



Home Secretary
50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT

30 July 2004

Cllr Colin Inglis,
Chair
Humberside Police Authority
Pacific Exchange
40, High Street,
Hull,
HU1 1PS

Dear Cllr Inglis,

You wrote on 6 July with the outcome of your consideration of the issues raised in my letter of 22 June, in the light of the findings of Sir Michael Richard's report, concerning your statutory duty to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective force, including the use of your statutory powers under section 11 of the Police Act 1996. I am giving very careful consideration to the contents of your letter and enclosures and will write to you again in due course.

You suspended the Chief Constable on 2 July, as I had required in my letter of 22 June, in the interests of maintaining public confidence in the force. In line with the requirements set out in the protocol for the implementation of sections 30-33 of the Police Reform Act 2002, which governs the use of the powers of suspension and removal of chief officers and which require that suspension be reviewed on a monthly basis, I have considered whether it is appropriate to continue the suspension from duty of the Chief Constable. I am of the view that the Chief Constable of Humberside's suspension remains necessary for the maintenance of public confidence in Humberside Police while I consider a range of evidence pertaining to the efficiency and effectiveness of the force under his command, in order to decide whether to invoke my powers under section 42 of the Police Act 1996. The Chief Constable's suspension will continue to be reviewed monthly as necessary and both you and he will be kept informed of this process and its outcomes, and of decisions taken in respect of my powers under section 42.

I am copying this letter to Kingsley Napo

Your

David Blunkett
DAVID BLUNKETT



Home Office

Home Secretary
50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW

1st September, 2004

Cllr Colin Inglis,
Chair, Humberside Police Authority
Pacific Exchange
40, High Street
Hull
HU1 1PS

Dear Cllr Inglis,

In my letter of 30th July I said that I considered it necessary to continue the suspension of Chief Constable David Westwood while I considered a range of evidence pertaining to the efficiency and effectiveness of Humberside Police under his command. In order to come to a view on whether to invoke my powers under section 42 of the Police Act 1996. I am continuing to give this matter very careful consideration.

In line with the requirements set out in the protocol for the implementation of sections 30-33 of the Police Reform Act 2002 attaching to the use of the powers of suspension and removal of chief officers, which require that suspension be reviewed on a monthly basis, I have considered whether it is appropriate to continue further the suspension from duty of the Chief Constable. I am of the view that the Chief Constable of Humberside's suspension remains necessary for the maintenance of public confidence in Humberside Police while I continue to consider this matter. As I said in my letter of 30th July, both you and the Chief Constable will be kept informed of this process and its outcomes, and of decisions taken in respect of my powers under section 42.

am copying this letter to Kingsley Napley.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BLUNKIN



Home Office

Home Secretary
50, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT

10th September

Cllr Colin Inglis
Chair, Humberside Police Authority
Pacific Exchange
40, High Street
Hull, HU1 1PS

Dear Cllr Inglis,

In my letter of 22nd June I said that, in view of the findings of the report of Sir Michael Richard published that day, I was proposing to consider exercising my powers under section 42 of the 1996 Act to require Humberside Police Authority to call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign. Meanwhile I required the Authority to suspend the Chief Constable in the interests of maintaining public confidence in the force. I have subsequently renewed that suspension on a monthly basis in accordance with the protocol attaching to use of these powers.

I have sought, throughout my consideration of this matter, to do what is in the best interests of Humberside Police and the wider community which the police serve, as well as to ensure that the Chief Constable is treated absolutely fairly, in accordance with the legislation and the protocol.

I have now agreed with the Chief Constable that he will retire from his position on 30th March 2005. Humberside Police will continue to work to the work programme already agreed with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Home Office Police Standards Unit to improve the performance of the force and to remedy the failings identified in the Richard report.

Meanwhile I have agreed that Mr Westwood will return to work on 13th September, when his suspension will be lifted. It will be vital to ensure that Humberside Police Authority now recruit a successor to carry forward the necessary improvements in Humberside Police which have been identified. The six months that this agreement will allow will enable the Police Authority to accomplish this.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BLUNKETT