

~~M. Street~~

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- cc: Ms Adams  
Mr Chilcot  
Mr Moriarty  
Mr Boys Smith  
Mr Turney  
Mr Mower  
Mr Addison  
Mr Goddard  
Mr Le Vay  
Mr Nagler  
Mr Whalley ✓  
Mr Lidington  
Mr Godfrey

From: Antony Townsend  
F9 Division  
31 July 1989

Miss Bannister

**CHARGES FOR POLICING FOOTBALL MATCHES IN LONDON**

You asked for further advice on Mr Boys Smith's submission of 20 July, in the light of Mr Mower's note of 28 July and Mr Moynihan's telephone call of today. I have discussed this note with Mr Mower.

2. I understand that Mr Moynihan was content to agree to the proposed increases in charges, but suggested:
  - (i) that Lord Ferrers should write to London MPs announcing the decision;
  - (ii) that the increases should not be phased over two years, but introduced at one go. Mr Moynihan believes it better to get the fuss over with now, rather than delaying part of it till next year when the clubs will be smarting from the costs of improved safety and new identity procedures.
3. You decided that the notion of a letter to MPs should be abandoned. MPs are away from Parliament, and it seems unwise to associate ourselves with the increase in charges any more than is strictly necessary (though it is the Home Secretary's decision as police authority).
4. On the question of phasing the increases, I have spoken again to the Metropolitan Police in the light of Mr Moynihan's

suggestion, and Mr Mower's opposing view that the second phase of the increase (charging for travelling time) should be delayed until 1991/92. When the Met's Policy Committee considered the question, they were firmly of the view that the charge for travelling time (which represents a major departure from previous contracts) ought to be delayed to soften the blow. This view will only have been strengthened by the recent police pay award of 9.25%, and the London rent allowance increase of 57.5%, which will together add 17% to the charges for policing football irrespective of any changes to the contract.

5. I recommend that Ministers do not at this stage approve the charges for travelling time. This will leave it open to approve them in time for next season (1990/91), if that seems sensible nearer the time.

#### Timing and handling

6. The Met had intended to notify the FA and League of the proposed new contracts, and to issue the new contracts to each club; but not to make a public announcement. (The clubs are already aware that a new contract is likely, since they have been asked to approve two-month extensions of the existing contracts pending decisions on a new contract).

7. Mr Mower has suggested that, in order to get the news of the new contracts out of the way in advance of the publication of the interim Hillsborough report, it would be helpful if the Met could make tell to the press as soon as possible, preferably on Tuesday. This would also ensure that the press were first made aware of the changes by means of a measured statement from the Met, rather than the hysterical reactions of a football club. (It will not be possible to issue the draft contracts immediately, since divisional commanders will have to be briefed, and letters and contracts assembled).

#### Conclusion

8. I recommend:

- (i) that Ministers now approve the first phase of the increased charges, leaving a decision on the second phase until later;
- (ii) that we ask the Met to set in hand the process of issuing the new contracts;
- (iii) that Mr Mower be asked to approach the Met Press Office, asking them to make a fairly low-key announcement as soon as possible, along the lines of the attached draft.

ANTONY TOWNSEND

**DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS (PERHAPS A WORD WITH THE EVENING STANDARD RATHER THAN A FORMAL PRESS RELEASE)**

The Metropolitan Police announced today that, following a review, the charges they make upon clubs for policing football matches are to be increased. The review established that many London clubs were being significantly undercharged for the police officers deployed inside grounds during, and immediately before and after, matches.

The increases are designed to restore the principle that the clubs, not ratepayers and taxpayers, should meet the cost. Even with the new charges, clubs would not be meeting all the costs of policing football matches: some costs, including those of tackling public disorder outside the grounds, would continue to fall upon police funds.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman emphasised that the charges - due to take effect later this year - would not compromise safety. Senior officers would continue to decide how many officers were required at each match.

[NB The Met would not discuss the actual increases for each club: they would state that the size of increase would vary from club to club, and depend upon decisions about the level of policing at each ground.]

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