

Personal and confidential

M. Whitmore

Confirmed for
11.00 - Wed. 6 Jan.
et. 5/1

Mr. Whitmore

When Mr David Mitchell, at the Prime Minister's request, undertook a review of powers of entry conferred by existing legislation, he recommended that the Law Officers — specifically the Solicitor General should be asked to scrutinise any future proposed powers of entry. This recommendation was accepted.

2. The arrangements are giving rise to certain problems, and I think we ought to do something about them. I should prefer to discuss the problems and possible solutions with the Prime Minister orally,

rather than put them into writing,
at this stage, if you could find
a few minutes for me in her
timetable.

RA 5.1.82

Note.

The Prime Minister discussed this today with Sir
Robert Armstrong who explained that the Law Officers'
Departments were not staffed to deal with this matter and
that the Attorney General was explaining that the Law Officers
were advising the Cabinet to refer this to the Law Commission
etc.

The Prime Minister agreed that Sir Robert Armstrong
should explore whether the Home Office should in future take
the lead on this matter, consulting the Law Officers on
its legal aspects.

phl

6.1.82

Typed version of Whitmore's note – Prepared by the editor

Note

The Prime Minister discussed this today with Sir Robert Armstrong who explained that the Law Officers' Departments were not staffed to deal with this remit and that the Attorney General was complaining that the review was distracting the Solicitor General from other much more important work.

The Prime Minister agreed that Sir Robert Armstrong should explore whether the Home Office should in future take the lead on this matter, assisted by the Law Officers on its legal aspects.