

1. Mr [REDACTED]
2. Mr Harrington

REVIEW OF SPECIAL BRANCH GUIDELINES

I have attached revised drafts of the guidelines for Special Branches and the covering letter to chief officers.

The contribution from the Security Service which we are awaiting would be included in paragraph 7 of the guidelines. The two letters [REDACTED] SyS Officer [REDACTED] is also reviewing would be annexes to the covering letter. One of them is classified secret and [REDACTED] SyS Officer [REDACTED] is exploring the possibility of down-grading this to confidential. Mr Pilling was particularly concerned to ensure that the end result was not too highly classified.

The changes I have made are those agreed at the meeting of 3 November; the minutes of which are flagged within. A copy of the previous drafts and [REDACTED] SyS Officer [REDACTED]'s suggested revised drafts are also both flagged within. Paragraph 11 of the covering letter is entirely new as it was agreed that the Home Office would include a paragraph inviting chief officers to consult us about any difficulties they have regarding Special Branches in dealing with their police authorities.

The next step, after [REDACTED] SyS Officer [REDACTED] replies to us, would be to consult ACPO formally before submitting the papers to the Secretary of State. I understand that the ACPO Crime Committee will be meeting again in mid-May, and it would obviously be advantageous to write to Peter Imbert and Maurice Buck before then (they only meet every three months), and to the President of ACPO, David Hall. If the ACPO response is favourable, we should be in a position to complete the review in the early summer.

[REDACTED]

29 March 1984

[REDACTED]