

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: MRS C COLLINS
Police Division
13 January 1995

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Wood - B

PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS FROM KEN MAGINNIS

Mr Maginnis has tabled seven priority written PQs, in his crusade against the Chief Constable.

2. Police Division are currently working, in consultation with the RUC and Police Authority in preparing Answers, along the lines at Annex A. However, Mr Maginnis's activity does have broader implications, especially when viewed alongside the difficult relationship between the Chief Constable and PANI:

an adverse impact on the morale of the Force;

an adverse impact on community confidence in both the police and the Police Authority, and also indirectly in the Secretary of State and Ministers; and

potentially presents a propaganda opportunity for Sinn Fein.

Mr Maginnis and others in the UPP, especially Mr Trimble, have for some time been making clear their disquiet about the Chief Constable. But this now shows signs of building up into something of a crescendo; it is not clear why this should be so now. However, his irritation must somehow be assuaged and contained, because of its potentially far-reaching adverse consequences. In the short

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241

CONFIDENTIAL

term, we will answer the Questions in as positive manner as possible; in the medium term, perhaps placatory efforts by the Chief Constable towards Mr Maginnis could be encouraged, and simultaneously, the potential consequences of Mr Maginnis's actions pointed out to Mr Molyneaux.

3. The Chief Constable is perhaps not the easiest personality; but I wonder to what extent his efforts to modernise the RUC, and to move it forward along lines of which we would wholly approve, may be responsible for some of the reaction, from particular quarters within his Force? And indeed from outside it? I think it would be unwise to neglect the fact that there are some extremely conservative elements both within the RUC, and closely connected with it, whose instincts are easily offended by even the most mild forms of openness and modernisation. And lest we all forget, it was the Chief Constable who took the unprecedented step of calling in an outside officer (Mr Stephens) to investigate the allegations of collusion against the RUC following the killing of Loughlin McGinn in 1989. He is, in RUC terms, a very modern Chief Constable and that may be at the root of much of the current highly personal opposition to him. He is also capable of performing well in PR terms, as he showed in his performance on Counterpoint last night.

4. So, the Government will need to support him - both because he is the only Chief Constable the RUC have got, and this kind of destructive activity will be bad both for the Force and more widely; and because he is a comparatively modernising influence, and lack of support will be seen as a signal, of encouragement to the more diehard elements, and discouragement of the younger generation of more progressive minded officers, who need all the encouragement and support that can be provided, if they are to succeed in bringing the RUC through the period of change which faces it.

Signed

C COLLINS

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241

CONFIDENTIAL

PQS: MR KEN MAGINNIS: FOR PRIORITY WRITTEN ANSWER ON 24 JANUARY 1995

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what are the normal consultative arrangements which exist between the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Police Authority for Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Answer

The Chief Constable and other senior officers attend regular meetings both with the Secretary of State and with the Chairman and Members of the Police Authority. My officials are in frequent contact with both the RUC and the Police Authority, and there is a wide variety of groups comprising NIO and PANI and the RUC, dealing with matters of common concern.

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what aspects of the situation relating to promotions to the rank of assistant chief constable in the Royal Ulster Constabulary are currently under consideration; when this process commenced; what are the difficulties; when the issue is likely to be resolved; and if he will list all the stages in the promotion process for the rank of assistant chief constable in the Royal Ulster Constabulary, including selection for the senior command course, when the Chief Constable makes a specific input to that process.

Answer

The process by which appointments to the rank of ACC are made is currently the subject of proceedings by way of judicial review; it is not appropriate to comment further pending the outcome of those proceedings.

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what comments Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies' 1994 report makes on the need for corporate policy decision making within the senior command of the Royal Ulster Constabulary; and what has been the Chief Constable's response to this.

Answer

The HMIC report for 1994 expressed concern

The Chief Constable is currently considering this and other recommendations of HMIC.

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what is the salary of the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary; how long the present Chief Constable has been in post; whether his family residence is in Northern Ireland; to what amount of housing allowance he is entitled; on how many nights during 1994 he was present in Northern Ireland; and if he will list those periods of longer than four nights duration when the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was out of Northern Ireland during 1994.

*I thought it was
the Deputy Commissioner?*

Answer

The salary of the Chief Constable is, under Regulations, set by reference to the salary of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; for 1994/95 it is £84,105 per annum. The Chief Constable, who was appointed by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland, with the approval of the Secretary of State, on 1 June 1989 has been in post 5½ years. X

The Chief Constable resides in Northern Ireland, at RUC Headquarters. [The Chief Constable is entitled to housing allowance under the provisions of ; in lieu of this he receives an allowance currently £4,355 per year.

The Chief Constable was in Northern Ireland on 236 nights in 1994; he was outside Northern Ireland on the following 8 occasions for periods of more than 4 nights:

CONFIDENTIAL

21 January to 10 February	20 nights [of which 19 annual leave]
21 March to 27 March	7 nights [official business]
31 March to 27 April	5 nights [of which 4 annual leave]
2 May to 8 May	7 nights [official business]
14 June to 19 June	6 nights [official business]
16 July to 1 August	16 nights [of which 15 annual leave]
24 September to 15 October	22 nights [of which 15 annual leave]
21 December to 31 December	11 nights [of which 10 annual leave]

(The Chief Constable, like all police officers, is entitled to 8 rest days in every 28 day period and to annual leave of [] days per year)

*Am I right in my deduction that
this means he has annual leave
of (as a minimum) 63 days
plus rest days?*

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241

CONFIDENTIAL

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what was the total cost of the policing budget of travel, and all associated expenses by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary during 1994.

Answer

The cost of the Chief Constable's travel in the course of his duties in Northern Ireland cannot be disaggregated. Travel outside NI on police duties cost [] during 1994; associated expenses totalled [].

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, when the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary was informed by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland of its intention to conduct a public survey on the future of policing in Northern Ireland.

Answer

The Chairman of the Police Authority wrote to the Chief Constable, as required by the terms of the legislation on Friday 18 November; at that stage, I understand the date on which the Police Authority was to announce its initiative had not been decided. The Secretary of the Police Authority informed the Chief Constable's office of the proposed date of the announcement on 30 December 1994.

CONFIDENTIAL

PQ

Question

Mr Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what account he has taken of the article published on 1st January written by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on the establishment of a commission for policing in Northern Ireland; and if it is the Government's intention to implement this suggestion; to what extent the suggestion was derived from general consultation with his senior command colleagues or the staff associations.

Answer

I have noted with interest the Chief Constable's letter of , published in the Sunday Times on 1 January, in response to a letter from Mr Mallon, published on [11 December] which contained the suggestion that a Commission on policing be established. I understand that the Chief Constable had consulted widely, and that such a Commission is the method preferred by the Police Association for consideration of policing reform issues. I do not, at this stage, intend to establish a Commission; and I would refer you to the Secretary of State's reply of 15 December to the Rt Hon Gyles Brandreth.

CONFIDENTIAL

JB POB 18241