEA School buildings temporarily leased to the Metropolitan Police. From an SDS security point of view both of these venues are undesirable, and it is in fact more difficult to account for an examinee's presence in an ILEA School than it is at a Police establishment.
- 3) To illustrate these difficulties two examples are given :
 - a) One of the examination centres for the 1978 DC to DS examination was an ILEA School in the Notting Hill Gate area. As one of the SDS members was approaching the entrance to this School he saw one of his 'comrades' and was obviously obliged to engage him in conversation. Had he been unaware of his 'comrade's' presence, but had been seen entering the School premises at this time, he would have encountered considerable difficulty in accounting for his actions at a later stage because it was well known in the area that the School was used for Police purposes on this day.
 - b) Those SDS members who have taken the examination at the Peel Centre have been subjected to close scrutiny and questioning by other Police Officers, and this 'exposure' to the eyes of so many other junior Police Officers can only be regarded as highly undesirable.
- 4) Discreet enquiries within D(2) reveal that there would be no objection to a room being set aside at CO for SDS examinees, possibly with Supt. Pryde or myself acting as one of the invigilators - the other being provided through D Department. The normal security procedure would be adopted for visits to CO i.e. [REDACTED]
- 1 [REDACTED]
- 5) In the circumstances I feel that for security reasons alone, consideration should be given to all future promotion examinations for SDS Officers being held at CO.

2 [REDACTED]
 Det. Ch. Inspector
 M. Ferguson
 2 [REDACTED]