

SECRET

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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

Prime Minister

The amendments have been marked on the attached copy of the report. The key amendments on positive vetting are those to 19 November 1982 paras. 4.8, 7.3, 7.4 and 9.10.

Dear Robin

Are you content with the Home Secretary's proposals for handling the Report, including the Written Answer?

LORD BRIDGE'S REPORT ON TRESTRAIL

FERB

19.11.

My letter to you of 8 November outlined the way in which the Home Secretary intended to take forward publication of Lord Bridge's report into the Trestrail affair. Since then, and in the light of the Prime Minister's reference of the Prime case to the Security Commission, Lord Bridge has asked for certain additional amendments to be made, which the Home Secretary judges will be very helpful in deflecting the criticism that Lord Bridge had already made up his mind on Positive Vetting. They are marked with an asterisk in the enclosed consolidated list of amendments to the report.

I fear the kernel on P.V. will come in JS. Considerable criticism but there is nothing we can do about the kind of net.

The Home Secretary would now prefer to aim for publication of the report on Wednesday 24 November. This will allow us a little more time to make arrangements for publication, and to settle the terms of the Written Answer to an inspired Question.

The Question and Answer which the Home Secretary proposes are also enclosed. He has concluded that it would not be right to produce too lengthy a reply, but rather to concentrate, in paragraph 2 of the Answer, on the essential findings in Lord Bridge's report which directly answer the terms of reference of the enquiry.

Questions about Positive Vetting, and about the link of this report with the Security Commission's remit in the Prime case, will be taken by the MPO, who will respond by referring to what the Prime Minister said in her statement and supplementary answers on the Prime case. The Home Office will handle other Questions related to the police, Royalty protection and the way in which the particular recommendations will be taken forward.

The Home Secretary would be grateful to know if the Prime Minister is content with these arrangements, and with the terms of the Written Answer.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Hatfield in Sir Robert Armstrong's office.

Yours ever,

John Halliday

J F HALLIDAY

F E R Butler, Esq.

SECRET

LORD BRIDGE'S REPORT OF HIS INQUIRY INTO THE TRESTRAIL AFFAIR: PAPER OF AMENDMENTS

1. (i) Paragraph: 1.2, line 5.
(ii) Amendment: Delete "(Procurement Executive)".
- * 2. (i) Paragraph: 4.8, last sentence.
(ii) Amendment: Substitute "difficult" for "virtually impossible".
3. (i) Paragraph: 5.1, second and fourth sentences.
(ii) Amendment: Delete the fourth sentence in brackets, and amend the opening words of the second sentence to read: "The standard criterion in the public service is that PV is applied to those who..... information".
4. (i) Paragraph: 5.2, line 6.
(ii) Amendment: Delete the words "(Procurement Executive)".
a
5. (i) Paragraph: 5.2, third sentence.
(ii) Amendment: Re-write as: "This element of the procedure is costly: I am advised that the average cost per investigation is unlikely to be less than £750 and may well be more".
6. (i) Paragraph: 5.3, fourth sentence.
(ii) Amendment: Amend last clause to read: "... recent years, of co-ordinating the collection of intelligence relating to Irish Republican activities".
7. (i) Paragraph: 5.3, fifth sentence.
(ii) Amendment: For "Special Branch" read "Special Branches".
8. (i) Paragraph: 5.4, line 7.
(ii) Amendment: Delete "(Procurement Executive)".
9. (i) Paragraph: 7.2, lines 6 and 7.
(ii) Amendment: For "Personnel Security Unit" substitute "Personnel Security Investigation Unit"; and delete "(Procurement Executive)".
- * 10. (i) Paragraph: 7.3, last sentence.
(ii) Amendment: Delete last sentence.

C.R.

- * 11. (i) Paragraph: 7.4, first and last sentences.
(ii) Amendment: Delete "so called" from first sentence. Amend last sentence to read: "These factors alone seem to me to raise questions as to whether the polygraph could properly be used in the conduct of PV interviews which could only be resolved after very much fuller consideration".
- * 12. (i) Paragraph: 9.10, paragraph as a whole.
(ii) Amendment: Substitute: "Whether the PV procedures could or should be enhanced by resort to covert surveillance or to the use of the polygraph are questions which could only be resolved after fuller consideration than has been possible in the course of this Inquiry".

ARRANGED QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has received Lord Bridge's report on the appointment, as The Queen's Police Officer, and the activities of Commander Trestrail; and if he will make a statement.

Draft Reply

I informed the House on 21 July that I had invited Lord Bridge to investigate the appointment, as Queen's Police Officer, and the activities of Commander Trestrail, with a view to determining whether security was breached or put at risk; and to advise whether, in the light of that investigation, any change in security arrangements is necessary or desirable. I also arranged for Lord Bridge to see all the papers relating to the intrusion into Buckingham Palace on 9 July by Mr Michael Fagan, so that he could make any further inquiries he considered necessary and advise on the adequacy of police inquiries. I have received Lord Bridge's report and it has been published today.

2. The report makes it clear that there was no breach of security and concludes that security was not put at risk; there was no connection between Commander Trestrail and Mr Fagan; but the risks Commander Trestrail took in his homosexual activities, and the indiscretions he committed, cast serious doubt on the soundness of his judgement which made it impossible for him to continue as The Queen's Police Officer.

3. For the future, Lord Bridge has observed that the question whether the Positive Vetting procedures can or should be enhanced could only be resolved after fuller consideration than has been possible in the course of this Inquiry. This is a matter which will no doubt be further considered by the Security Commission in its examination of the Prime case. For those to whom Positive Vetting does not apply, Lord Bridge has concluded that the safeguards lie in careful staff management, and in particular in the careful selection and supervision of staff. It is Lord Bridge's view that the reorganisation of Royalty protection arrangements, which I announced to the House on 21 July, offers the opportunity to devise new and appropriate measures to ensure that the

selection and supervision procedures are as effective as they can be made.

4. The report makes two specific recommendations. The first is that the current Positive Vetting criterion for the police service is imprecise, and that the Home Office, with the police, should attempt to give more positive guidance on the application of Positive Vetting to police posts. The second is that the identification by the police of Positively Vetted posts within the Royalty protection organisation should follow the outcome of the attempt to provide more positive guidance.

5. I am grateful to Lord Bridge for his full and detailed report. I accept the recommendations which he has made, and will ensure that they are taken forward by the Home Office in consultation with those concerned.

CONFIDENTIAL



Rib
Lve AH
cc CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

9 November 1982

Dear John,

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 8 November to me about Lord Bridge's report and has noted that the Home Secretary proposes to publish it at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 23 November with an accompanying Written Answer to an inspired Question. The Prime Minister looks forward to seeing the terms of the Home Secretary's statement.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

John Halliday Esq.,
Home Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

AA



10 DOWNING STREET

cMr Flesher
Miss Wallace

MR INGHAM

THE BRIDGE REPORT

Brian Mower rang. The Report was initially scheduled for publication on Tuesday, 23 November, but will now be going out on Wednesday, 24.

Home Office propose 1530 pub. with CFRs at 1200.

It will be presented to the House as "an unopposed return on an Order", which will entail notification being given on the Order paper the day before ie. Tuesday.

Brian would like a few words on the content of the report and its handling.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Michael'.

17/xi

Michael

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

SECRET



Prime Minister
23 November is the day of
publication of the ~~unemployment~~ unemployment
figures.
HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT
FERB
8.11.
5

8 November 1982

Dear Robin,

MS

acc 9/11 FERB

LORD BRIDGE'S REPORT

with FERB?

In my letter of 13 October covering a copy of the report of his inquiry into the Trestrail affair which Lord Bridge has submitted to the Home Secretary, I said that the Home Secretary had asked us to consult the Palace, the Management and Personnel Office (MPO), the Commissioner and others concerned about a publishable text of the report.

Those consultations have been completed, and as a result Lord Bridge has made a number of minor amendments to the report.

The Home Secretary proposes to publish the report in full in the form of a Return to an Address. That will attract absolute privilege and so prevent any attempt to mount a mischievous action for libel. We do not consider that the report is actually libellous, but we should guard against, for example, Rauch seeking to take issue in the courts with the statement that he attempted to blackmail Trestrail (paragraph 2.8).

The Home Secretary proposes that the report should be published at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 23 November with an accompanying Written Answer to an inspired Question. We shall be consulting separately about the terms of the Answer. At present, the Home Secretary envisages a relatively brief statement, letting the report, as far as possible, speak for itself. The statement would acknowledge receipt of the report; thank Lord Bridge for it and announce its publication; summarise, without comment, the findings and conclusions (grouped in section 9); explain that there were two recommendations on the need to attempt a more precise criterion for the application of positive vetting (PV) to the police service and consequently to officers in the Royalty Protection Department; accept those recommendations; and say that they were being taken forward by the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police in consultation with the Security Service.

The main criticism the report seems likely to attract may be a charge of complacency, particularly in concluding both that the PV procedure was carried out "efficiently and with complete propriety" in Trestrail's case and that the

Robin Butler, Esq.

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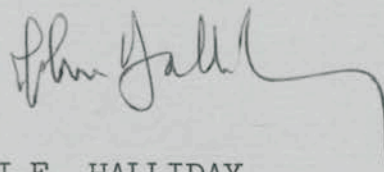
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procedure is satisfactory, even though it failed to reveal Trestrail's proclivities. Such a criticism would be of the PV procedure in general, not in its specific application to the police, and the Home Secretary would not propose to anticipate it in his statement. Anyone taking up the point would be referred to the MPO, who are preparing a line of reply.

I will write to you again about the terms of the Home Secretary's statement.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,



J F HALLIDAY

SECRET

LORD BRIDGE'S REPORT OF HIS INQUIRY INTO THE TRESTRAIL AFFAIR: PAPER OF AMENDMENTS

1. (i) Paragraph: 1.2, line 5.
(ii) Amendment: Delete "(Procurement Executive)".
(iii) Proposer and reason. Ministry of Defence (MOD), who explained that not all concerned are in the Procurement Executive and that although the Personnel Security Investigation Unit (PSIU) came under the Director of Security (Procurement Executive) at the time of Trestrail's vetting and of Lord Bridge's Inquiry, that Division ceased to exist on 4 October and the PSIU is now under the Director of MOD Security. The deletion of the words "(Procurement Executive)" saves having to elaborate upon the change in MOD organisation and the fact that at the time some seen from MOD were under the Procurement Executive, but others not.

2. (i) Paragraph: 5.1, second and fourth sentences.
(ii) Amendment: Delete the fourth sentence in brackets, and amend the opening words of the second sentence to read: "The standard criterion in the public service is that PV is applied to those who information".

(iii) Proposer and reason. The Security Service, who suggested that although the fourth sentence is true it could result in undesirable speculation about the other PV criteria in delicate areas (eg ATOMIC, COMINT). The amendment to the second sentence is consequential to the deletion of the fourth sentence.

3. (i) Paragraph 5.2, line 6
(ii) Amendment: Delete the words "(Procurement Executive)".
(iii) Proposer and reason: MOD, for the same reasons given for amendment number 1 (see paragraph 1(iii) above).

4. (i) Paragraph 5.3, fourth sentence.
(ii) Amendment. Amend last clause to read: "..... recent years, of co-ordinating the collection of intelligence relating to Irish Republican activities".
(iii) Proposer and reason. The Security Service, for the reason that the amendment avoids mentioning the contentious matter of subversive activities, with the added advantage of being a direct quotation from a previous Home Secretary's statement on Special Branch functions (Mr Merlyn Rees, MP - Official Report col. 1716, 24 May 1978).



5. (i) Paragraph 5.3, fifth sentence.
(ii) Amendment. For "Special Branch" read "Special Branches".
(iii) Proposer and reason. When Lord Bridge visited the Security Service on 15 October he agreed that he had intended the plural.

6. (i) Paragraph 5.4, line 7.
(ii) Amendment. Delete "(Procurement Executive)".
(iii) Proposer and reason. MOD, for the same reasons given for proposed amendments number 1 (see paragraph 1(iii) above).

7. (i) Paragraph 7.2, lines 6 and 7.
(ii) Amendments. For "Personnel Security Unit" substitute "Personnel Security Investigation Unit"; and delete "(Procurement Executive)".
(iii) Proposer and reason. MOD, who explained that the first amendment provides the correct, full title of the Unit; the reasons for the proposed deletion are those given for amendment number 1 (see paragraph 1(iii) above).

Security, July '82, Resignation
of Trestuit

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

14 October 1982

Dear John,

REPORT OF LORD BRIDGES'S INQUIRY
INTO THE TRESTRAIL AFFAIR

Thank you for your letter of 13th October enclosing a copy of Lord Bridges's report. I have shown this to the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher will look forward to seeing the Home Secretary's conclusions about publication when he has completed his consultations.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

John Halliday Esq.,
Home Office.

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

3A
Prime Minister

We will be getting further advice on publication following the consultations at X in the Home Secretary's letter.

I am afraid that the report may not dispel public misgivings about a PV procedure which fails to reveal that a man is a promiscuous homosexual.

R.E.B.

13.10