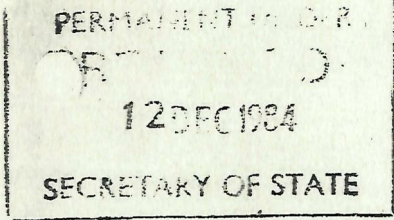


From: Sir Lawrence Byford
11th December 1984



cc. Mr Taylor
Mr [redacted]
Mr Partridge
Mr Hilary
Mr Harrington

(139)

now file

Sir Brian Cubbon

SPECIAL BRANCH GUIDELINES

Thank you for copying to me your note of 10th December to Mr Harrington about the above.

Insofar as the accountability issue is concerned a Chief Constable can, and occasionally does, decline a task which the Security Service wishes his Special Branch to carry out. Put in another way, everything a Special Branch officer does is within his duties and functions as a constable and under the direction of the Chief Constable as envisaged by the latter's tortious liability. Any Security Service involvement does not affect this basic constitutional principle.

In my experience, and I am pretty sure this is the rule, the only payments that are made by the Security Service to Chief Constables relate to the agents being run in a force area. Details are kept strictly confidential for obvious reasons but can be checked by the HMI on the annual inspection. I do not believe such payments intrude into the chief officers' accountability per se as his officers merely act as intermediaries between the Security Service and the agents in the same way that can arise between insurance assessors and informants following a major crime where the property might be recovered.

L. Byford
HMCIC