

- 1. Mr. Heaton
- 2. Mr. [REDACTED] (F1 Division)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF THE METROPOLIS FOR THE YEAR 1978

I have flagged at X on p.25 of Chapter IV, the reference in the Commissioner's report to the work of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch. It is rather less forthcoming than we would, I think, have hoped. It might, for example, have quoted what was said in the debate on 24th May rather than merely referring to it.

Be that as it may, I am rather more concerned about the references to police authorities including the Home Secretary. This might be taken to imply that the Home Secretary had some operational control over Special Branches. I would prefer, therefore, that the second and third sentences of the relevant passage were amended as follows:

"It was emphasised that Special Branch officers are ordinary police officers responsible through their senior officers, to their chief officers of police, who are responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the preservation of public order in their areas. In the case of the Metropolitan Police, the branch forms part of C Department and is responsible through the Assistant Commissioner "C" to the Commissioner."

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[REDACTED]
F4 Division

25th April, 1979