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FROM: CHRISTINE COLLINS
Police Division
19 July 1994

Ms Murphy

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,L,DFP)
PS/PUS (B&L)-B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Lyon - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Stanley, Compensation
Agency

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)-B

SOFS/242/94: BUILDING WORKERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

*Ms Brown -
for file
19/7*

Background

1. Dr Paisley wrote in April this year, drawing attention to the concern felt by a constituent, over an alleged practice by assurance companies of asking potential clients if they had ever engaged in work for security forces, or were likely to do so.
2. The Secretary of State felt that the matter should be raised with the Association of British Insurers, the umbrella association for the companies operating in Northern Ireland likely to provide the type of insurance cover (key person insurance; private medical insurance/pensions) where such questions would be a necessary part of the risk assessment process. Accordingly, you wrote to the Public Relations Officer, on 6 May, expressing the Secretary of State's concern that questions about work for the security forces may not only arouse apprehensions as to the safety of such sensitive information, but also that any resultant dramatic increase in premiums from undertaking such work might constitute a deterrent to the provision of support through the security forces; asking for observations, and suggesting that a meeting might be appropriate.
3. Mr Browne has now replied, taking up the offer of a meeting. I suggest that this might usefully be a relatively short and informal occasion, and that if the Secretary of State's diary is

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crowded, perhaps Sir John Wheeler might take receipt of the Association's views. Once arrangements for the meeting are known, Police Division will provide briefing and official support.

Signed

CHRISTINE COLLINS

RE: CIVILIAN STAFF

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the employment of civilian staff under the proposed reform of policing structures, raising a number of the important and complex issues which require careful and in-depth consideration by all interested parties. Officials are addressing these issues and are currently liaising with legal advisers and DPP.

I appreciate that you are anxious to clarify the proposals, and I am happy to confirm that HPSA will be closely consulted as the proposals for the transfer of civilian staff to the Chief Constable develop. A meeting in a few week's time would be most productive; my officer will be in touch with you in due course to arrange a date.

Yours sincerely
John Wheeler

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