

Peter J Winship QPM  
Assistant Commissioner



METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

New Scotland Yard  
Broadway  
London SW1H 0BG

13 July 1992

David Webb Esq  
NCROPA  
15 Sloane Court West  
London SW3 4TD

Dear Mr Webb

You wrote on 22 June 1992 to the Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority wishing to initiate a formal complaint against the Commissioner, Sir Peter Imbert, and Superintendent Michael Hames of the Metropolitan Police Service.

The Authority responded on 30 June 1992 advising you that the Commissioner is not a police officer being appointed by the Sovereign and cannot be subject of complaint under Part IX of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, 1984. The Authority referred your letter together with its enclosures to me for consideration in my capacity as the 'appropriate authority' to whom these matters are delegated by the Commissioner.

I have carefully considered the content of your letter and the various 'exhibits' A-P which you attach. I have reached the conclusion that the conduct of Superintendent Michael Hames does not appear to contravene the criminal law nor to infringe the police discipline code prescribed by the Police Regulations 1987. You raise in particular those restrictions upon the private lives of police officers contained within Schedule 2 of Regulation 10 of the Police Regulations 1987 and their abstention from taking any active part in politics.

Superintendent Michael Hames attended those various meetings to which you refer with the authority of senior officers of the Metropolitan Police Service and not in a private capacity. In so doing he was, I believe, acting in his capacity as a police officer with particular responsibility for dealing with obscene publications and pursuing the policy and practice of that Department. The same argument may be advanced in relation to the newspaper articles you cite to which Mr Hames may have contributed.

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It follows that your complaint is primarily questioning that policy or practice and, accordingly, I have forwarded this correspondence to my colleague, Assistant Commissioner Robert Hunt, who has operational responsibility for these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Winship". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a cursive "J".

Peter J Winship  
Assistant Commissioner  
Inspection & Review

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