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Our reference:
Your reference:

9 August 1983

K G Oxford Esq CBE QPM
Chief Constable
Merseyside Police
PO Box 59
LIVERPOOL
L69 1JD

Dear Ken,

HOME OFFICE GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING A SPECIAL BRANCH

I am sorry that it has proved impossible to fix a meeting on Special Branches before the afternoon of Monday 3 October. In view of the very long delay since my letter of 10 May suggesting that a meeting should take place we have undertaken a little preliminary work in order to provide a focus for the discussion.

I must emphasise that the enclosed draft Home Office letter to chief officers and the guidelines which go with it are very much a first shot. By October we may have as many comments on the drafts as anyone else at the meeting. But despite their shaky status I think it is worth circulating them and basing the discussion at the meeting on them.

You may notice a change in terminology. "Guidelines" seems to be a new fashionable Home Office phrase and in any case it seems to me to be a slightly more appropriate term for what we are seeking to achieve than "terms of reference".

You will see that paragraph 3 of the draft letter is in square brackets to indicate that it is even more tentative than the rest. In relation to the issue of publication I believe that what we have to consider is:

- a. should we aim to publish or keep open the option of eventual publication for new Home Office guidelines of Special Branches; and
- b. if either of these options is chosen (as opposed to publishing nothing at any time) we must be sure that the right material is allocated to the guidelines and anything which we would not wish to see published is allocated to the covering letter.

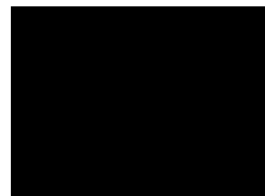
I was particularly conscious that we in the Home Office know little or nothing about training for Special Branches and I am fairly sure that if anything is to be included on training we shall need something more substantial and authoritative than the present paragraph 4 of the draft letter to chief officers. The Director General from Box 500 wrote important letters to chief officers on 29 May 1974 (industrial disputes) and 16 December 1975 (schools) and we shall need to consider

[REDACTED]

whether those letters are to remain in force after new guidelines have been issued or whether such of their content as is still applicable should be incorporated either in the covering letter or in the guidelines.

I am copying this letter and the enclosures to Gilbert Kelland and Colin Hewett (Metropolitan Police), [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Box 500) and [REDACTED] (SHHD).

*Y
LAWTS EVER,*



J G PILLING

