

PREM 19/4066

SECRET

NW FILE COVER

CONFIDENTIAL FILING

Storm Damage after the Hurricane,
16th. October 1987.

DISASTERS

Damage after the storms January / February 1990.
Damage caused by storms and
Severe Weather Conditions

October 1987.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
26.2.90							
27.2.90							
28.2.90							
3.3.90							
7.6.90							
24.1.91							
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15.1.93							
15.2.93							
23.4.93							
11.6.93							

PREM 19/4066



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 July 1993

Mr. President

On behalf of the people of the United Kingdom, I would like to express my gratitude to the Commission of the European Communities for your sympathetic offer of ECU 200,000 in aid for the victims of the recent storms.

The money will be used to aid victims in the area which suffered the most serious damage due to flooding, namely North Wales and South West England. A more detailed report will shortly be with your office.

*Yours sincerely,
John Major*

Monsieur Jacques Delors

sent c/o M20

File TAW

*afw
HD
WD*

PMG/SLH

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
071-270 0549 (Llinell Union)
Fax: 071-270 0561

ODDI WRTH YSGRIFENNYDD
PREIFAT YSGRIFENNYDD
GWLADOL CYMRU



File

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switchboard)
071-270 0549 (Direct Line)
Fax: 071-270 0561

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WALES

S/3413/93

2nd July 1993

Dear Mark,

Thank you for copying to Judith Simpson your letter of 17 June, to Christopher Prentice at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding the European Commission's offer of financial assistance to flood victims.

The Home Office are now taking the lead on this matter and will be providing you with a draft reply. Officials from this Department are liaising closely with them, regarding those people in Wales who should benefit and the best method of distribution.

/ I am copying this to Christopher Prentice and Joan MacNaughton.

*Yours,
David,*

DAVID M JENNINGS

Mark Adams Esq
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



Not gR

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

To issue

29 June 1993

WMP

1/2

Dear Mark

You wrote to Christopher Prentice at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 17 June enclosing a copy of a letter from M. Jacques Délors on the subject of European Community aid to victims of the recent storms in the United Kingdom.

... This has been passed to me for reply as the Home Office is the lead department in this matter. I attach a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature.

I am copying this to Judith Simpson (Welsh Office).

Yours ever,
Kevin,

KEVIN LOCKYER
Private Secretary

Mark Adams Esq
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

DRAFT LETTER TO M. JACQUES DELORS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S
SIGNATURE

On behalf of the people of the United Kingdom, I would like to express my gratitude to the Commission of the European Communities for your sympathetic offer of ECU 200,000 in aid for the victims of the recent storms.

The money will be used to aid victims in the area which suffered the most serious damage due to flooding, namely North Wales and South West England. A more detailed report will shortly be with your office.

DISASTERS:

Storms out



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 June 1993

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from M. Jacques Delors.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Thursday 1 July.

I am copying this letter to Judith Simpson (Welsh Office).

MARK ADAMS

Christopher Prentice Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

eu

KW

⊕
947061 PRDRM G

M. J. P. P. P.

9/83

MA

⊕
947061 PRDRM G
21877 COMEU B
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : CIE.CJ - M174 DENAYERJP
TO : MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS - LONDON
REF : 3168037924 - 17-06-1993 12:06

JOHN MAJOR
PRIME MINISTER
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A

BRUSSELS, 16 JUNE 1993
CAB(93)D/3013

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, MAY I EXPRESS OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS OF THE STORMS WHICH HIT THE UNITED KINGDOM A FEW DAYS AGO. I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE COMMISSION AGREED TODAY, PENDING THE RECEIPT OF FURTHER INFORMATION, ON THE PRINCIPLE OF GRANTING ECU 200 000 IN EMERGENCY AID AS A TOKEN GESTURE OF COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS.

YOURS SINCERELY,

JACQUES DELORS
PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
COMEUR
NNNN

⊕
947061 PRDRM G
21877 COMEU B

→ file

PS/Minister of State

cc. PS/Permanent Secretary
Mr P R Gregory
Mr H G Roberts
Mr A H H Jones

NORTH WALES COASTAL DEFENCES

You requested some briefing for the Prime Minister on the above.

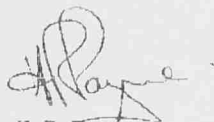
Over £21 million worth of work has been undertaken by District Councils within the area during the last 10 years on schemes which received nearly £14 million Welsh Office and about £1.4 million ERDF grant aid. Further schemes amounting to some £10 million have either just started or are due to start during the next 12 months. This is in addition to works by bodies like British Rail (BR) and to routine maintenance.

The bulk of the BR expenditure has been at Towyn following the breach in the sea wall (believed to be about £10 million), although they have also undertaken significant works to protect other parts of the Chester to Holyhead line.

Of note among other completed schemes are the Rhos-on-sea breakwater (£1.0), Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno breakwaters (£3), West Shore Llandudno (£3m) and the Prestatyn seafront schemes (£1m).

A major new scheme at the Colwyn end of Penrhyn Bay (£3m) commenced in April this year. Further consideration is being given to the possible options for North Shore, Llandudno (estimated at £4) and this and a scheme for Dinas Dinlle, Arfon (£1m) are scheduled to commence this year. There are also proposals for major schemes for Pensarn Beach and Kinnel Bay, Colwyn at the feasibility or design stage which will come forward in future years.

11 June 1993


H R Payne
Environment Division.



WELSH OFFICE

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SWYDDFA'R YSGRIFENNYDD GWLADOL

FAX

To/At:

Mark Adams

From/Oddi wrth:

Judith Hughes

This/Hwn +

7

Date/Dyddiad: 11 06 93

Time\Amser: 9.20

Facsimile Transmission from:
Neges Gyflun oddi wrth:

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
LONDON SW1A 2ER

Telephone/Taleffon: 071-270-0544
GTN: 270-0544
FAX: 071-270-0561
GTN: 270-0561

Copies/Copïau:

MESSAGE
NEGES

Officials' advise on the operation of bellman. We are also preparing a press release for the SPS to issue as MoS will visit the area some time today. (Llandudno is in Aberconwy & Gwynedd.)

11/06 83 08:01

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002/005

PS/MINISTER OF STATE

CC

BY FAX

PS/Secretary of State
PS/Parliamentary Secretary
PS/Parliament Secretary
Mr A H H Jones
Mr H G Roberts
Mrs E A Taylor
Mr D W Jones

FLOODING: NORTH WALES 10/11 JUNE 1993

1 The Bellwin scheme can be activated for emergency relief following exceptional storm or flood damage. Assistance may be claimed by local authorities, over a specified threshold, for certain emergency works - capital works and other structural works are not eligible. Thresholds are calculated by reference to the local authority adult population and a prescribed amount for counties and for districts. The 1993-94 thresholds for each Welsh authority are at doc 1; the criteria are set out in the attached note at doc 2.

2 It is not clear at this stage whether the freak floods in North Wales (and in England) are exceptional enough to warrant activation of Bellwin. Treasury approval must be obtained before Ministers announce that relief could be made available. Treasury, if they approve a Scheme, can be expected to insist that costs are found within the Department's budgets. The Scheme is announced through a Parliamentary Answer.

Advice

3 The Minister is advised to be non-committal about the likelihood of Bellwin assistance until the full extent of the damage can be ascertained.

Alan Blamire

11 June 1993

Mrs J Blamire
FLA
Ext 5013

11/08, '93 08:02 0222825380

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003/008

Doc 1

BELLWIN THRESHOLD: OPTIONS FOR 1993/94

=====	Adjusted Factor
THRESHOLD	
Adult MYE	
Alyn & Deceide	#25,577
Colwyn	#20,058
Delyn	#23,423
Glyndwr	#14,808
Rhuddlan	#19,519
Wrexham	#40,025
Carmarthen	#19,699
Ceredigion	#23,827
Dindefwr	#12,731
Llanelli	#26,429
Praseeli Pembrokeshire	#24,500
South Pembrokeshire	#14,583
Blaenau Gwent	#26,519
Islwyn	#21,974
Monmouth	#26,654
Newport	#46,128
Torfaen	#31,096
Aberconwy	#19,384
Arfon	#19,429
Dwyfor	#8,737
Melrotonnydd	#11,667
Inys Mon	#24,006
Cynon Valley	#22,481
Merthyr Tydfil	#20,217
Ogwr	#45,993
Rhondda	#27,282
Rhymney Valley	#34,910
Taff Ely	#33,564
Brecknock	#14,538
Montgomeryshire	#18,577
Radnorshire	#8,436
Cardiff	#39,884
Vale of Glamorgan	#39,487
Port Talbot	#17,769
Lliw Valley	#21,807
Neath	#23,019
Swansea	#65,467
Clwyd	#622,339
Dyfed	#533,622
Gwent	#666,637
Gwynedd	#366,083
Mid Glamorgan	#801,798
Powys	#180,604
South Glamorgan	#605,785
West Glamorgan	#556,636
Wales	#5,331,727
(counties' totals)	#4,334,505
(districts' totals)	#997,222

N.B. The thresholds for Bellwin in community charge days was calculated as the tier proportion of #2 multiplied by the inflation rate for September 1990 and September 1991, times the adult population as per the community charge register of November 1991. (Wales total = 2,228,927)

Under the council tax regime, there being no relevant population, an adjustment has been made to the "factor" (originally #2) to compensate for the slightly different totals which would mean different levels of threshold overall.

$$\# = \frac{1}{2}$$

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Doc 2

E2101631 AT

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES ("BELLWIN" SCHEME)**STORM AND FLOOD DAMAGE CLAIMS**

1. These guidance notes set out the terms under which the Department would usually be prepared to make available financial assistance to local authorities pursuant to a scheme established under section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the "Bellwin" scheme).

Scope of schemes

2. In the event of an activation of a scheme of special financial assistance, the Department would expect to pay grant at the rate of 85% on qualifying expenditure above a threshold. The threshold for 1992-93 has been set at £2.31 per adult, apportioned to the authorities in an area by reference to the proportion of Total Standard Spending Assessments attributable to those classes of authority.

Qualifying expenditure (for details see paragraphs 5 to 7)

3. In general a scheme will provide that expenditure qualifying for grant is expenditure which is incurred:

- by the local authority in providing relief or carrying out immediate works to safeguard life or property or prevent suffering or severe inconvenience;
- as a result of the incident(s) specified in the scheme;
- on works completed before a specified deadline (usually within a period of about two months from the incident);

and which is:

- not in respect of costs which are normally insurable;
- net of any receipts (eg from the sale of trees felled by a storm covered by a scheme);
- not of a capital nature or capitalised.

Authorities are asked to note that the making of a contribution to special funds is not likely to be qualifying expenditure under a scheme.

4. The Department takes the Municipal Mutual Insurance Fire Policy (which includes also storm and flood as insured perils) as its definition of what is normally insurable for the purpose of schemes set up under section 155. Authorities should in particular note that:

- a. the shoring up or dismantling of damaged buildings is an insurable cost;
- b. the first £25 of each and every loss to each and every building is not normally insurable (except for industrial or commercial buildings which are owned by an authority but let out to tenants - here the first £100 of each and every loss to each and every building is not normally insurable);

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- c. authorities whose policies may bear less risk than the MMI Fire Policy would still be bound by its definition of normally insurable risks as regards qualifying expenditure under a Bellwin scheme; authorities whose policies include cover for greater risks than the basic MMI Fire Policy should exclude from their qualifying expenditure all costs for which they are covered and will be compensated.

5. The following are examples of expenditure likely to qualify under schemes for storm and flood damage:

- in relation to non-administration purposes, the costs of setting up temporary premises including costs of removal, increased costs due to rent, rates, taxes, lighting, heating, cleaning and insurance;
- hire of additional vehicles, plant and machinery, and incidental expenses;
- removal of all trees and timber which are or may be dangerous to the public including trees in public parks, local authority trees on highways, and trees owned by private householders which have fallen on or threaten public highways or rights of way;
- the costs of initial repairs to highways, pavements and footpaths, where a tree or an item of street furniture has fallen, and the surface of the road must be replaced at the time or temporarily patched (however, subsequent permanent repair would not qualify);
- the costs of initial land drainage works to clear debris and unblock water courses which are or may be the cause of danger to the public (however, long-term repair or replacement of previously dangerous or damaged structures would not qualify);
- the costs of other work to clear debris causing obstruction or damage to highways, pavements and footpaths;
- additional temporary employees or contractors, to work on the emergency or replace permanent employees diverted from normal work;
- special overtime for employees, either during the emergency or afterwards to catch up on work from which they were diverted by the incident;
- emergency works required to safeguard dangerous structures, including making them secure (where not insurable);
- costs of evacuating people from dangerous structures, and temporary rehousing;
- costs of supplying food, other stores, and key services to affected communities;
- costs of maintaining key communications, in particular clearing roads;
- costs incurred under the Military Assistance to the Civil Community Scheme;

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- where repair is insufficient, the removal and replacement of street lighting, street signs, bus shelters and other street furniture, fences, railings, and uninsured outbuildings damaged by the incident, where in its damaged state it presents a danger to public safety or security;
- legal, clerical and other charges incurred on the above work;
- the first £25 of each and every loss to each and every building (or the first £100 of each and every loss to each and every commercial or industrial building owned by an authority but occupied by a tenant).

Direct Service Organisations

6. Under any scheme, expenditure related to the works included in section 2(2) of the Local Government Act 1988 and section 10(2) of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, when those works are undertaken in response to an emergency for which a scheme of special financial assistance has been activated, is covered by the scheme. The additional costs (ie net of the costs of undertaking normal work had there been no emergency) of employing either private contractors or a DSO to work directly on the emergency or to carry out work from which either of them has been diverted to deal with the emergency are eligible. The costs will be calculated as follows:

- a. where the work carried out is subject to the accounting rules of the DSO legislation, the costs calculated on the basis of the amount credited to the DSO revenue account in keeping with sections 7 and 9(2) of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 and section 9(5) of the Local Government Act 1988;
- b. where the work carried out is not subject to the accounting rules of the DSO legislation, the costs will consist of:-
 - i. overtime payments, either in the emergency or later to catch up on work to which they have been diverted, to permanent manual employees;
 - ii. extra temporary manual employees called in either to work directly on the emergency or to replace permanent employees diverted from their normal work; and
 - iii. a proportionate additional charge in respect of equipment and plant used for emergency work, calculated in accordance with the authority's normal rules for accounting for depreciation.

Non-qualifying expenditure

7. The following are examples of expenditure which would usually not qualify under a Bellwin scheme:

- the normal wages and salaries of the authority's regular employees, whether diverted from their normal work or otherwise, and the standing costs of the authority's plant and equipment;
- longer term works of repair and restoration, such as tree planting and repair or refurbishment of damaged but not dangerous

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structures;

- payment to householders or others under section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972, in respect of non-insurable items such as garden fences and trees and shrubs, unless action had to be taken immediately because they presented a danger to the community (such costs may be recoverable from those on whose behalf they were incurred);
- any element of betterment, eg repairs to buildings to a significantly higher standard than their condition on the day before the incident;
- expenditure eligible for any other specific grant, eg police grant;
- any amounts in respect of specific works on coast protection or flood defence which had already been allocated within budgeted expenditure to these works before the incident occurred (however, subsequent amounts for emergency work resulting from the incident above the level of any amounts thus allocated would usually be eligible for assistance);
- any expenditure on flood defence or coast protection which will be compensated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food by means of grant or credit approvals;
- any expenditure which is of a capital nature or capitalised.

Claims

8. A claim form is for use in making initial and final claims will be sent to authorities in the event of an activation of a scheme. Full details will be provided at that time for completion and return of the form, including any deadlines for each stage of the claim. However, authorities may find it useful to bear in mind the following general points which will apply to claims:

- claims will be required to be signed by the Chief Financial Officer of the authority to the effect that it complied in all respects with the terms of the scheme in question;
- records in support of any claim should be kept in such a fashion that they are readily accessible for audit;
- authorities intending to use agents to undertake work should note that the claiming authority's procedures should be capable of demonstrating that any claim is based on qualifying expenditure, and that proper arrangements have been employed both for specifying the work and for ensuring it has been satisfactorily completed;
- details of qualifying costs under other schemes in the same financial year will be provided where relevant when any scheme is issued;
- provision will be made on any claim form for it to be certified at the final stage by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission;

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- claims should be completed in duplicate, with a copy being supplied simultaneously to the Department and the auditor by a deadline which will be specified under any scheme;
- the figures included in a final claim form should be related to actual expenditure and should be precise.

Welsh Office
Revised June 1992

F.A.O. Mark Adams

td9

1. Mr A H H Jones
2. PS/Secretary of State
by fax

cc PS/Minister of State
PS/ Parliamentary Sec
PS/Permanent Sec
Mr J W Lloyd
Mr P R Gregory
fax Mr D Westlake
Mr H G Roberts
Mr P Bishop
Mrs I Matthews

FLOODING INCIDENTS ON THURSDAY 10th JUNE 1993.

Very heavy localised thunderstorms on Thursday afternoon and evening caused flooding at a number of locations throughout the Principality.


Local drainage systems were unable to cope with the run-off from the high intensity rainfall and water, sheeting off the surrounding lands, followed the most convenient routes causing flooding of roads and many properties.

The worst affected areas appear to be around Llandudno and Conwy on the north Wales coast. Here, up to 500 people have been evacuated to a conference centre and a school. There have also been a number of other lesser incidents in mid and south west Wales.

It will take some time to gather full details from the various local authorities involved but we understand that they, with the assistance of the National Rivers Authority and the emergency services are continuing with pumping of water, clearing of roads and other associated work.

At the time of reporting it is raining again in Llandudno and further outbreaks, some possibly heavy, are expected today. These are likely to be fairly widespread.

11 June 1993



H R Payne
Environment Div 2

11/06/93 09:34

0222 823607

PRESS OFFICE: +++ SoS

001

For: David Jennings
From: Alan Edwards

2 pages

FAX	TO: _____
FAX NO: _____	PAGE: 1 OF 2
ATTENTION OF: <u>Mark Adams</u>	
FROM: <u>Welsh Office</u>	FAX NO: _____
COMPANY: <u>Welsh Office</u>	DATE: <u>11.06.93</u>
Post-It Fax note <u>As cleared by my LPS</u>	Ref No 7888

Draft Press Notice

NORTH WALES FLOODING ACTION PRAISED BY JOHN REDWOOD

The Secretary of State for Wales, John Redwood, today expressed his sympathy to the people of North Wales affected by last night's heavy flooding in the Llandudno and Conwy areas.

"Sir Wyn Roberts, who saw for himself the extent of the flooding last night is keeping me fully informed and is visiting the scene today.

"The Welsh Office is standing by to give any help thought necessary and we are in close touch with rescue organisations and local authorities.

"First reports indicate that rescue organisations have carried out their duties with diligence and efficiency," said Mr Redwood.

"I am very grateful to all involved."

Nota

BBC tells us the SDP says that the PM and Mr Redwood should visit the scene to see for themselves the damage. We are

telling them that the Minister of State is visiting the scene at the moment (and we can add that both the S of S and the PM are being kept fully informed of the situation).

c-PO

File



Minister for Local Government
and Inner Cities

Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

Telephone 071-276 3000

23 APR 1993

Dear Michael,

I would be grateful for your agreement that the flooding caused by severe storms in North Norfolk on 20/21 February should be accepted by the Government as an emergency under the "Bellwin" scheme. I propose that emergency financial assistance should be granted accordingly.

Under Section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a scheme may be established "in any case where an emergency occurs involving destruction of or danger to life or property, and, as a result, one or more local authorities incur expenditure on, or in connection with, the taking of immediate action (whether by the carrying out of works or otherwise) to safeguard life or property, or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience".

The scheme has previously been activated mainly as a result of weather-related emergencies. Under the usual terms of the scheme, local authorities are expected to meet the initial costs of any emergency up to the level of a predetermined threshold. These are calculated on the basis of a fixed amount per local taxpayer and are designed to represent the ability of an authority to raise additional revenue to cover contingency expenditure. Grant is usually paid to local authorities to meet 85% of eligible expenditure above this threshold.

You may remember that at the end of February, severe storms occurred in East Anglia which caused extensive damage to property and the coastline. A storm surge resulted in water levels rising 2.1m above the normal predicted tidal level to approximately 4.3m above Ordnance Datum. The Meteorological Office have indicated that a storm of such proportions could only be expected along the affected coastline once in every 15-20 years.

Although the storms affected much of East Anglia, only North Norfolk District Council have submitted a claim for emergency financial assistance. They have provided preliminary estimates which indicate that approximately £135,000 of eligible expenditure was incurred by the council under the usual terms of the scheme. This compares with a Bellwin threshold level of £21,000 and an overall Standard Spending Assessment of £9.123 million for 1992/93.



The storms in February constitute precisely the sort of emergency for which the Bellwin scheme was originally conceived and which would constitute a justifiable claim upon the Reserve. Without activation, the local inhabitants in the affected area will undoubtedly be faced with an undue financial burden. I therefore seek your urgent agreement that the scheme should be activated in this case and that the necessary funds will be found from the Reserve.

^ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, David Hunt and Ian Lang, and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever



JOHN REDWOOD

Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury





fidelors sr

a SO
FEO
RB

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 March 1993

Dear Jacques,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February about the recent floods in Tayside.

Your offer of assistance is welcome and I know the people of Tayside, particularly in the North Muirton area of Perth, will also share that view.

The local authorities involved have responded quickly to the flooding as have the Government in offering financial assistance. Your kind contribution will therefore add to the considerable efforts of all concerned in what has been a difficult time for the people of the area.

Yours Ever,
John

Monsieur Jacques Delors

AS

cc RB
AJ



R M G Lyne Esq CMG
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Deplorably slow.

But no type for

Prin.

llh

ST ANDREW'S HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

10 March 1993

Dear Rod,

Top Endorse

Stephen Wall wrote on 15 February asking for a reply for the Prime Minister to send to Monsieur Delors' message of sympathy for the recent Tayside flooding.

The Commission's contribution of 350,000 ecu is to be used to provide direct assistance to people in the area who have experienced personal loss or hardship. It is to be distributed through a fund managed by the local authorities. It caters for an aspect of the financial effects of the flooding in which the Government is not involved, and as such is particularly welcome.

A short draft reply is attached.

Copies of this letter go to Christopher Prentice (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

*Yours,
Alan*

ALAN FRASER
Private Secretary

ENC

DRAFT

Monsieur Jacques Delors
President
Commission of the European Communities
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

March 1993

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 1993 about the recent floods in Tayside.

Your offer of assistance is welcome and I know the people of Tayside, particularly in the North Muirton area of Perth, will also share that view.

The local authorities involved have responded quickly to the flooding as have the Government in offering financial assistance. Your kind contribution will therefore add to the considerable efforts of all concerned in what has been a difficult time for the people of the area.

JOHN MAJOR

DISASTERS : Storm Damage Oct 87

FOREIGN / TAYSIDE Flood



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

15 February 1993

Tayside Floods

I enclose a message to the Prime Minister from M. Delors, saying that the Commission has decided to allocate £350,000 ecu as emergency aid to those made homeless in the floods.

I should be grateful for a draft reply from the Prime Minister to M. Delors. The message is dated 11 February but only arrived this morning.

I am copying this letter to Christopher Prentice (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Melanie Leech (Cabinet Office).

J. S. WALL

Alan Fraser, Esq.,
Scottish Office.

SM

121445Z

947061*PRDRM G
21877 COMEU B
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

NO 10.

FROM : C.E.C. - M174 DENAYER.P
TO : MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS - LONDON
REF : 3043042022 - 12-02-1993 15:26

JOHN MAJOR, ESQ.
PRIME MINISTER
10 DOWNING STREET
GB - LONDON SW1A

BRUSSELS, 11 FEBRUARY 1993
CAB(93)D/3003

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES I WISH TO ASSURE YOU OF OUR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TAYSIDE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO BADLY FROM THE ATROCIOUS WEATHER RECENTLY. I AM TO INFORM YOU THAT THE COMMISSION YESTERDAY DECIDED TO ALLOCATE ECU 350 000 AS EMERGENCY AID TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MADE HOMELESS.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

JACQUES DELORS
PRESIDENT, COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
COMEUR



cc Q
WE Q
Pro
R37

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Mr Allan Woods
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Social Security
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2NS

ngan

18 January 1993

Dear Allan

SEVERE WEATHER IN SCOTLAND: PNQ 18 JANUARY 1993

I attach a copy of the statement which is being made this afternoon by Sir Hector Monro on the severe weather conditions in parts of Scotland. This is being made in response to a PNQ by Sir Nicholas Fairbairn MP.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Lord President, Chief Whip (Commons and Lords), Secretaries of State for Wales and Northern Ireland, Department of Environment and to Sir Robin Butler.

*Yours
Louise*

LOUISE STIRLING
Private Secretary

MONDAY 18 JANUARY 1993

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS

* SIR NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN (Perth and Kinross): To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement about the floods in Perthshire.

SIR HECTOR MONRO:

The Government fully appreciates the seriousness of the flooding and has every sympathy for those who have been affected. The flooding has been caused by the combination of heavy rainfall and a rapid thaw of earlier snow. Large areas of land have been inundated and many properties have been flooded, requiring temporary evacuation of occupants.

The response to the emergency is of course primarily a matter for the local authorities; and they and the emergency services have responded well and are continuing to provide assistance. However, my rt hon Friend and I are keeping in close touch with the developing situation.

Scottish Office officials have been in regular contact with the emergency control centre in Perth and are at the ready to provide what assistance they can in response to requests from the local authority. Further, Scottish Office officials are now in the area to

conduct preliminary inspections but the full damage will not be apparent for some days until the flood waters recede. In addition, the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force have given extremely valuable support.

I am also pleased to announce the Government's decision to make special financial assistance available under the Bellwin scheme to the local authorities affected in the Tayside area.

UNCLASSIFIED

NDPM -

cc - fu



Treasury Chambers Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

071-270 3000

Fax 071-270 5456

The Rt Hon David Hunt MBE MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2ER

10 December 1992

Dear David

BELLWIN SCHEME: SOUTH WALES FLOODING

Thank you for your letter of 8 December in which you seek my urgent agreement to the activation of the "Bellwin" scheme following the flood and storm damage in South Wales last week.

2. I have some doubts about whether the damage caused on this occasion, as you described it, really justifies the activation of the Bellwin scheme. However, on the basis of your personal survey of the areas and your judgement about the scale of the problems, I am prepared to agree to your request on the strict understanding that your Department will find the claims from within existing financial provision for 1992-93.

3. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Michael Howard, Ian Lang and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever

Michael.

MICHAEL PORTILLO

LOZ GALT Finance

NAPM CC 10



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
071-270 0538 (Llinell Union)
Fax: 071-270 0561

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switchboard)
071-270 0538 (Direct Line)
Fax: 071-270 0561

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon David Hunt MBE MP From The Secretary of State for Wales

8th December 1992

Dear Michael

BELLWIN SCHEME - SOUTH WALES FLOODING

I am writing to advise you and other colleagues that I have concluded that there is need to activate the Bellwin Scheme for financial assistance to local authorities in respect of flood and storm damage following the severe weather in Wales last week. I intend to announce the Scheme in a Parliamentary Answer tomorrow.

The exceptionally heavy rains since Sunday at last week, following above-average rainfall during the previous 4 months, caused severe flooding. The most severe damage occurred in the Pontypridd and Tredegar areas and some parts of West Wales were also affected. In Pontypridd about 80 homes and business were flooded and at Tredegar about 60 houses were flooded and a landslip covered part of a school playground.

Having seen some of the damage for myself, I am satisfied that the extent and local severity is such that it is appropriate to activate the Bellwin Scheme. Authorities that incur qualifying expenditure above the prescribed threshold would be eligible for grant at the usual rate of 85%.

The local authorities and emergency services acted promptly and claims under the Bellwin Scheme are not expected to be substantial. I will of course fund claims from within my Department's budget for 1992-93.

I should be grateful for your urgent agreement to the course of action I propose.

/ I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Norman Lamont, Michael Howard, Ian Lang and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever

The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH
XXXXXXXXXXXX
071-270 8709/8667

clw

none

From the Minister's Private Office

Miss Judith Simpson
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2ER

Your Ref: CT/4061/91
Our Ref: LDA 9505

30 January 1991

Jan Inelith

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WELSH AFFAIRS: RESPONSE TO REPORT ON THE
BRANCH OF SEA DEFENCES OF 26/27 FEBRUARY 1990 ALONG THE NORTH
WALES COAST

will request P reqd.

Thank you for your letter of 24 January enclosing a copy of the
draft of the response your Secretary of State proposes to publish
as a Command Paper.

This is to confirm that my Minister is content for the response
to be published as drafted.

I am copying this letter to Barry Potter at No 10, John Gieve
(Treasury), Phillip Ward (Department of the Environment), and
Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely
Michael*

MICHAEL HARRISON
Private Secretary

do

n.b. P.M.

BHP

24/1

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Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-270 0549 (Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)
01-270 0549 (Direct Line)

ODDI WRTH YSGRIFENNYDD
PREIFAT YSGRIFENNYDD
GWLADOL CYMRU

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WALES

CT/4061/91

24th January 1991

Dear Andy,

SELECT COMMITTEE ON WELSH AFFAIRS: RESPONSE TO REPORT ON THE BREACH OF SEA DEFENCES OF 26/27 FEBRUARY 1990 ALONG THE NORTH WALES COAST

/ On 10 June 1990 the Welsh Affairs Committee published their report on the breach of sea defences of 26/27 February along the North Wales Coast (principally at Towyn). I attach a draft of the response my Secretary of State proposes to publish.

Your officials have been fully consulted on the response, and other points have been cleared as appropriate with officials in Department of the Environment. My Secretary of State would be pleased to know by 30 January whether Mr Gummer and other Ministerial colleagues to whom I am copying this letter are content with the draft after which he will arrange for the response to be published as a Command Paper as soon as possible.

/ I am copying this letter together with the draft response to Barry Potter at No 10, John Gieve (Treasury), Phillip Ward (Department of the Environment), and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Judith Simpson

MISS JUDITH SIMPSON

Andy Lebrecht Esq
PS/Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place
LONDON SW1A 2HH

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF COASTAL DEFENCE POWERS

DEFENCE TYPE	BODY WITH POWERS/RIGHTS TO BUILD	SOURCE OF POWER/RIGHT	REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL FROM NRA/LA**	REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT NRA/LA	POWER TO REQUIRE MAINTENANCE (LAND DRAINAGE ACT)	
Sea Defence	Riparian Owner	Common Law	No (unless on main river or new works)	No	NRA or IDB* (S24)	
	NRA	LDA 1976 (S.17)	No (unless new works)	No	IDB* (S24)	
	NRA	Local Act	Subject to Act	Subject to Act	IDB* (S24)	
	Local Authority	LDA 1976 (S.98)	No (unless new works)	No) unless) on	NRA or IDB* (S24)	
	Local Authority	?LGA 1972 (S.137)	No (unless new works or on main river)	No) watercourse	NRA or IDB* (S24) ?	
	Local Authority	Local Act	Subject to Act	Subject to Act	NRA or IDB* (S24 & S25)	
	IDB	LDA 1976* (S.17)	No (unless on main river)	No	NRA (S24)	
	IDB	Local Act	Subject to Act	Subject to Act	NRA (S24 & S25)	
	Highway Authorities	As owner		No (unless on main river)	No	NRA or IDB* (S24)
		Highways Acts		HA 1980 S339 (NRA)	?	NRA or IDB (S24 & S25)
British Rail	As owner		No (unless on main river)	No	NRA or IDB* (S24)	
	Local Acts		Subject to Act	Subject to Act	NRA or IDB* (S24 & S25)	
Other body	Local Act		Subject to Act	Subject to Act	NRA or IDB* (S24 & S25)	

* In their own drainage district

** New sea defence works would need planning approval from the Local Authority

TABLE 1 (Continued)

DEFENCE TYPE	BODY WITH POWERS/RIGHTS TO BUILD	SOURCE OF POWER/RIGHT	REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL FROM NRA/LA	REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT NRA/LA	POWER TO REQUIRE MAINTENANCE
Coast Protection	Riparian Owner	Common law	CPA S.16(LA)	CPA S.16 (NRA)	CPA S.12
	Local Authority	CPA 1949	No	CPA S.5 (NRA)	CPA S.29 (by Minister)
		LGA 1972?	No	-	CPA S.29 (by Minister)
		Local Act	No	CPA S.17 (NRA)	CPA S.29 (by Minister)
	Highway Authority	Highways Act As owner	No No	CPA S.17 (NRA & LA) CPA S.17 (NRA & LA)	CPA S.12 CPA S.12
	British Rail	As owner Local Acts	No	CAP S.17 (LA & NRA)	No
Harbour Authority		No	CPA S.17 (LA & NRA)	CPA S.12 if not Transport Commission	
Other Body	Local Act	No	CPA 17 (LA & NRA)	CPA S.12	

NORTH WALES FLOODS

THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE THIRD REPORT OF THE WELSH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SESSION 1989-90: THE BREACH OF THE SEA DEFENCES OF 26/27 FEBRUARY ALONG THE NORTH WALES COAST

INTRODUCTION

1. The Government welcomes the Report of the Welsh Affairs Committee into the breach of the sea defences of 26/27 February along the North Wales Coast and appreciates the careful consideration that has been given to the matters involved. In particular, the Government notes the acceptance by the Committee that flooding was due (in the words of Hydraulics Research Ltd) to a freak combination of high waves, high surge and high astronomical tide, all occurring at the same time.

2. The Committee has highlighted areas where improvements in existing arrangements could be made, and these are described in the detailed response below. On the major issue of repairs to the defences at Towyn, the Committee will wish to know that the temporary improvements have now been completed by British Rail. During the summer months they have also put work in hand at Hydraulic Research Limited, Wallingford to test various options for permanent strengthening of the defences at Towyn. The Government understands that work on these tests has now been completed and that British Rail are considering which option to choose. Their aim is to let a contract in April 1991 with completion of the work by October 1992.

3. The Committee may also wish to note the present position of those who were affected by the flooding. Under the Bellwin Scheme grant at a rate of 95% to cover local authority expenditure on emergency work has been made available by the Government. This will ensure that community charge payers will not have to face a significant increase in charges because of the floods. The normal period for assistance under the Bellwin Scheme is 3 months but the Secretary of State announced on 10 May 1990 that the period would be extended to 31 August 1990 and was able to announce further on 6 August 1990 that the period of eligibility would be further extended to 31 October 1990. On 21 December 1990 the Secretary of State announced a final extension to 31 December 1990.

4. The refurbishment of public sector housing damaged in the floods was completed by the end of October and all tenants who wished to return to their homes have done so. In the private sector the great bulk of the work to repair houses damaged by floods has been completed either through insurance or (in the case of those eligible who were not insured or

under insured) through the Government's Housing Renovation Grant Scheme. The Government understands that in about 40 cases work will be completed between the present date and February/March 1991; the delays appear to have been caused by difficulties over insurance; builders going out of business; and delays by the owners themselves in commencing repair work. In addition Government understands that in the case of 34 houses the local authority has been unable to contact the owners of the premises.

THE WARNING SYSTEM

Recommendation

We recommend that a single agency, namely the NRA, be responsible for contacting through the Neptune Service all bodies which need to be informed of tidal surges and wave heights. At times when very high water levels and/or high waves are expected, NRA offices should be open to take and relay information as soon as it is produced by the Meteorological Office. Engineers from maritime authorities and other bodies responsible for major sea defences should be on standby to receive the information. The use of beepers should make this burden tolerable.

5. The National Rivers Authority (NRA), in consultation with the police and local authorities in the North Wales coast area, have agreed a revised Neptune System. Their summary of this is attached as Annex A. Responsibility for contacting all bodies which need to be informed will remain initially with the police, in common with other warning systems, although NRA will contact certain specified bodies such as British Rail. It will be noted from Annex 'A' that the Emergencies Planning Officer from Clwyd County Council has overseen the detailed communication arrangements.

6. The use of the police will obviate the need for the NRA to contact others which, without the provision of increased manpower and communication resources, would lessen its ability to carry out its prime duties, namely to monitor the situation; make further forecasts and to issue these; and to implement the operational activities on the ground. As the police have the necessary equipment and are willing to disseminate the warnings, the Government considers they are the best agency to do so.

7. The Government fully accepts that any revised warning system must include effective communications with all other bodies to ensure contactability and fail-safe operation of the procedures. The NRA are arranging NRA-staffed 24 hour control rooms in all regions as a matter of policy. The maritime authorities in the area accept the use of beepers, and indeed some have indicated that they already use them. British Rail already have a system of "on standby" for key engineering and operating staff who could receive and act upon information from the Neptune service.

8. At present (and at the time of the Towyn floods), the Neptune System is considered in conjunction with other data such as the "Met-Flood" warnings and weather forecasts transmitted by the media. At Towyn the information was taken seriously: technical officers from Colwyn Borough Council were already on site early on the morning of 26 February to monitor conditions and they alerted the emergency services at the earliest possible time to the fact that a serious situation was developing.

9. It is, however, important to bear in mind that up to now the Neptune System has never been considered as a formal flood warning system for the North Wales coast in the same manner, for instance, as it has for the North West of England and the fluvial flood warnings for Wales or the East Coast Storm Tide Warning Service. This is partly because the West coast surge forecasts need to be supplemented with "real time" information for any confident prediction of the effects to be made. This is available for the North West of England but not for North Wales. Also, as the Committee pointed out in Paragraph 24 of their report, the forecast for tidal surge was considered by Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL) to be "surprisingly accurate." In amplification of this statement, POL have said that the accuracy achieved on 26 February (for the high tide) would not normally be expected for the West coast.

10. The shortcomings of the present forecasting arrangements for surges result from the inadequacies of the existing surge model. Better forecasting requires improved meteorological input, finer resolution and further development and calibration of the surge models. Improved input and resolution should be available early in 1991 as a result of a planned development of the Meteorological Office's Atmospheric Forecasting Model made possible by the

installation of a more powerful computer. Development of the surge models for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) by POL will continue and future interpretation of improved surge model forecasts for North Wales will also benefit from the installation of 2 new tide gauges (see para 12 below). Significant improvements are therefore expected in the Neptune system resulting in particular from the introduction shortly of the Meteorological Office's, improved atmospheric forecasting model and the more accurate surge model.

Recommendation

We recommend that careful consideration be given to requests for extra funding for an additional tide gauge along the North Wales coast for the Meteorological Office's Storm Tide Warning System.

11. The tide gauges for storm tide warning around the British coast are primarily those which form the Class 'A' tide gauge network. The network is funded by MAFF who are advised by an expert Tide Gauge Committee, and the gauges are maintained and monitored on behalf of MAFF by POL.

12. As indicated in paragraph 15 of the Welsh Office's supplementary memorandum, the Tide Gauge Committee were already considering the need for an additional gauge on the North Wales coast prior to February 1990. MAFF have accepted the Tide Gauge Committee's recommendation and have made arrangements for funding a gauge at Llandudno and an additional one at Barmouth on the West Wales coast. POL have already carried out site surveys and work should be completed by mid 1991.

Recommendation

We recommend that offshore wave height information, produced by the Meteorological Office and passed to the NRA, be transmitted by the NRA through the Neptune Service.

13. There are practical difficulties involved in assessing the coastal implications of offshore wave heights. For instance, onshore wave heights at a single location may vary considerably with the direction of the wave approach; moreover, the onshore effect of any particular offshore wave condition may vary greatly over quite short lengths of coastline. Therefore care needs to be taken to avoid the misuse of such data.

14. However, experienced local authority coastal engineers should be able to form a view, from their own observations and data from any numerical wave models run for their coast, of the significance for their districts of forecast offshore wave heights and directions, and the NRA have informed the Government that such information will be made available to local authorities as soon as practicable. The NRA is holding discussions with the Meteorological Office and MAFF as a matter of urgency.

[15. The Government has decided that the remit of the Tide Gauge Committee should be expanded to enable it to advise on the use of wave information and associated computer models with the aim of improving the forecasting of coastal wave conditions and the design of coastal defences. It is proposed that the committee will include members with expertise in this area to enable it to undertake the expanded role.]

Recommendation

We recommend that all maritime district authorities and other bodies responsible for major sea defences take part in a Neptune System improved along the lines recommended above.

16. The Neptune Warning System is considered by the NRA to be relevant to the North Wales coast as far west as Aberconwy. All Maritime District Councils and other bodies responsible for sea defences and coast protection structures along this coastline now receive this service.

Recommendation

We recommend that maritime district authorities decide in the light of guidelines to be drawn up by the Government under what conditions populations would be evacuated and review their evacuation plans. An evacuation standby warning should be given in vulnerable areas when Neptune warns of very severe conditions.

17. It is generally agreed that the catastrophic flooding at Towyn was due to the breach of the sea wall and that this could not have been foreseen. No matter how much warning had been given of the severity of the event, it is certain that the outcome would have been no different. While some overtopping of the sea wall was anticipated, on past experience this was not considered sufficient to warrant evacuation.

18. While the Government appreciates the Committee's concern in making this recommendation there are formidable problems in the implementation. Planning for mass evacuation is very difficult for a variety of reasons, and could not be contemplated without clear grounds to conclude that serious risk to life and property was imminent. In the case of the unforeseeable breach in the wall at Towyn on 26 February 1990, no such conclusion could be drawn.

19. Precautionary evacuations in consequence of Neptune Warnings are also not practicable. Between April 1988 and April 1990 the Government understands that a total of 20 Neptune Warnings were issued. Mass evacuation on each occasion would have brought the system into disrepute.

20. Where there is a known high degree of vulnerability due to the expectation of overtopping or some weakness in a sea defence (eg following earlier damage) evacuation on standby warnings may be a prudent step. However, such decisions would need to be taken on the basis of local knowledge and judgement and cannot be based on general guidelines.

THE SEA DEFENCES

Recommendation

We recommend that the Government ensure that there are improved design standards for coastal defences and that a code of practice is laid down to give better guidance to designers of coastal works.

21. Coastal defences must be designed specifically to suit the locations for which they are intended. The proper design of defences depends on a thorough study of site conditions and appropriate ground investigations together with studies of local weather, wave and tidal conditions. The

standard of protection, must be appropriate to the type of area to be protected and the consequences of those standards being exceeded. The adoption of too high standards could work against the provision of defences as their cost might not be justified by the benefits resulting from their construction.

22. Within those general principles, the Government accepts the Committee's view that good design standards are essential. Indeed, design principles are well established and guidelines for levels of protection were set out in the Waverley Committee's Report following the 1953 floods and subsequently updated by the Flood Protection Committees Report in 1979.

23. In addition, much current research is being undertaken aimed at a better understanding of all the various processes occurring at the coastline. The current level of expenditure by MAFF and Welsh Office in this area is some £1.5 million per annum. Two projects being undertaken by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) with funding from MAFF will be particularly relevant. The "Sea Wall Design Guidelines" to be published soon not only provides a "state of the art" review of all aspects of the design of sea walls but puts their use into the context of other coastal defence methods. The second CIRIA publication recently available under the title "Guide on the use of groynes in Coastal Engineering" considers the state of present knowledge on the use of these devices, their proper location, design and maintenance for best performance.

24. The Towyn disaster has highlighted a problem well recognised among coastal engineers, namely the assessment of the adequacy of older sea walls, particularly those for which construction records no longer exist. Many such walls have withstood the elements for 80-100 years and even longer. To assist in the assessment of such walls, in particular masonry ones such as that at Towyn, CIRIA with Government aid, are about to issue another publication entitled "Old Waterfront Walls - Management, Maintenance and Rehabilitation."

Recommendation

We recommend that policy be changed so that suitable maintenance works (such as the recycling of shingle) are eligible for grant aid. This is to ensure that 'soft' defences which require regular renewal attract grant as readily as 'hard' defences currently do.

25. Where specific recycling is accepted as being an integral part of a scheme and is as such, for instance, included in any advertisement under Section 5 of the Coast Protection Act 1949 it would qualify for grant aid. Such specific 'renewal' would also meet the terms for grant aid under the Land Drainage Act 1976 if it was an agreed part of the defence scheme. Shingle nourishment has already been grant aided in both Wales and England.

CO-ORDINATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COASTAL DEFENCE

Recommendation

We recommend that:

- (i) the various acts relating to coastal defence and coast protection be consolidated into a single act, and;
- (ii) since co-ordination between the various responsible bodies along the North Wales coast is at present unsatisfactory, a single authority be designated to:
 - maintain the permanent co-operation of these bodies (including the maritime district authorities and BR) in all matters pertaining to coastal defence and flood prevention;
 - make improvements in these matters, including those improvements in the Neptune Service outlined in Chapter Two.

The single designated authority should be the NRA which should be fully funded to undertake this task.

26. The Government notes the Committee's view that consolidation of the various Acts which relate to sea defence and coast protection is desirable. Officials have recently invited comments from interested organisations (including the NRA) on proposals from the Law Commission for bills consolidating some aspects of water law for presentation in the present session of Parliament and this will make some improvements in the present position. However, as much work on the coast is undertaken for purposes other than coast protection or defence, consolidation of all legislation could pose considerable problems.

27. The Government's view on major changes to responsibilities requiring primary legislation was given in paragraphs 2-9 of the Supplementary Evidence by the Welsh Office to the Select Committee. Nevertheless, further close examination has been made of the existing legislation to clarify the powers and functions of the NRA in relation to coast defence and flood prevention. They may undertake sea defence works. They are required under the Water Act 1989 to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to flood defence. They must be consulted on all significant works subject to the Coast Protection Act 1949 and may, by complaint, invoke default powers of the Minister. Under the Land Drainage Act 1976 they may enforce the repair of drainage works for defence against sea water, where this is considered necessary. The consent of the NRA is required before all sea defence works promoted by local authorities qualify for grant aid. The Government considers therefore that the NRA has adequate powers to deal with matters relating to coastal defence and flood prevention effectively.

28. The Government fully accepts the Committee's recommendation on the need for co-operation, and has been actively encouraging those bodies with responsibilities for coastal defence to form groups collectively to study and manage each length of coastline within which an action at any location could have a reaction elsewhere. The Liverpool Bay Group is one such group started some 2 years ago. All the bodies with responsibilities on this coastline are now members have already begun to strengthen the role of the group. The Welsh Office will continue to encourage this group and the establishment of other groups on appropriate lengths of the Welsh coastline. Coastal groups are now either existing or being discussed to cover the entire Welsh coastline except Pembrokeshire and the Severn Estuary east of Lavernock Point.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Welsh Office re-issue the advice in Circular 15/82 reminding maritime local authorities to take account of considerations of flooding in both local structure and strategic plans. We recommend that local authorities immediately review site licences granted for caravan sites to ensure warnings are in place.

29. The Government accepts the recommendation to re-issue the advice in Welsh Office Circular 15/82 and on 16 August ~~last~~ year the Department wrote to coastal local planning authorities in Wales, the Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia National Parks and the National Rivers Authority reminding them of that advice, and asking that it be borne in mind when planning authorities draw up structure and local plans. Furthermore, in a written answer to a Parliamentary Question from Cranley Onslow, MP, the Minister for Housing and Planning, Mr Michael Spicer said on 16 November 1990 that he was inviting the NRA to consider whether there is any need for updating of the current guidance in the light of developments since 1982.

30. The Clwyd County Structure Plan First Alteration is before the Secretary of State and the Department will consider the need to make any modifications in the light of the flooding earlier this year. The County Council has informed the Department that work has started on a second Alteration, with a probable end date of 2006; this will provide an appropriate context for reviewing the medium to long-term strategy for development in the coastal zone.

31. In Paragraph 5 of Welsh Office Circular 15/82, the requirement for the NRA to carry out surveys of their areas in relation to the flood defence function is identified. The Government intends to encourage the NRA to update such surveys and provide suitable maps of areas at risk from flooding to local authorities. It should be possible to prepare the first such series from the results of the NRA survey of sea defences currently in hand.

32. As for the review of site licences granted for caravan sites; Colwyn and Delyn Borough Councils have informed the Welsh Office that this has been done, while Rhuddlan Borough Council have told the Department that they do not intend to do so. They fully appreciate the problems associated with low lying sites immediately behind sea defences, but believe that this situation does not occur in their Borough.

Recommendation

We recommend that changes in the building regulations be considered to ensure that in areas liable to flooding new bungalows are provided with access to the roof and bungalows and houses with higher damp proof courses. New developments should be built so as to ensure adequate flood defence up to at least the crown of the road. Consideration should also be given to the provision of escape roads in such areas in case evacuation or other vehicles were to break down blocking the road.

33. The recommended changes to the building regulations are not considered appropriate. Many of those living in single storey properties do so because they are elderly or handicapped and would not be able to gain access to a roof space. Access to floors raised above flood level might also be difficult where deep flood waters could be anticipated in the event of a breach in defences. Where raised floor levels are practicable, this condition can be imposed within the planning approval.

34. The characteristics of development sites, including liability to flooding, are material considerations to be taken into account in development control decisions. Under existing powers, local planning authorities are able, through the imposition of planning conditions where they consider it appropriate, to influence estate design in order to combat problems which may arise from coastal flooding. Moreover, depending on the circumstances, the known presence of such a danger could be sufficient to justify outright refusal of planning permission.

Recommendation

We recommend that local authorities warn residents in areas at risk from flooding of the need to be fully insured by writing to every resident. This policy should be backed up by regular newspaper advertisements. We also recommend that local searches indicate to solicitors which areas are liable to flooding.

35. The Government understands that, in North East Wales, Delyn Borough Council have stated their intention to write to residents concerning insurance while Colwyn and Rhuddlan Borough Councils are to consider the matter.

36. The indication to solicitors through local searches of areas which are liable to flooding is a matter for the individual authorities.

3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF NEPTUNE SYSTEM

Operation Neptune is a tidal surge warning system operated by the North West Region of the NRA, based at Warrington.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide early warnings of abnormally high tide conditions along the Western coast between the Solway Firth and North Wales.

Information is disseminated from the North West Region of the NRA to those bodies responsible for taking action in response to the threat of coastal flooding.

In formulating tidal predictions the North West Region uses the following information:-

- (i) A storm surge forecast received from Bracknell (Met. Office). This forecast which is available for the months September to March inclusive, is received each morning and gives the predicted residual tidal elevations (surges), at hourly intervals for the next 36 hours. Surge predictions are produced by Bracknell from a computer model of the Irish Sea developed by the Proudman Laboratories.
- (ii) Astronomical tide levels obtained from Tide Tables.
- (iii) Actual tide levels as measured at gauges at Workington, Heysham, Liverpool and Hilbre Island. This network of gauges is soon to be augmented by an additional gauge at Holyhead.
- (iv) Forecasts of sea state, wind speed and directions.

The above data enables a predicted level to be forecast which can be continually adjusted having regard to the prediction and the levels actually observed at the tide gauges. Whenever predicted levels exceed the trigger levels for Operation Neptune, the Neptune procedures are initiated by the North West Region.

Neptune procedures are initiated by the North West Region when high water levels are predicted to exceed 5.0m A.O.D. at Liverpool accompanied by winds of Force 8 between South West and North West.

There are 4 no stages of Neptune as follows:-

A. ADVANCE WARNING OF OPERATION NEPTUNE

This Advance Warning will be issued by TELEPHONE as soon as is practicable, up to 36 hours prior to the tidal event. ADVANCE WARNINGS will always be categorised as YELLOW WARNINGS regardless of the actual prediction which could be in excess of the minimum trigger criteria. An example of an ADVANCE WARNING "message" is given below:-

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY (NORTH WEST) 27 Sept 1990

OPERATION NEPTUNE ADVANCE WARNING (YELLOW WARNING)
TYPICAL MESSAGE:- (issued by telephone)

National Rivers Authority in Warrington have issued an OPERATION NEPTUNE Advance Warning (Yellow Warning) at 1600GMT for the high tide on Monday 30th February at 2330 G.M.T.

The tide is expected to reach 5.7 MAOD at Liverpool. Telex messages will commence at approximately 1700 GMT on 30th.

B. OPERATION NEPTUNE WARNING

This Warning will be issued approximately 6 hours before high water. This Warning will refine and classify the earlier ADVANCE WARNING in terms of level and severity. An AMBER WARNING condition will be issued when predicted levels are above the minimum criteria but are expected to be less than 6.0m A.O.D. at Liverpool. A RED WARNING will be issued when levels are expected to reach or exceed 6.0m A.O.D. An example of an OPERATION NEPTUNE WARNING is given later in this document as part of the detailed Procedures for the participating Duty Officers of the North Wales Police and the NRA.

C. NEPTUNE WARNING UPDATE

This Update will be issued at hourly intervals up to high water. The update information will be based on the monitoring of actual conditions and will detail any changes in prediction or confirm the original predictions.

D. NEPTUNE WARNING STAND-DOWN

The Stand down will be issued 1 hour after high water and will signal the end of the event.

Operation Neptune information is disseminated from the North West Region of the NRA to the Welsh Region of the NRA, maritime District Councils along the North Wales coast, Clwyd and Gwynedd County Council and British Rail.

The absence of 24 hour Control rooms within the District Councils, County Councils and local NRA offices, necessitates the involvement of the North Wales Police and the Regional Headquarters of the NRA in Cardiff. The North Wales Police pass on information to District and County Councils while the NRA Welsh Regional Headquarters at Cardiff pass on the information to local NRA offices in North Wales.

The detailed procedural arrangements between the North Wales Police and the District and County Councils is not covered in this document. An overview of the General arrangement is however given on pages 6, 7 and 8.

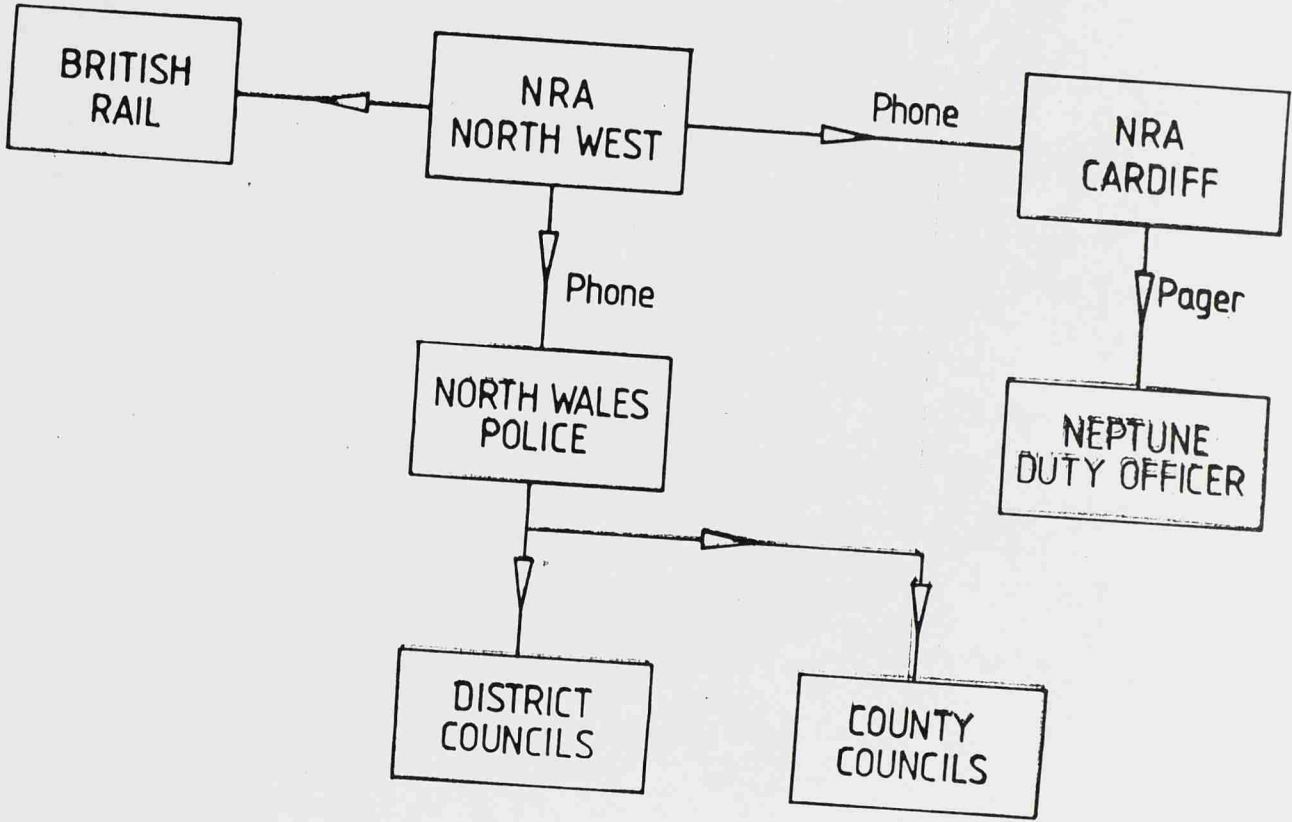
This document itemises the NRA procedures within the Welsh Region only.

The Emergency Planning Officer of the Clwyd County Council has overseen the detailed communication arrangements between all recipients of Neptune information to ensure that arrangements are satisfactory.

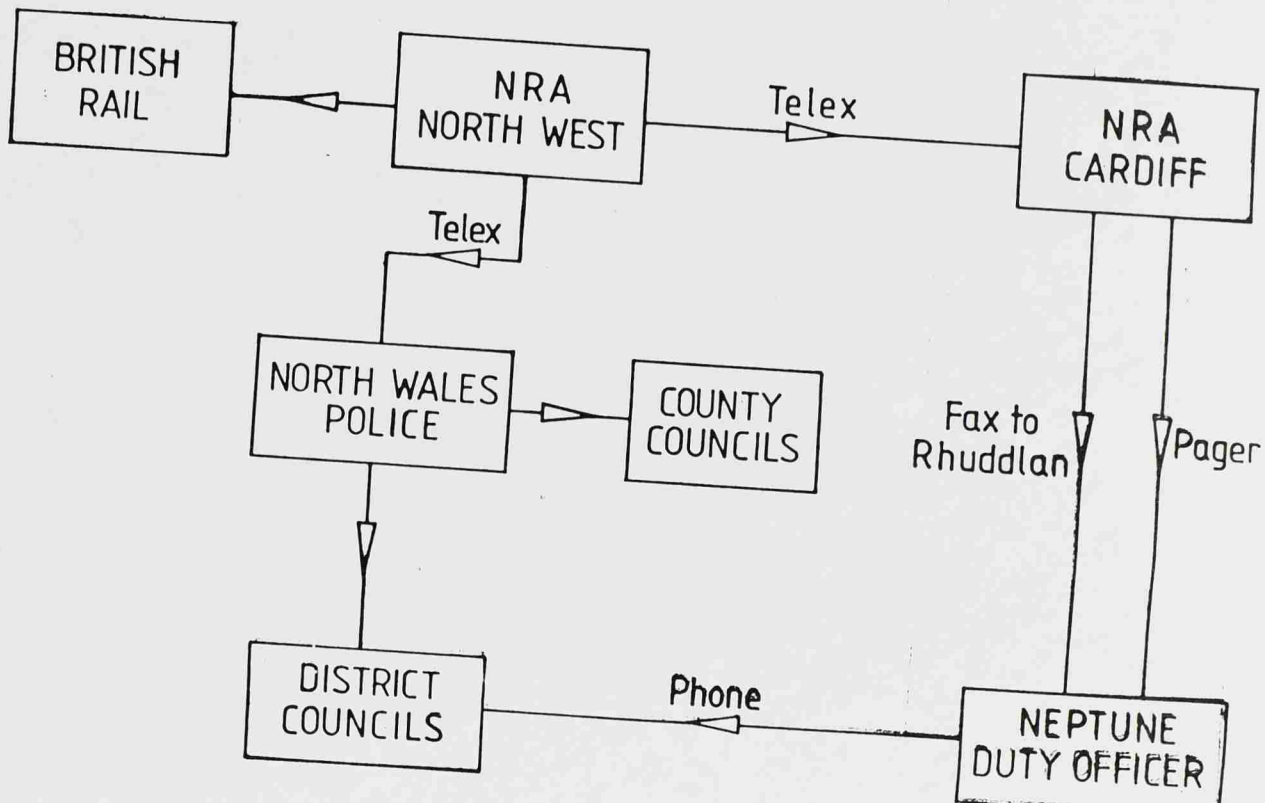
Flow charts are given at the rear of the document to illustrate simply the dissemination of Neptune information. These are intended to be a guide only.

Lists of telephone numbers and names of staff involved in Flood Duty Rotas or familiar with Flood Defence procedures are given as Appendix A-E.

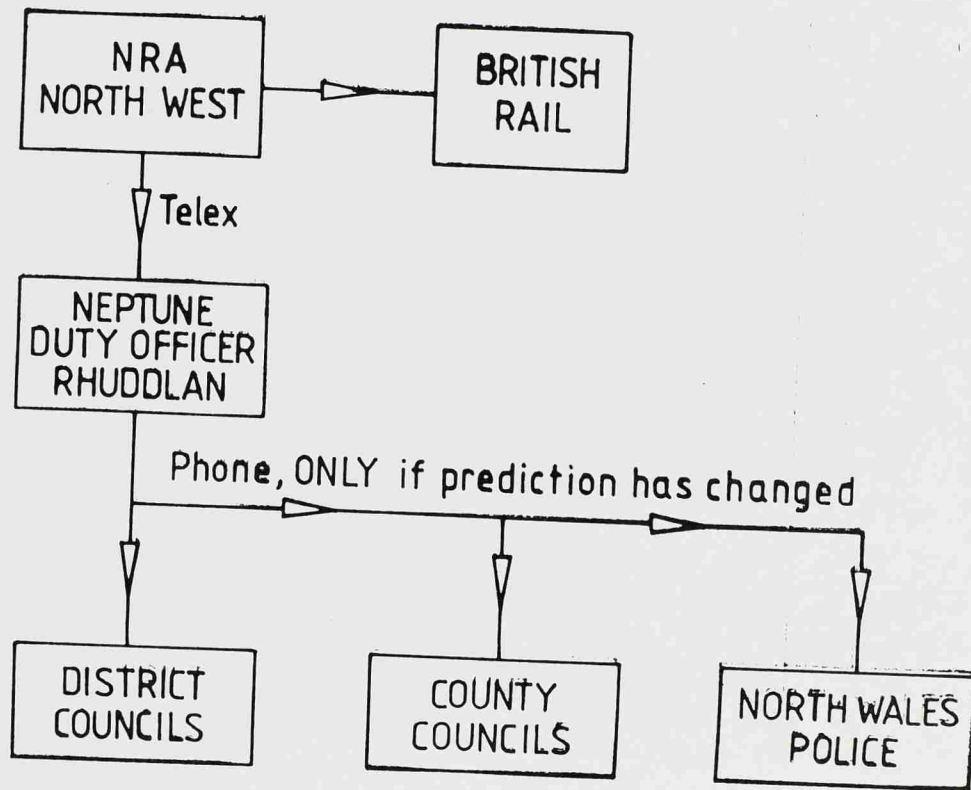
A. ADVANCE WARNING OF OPERATION NEPTUNE



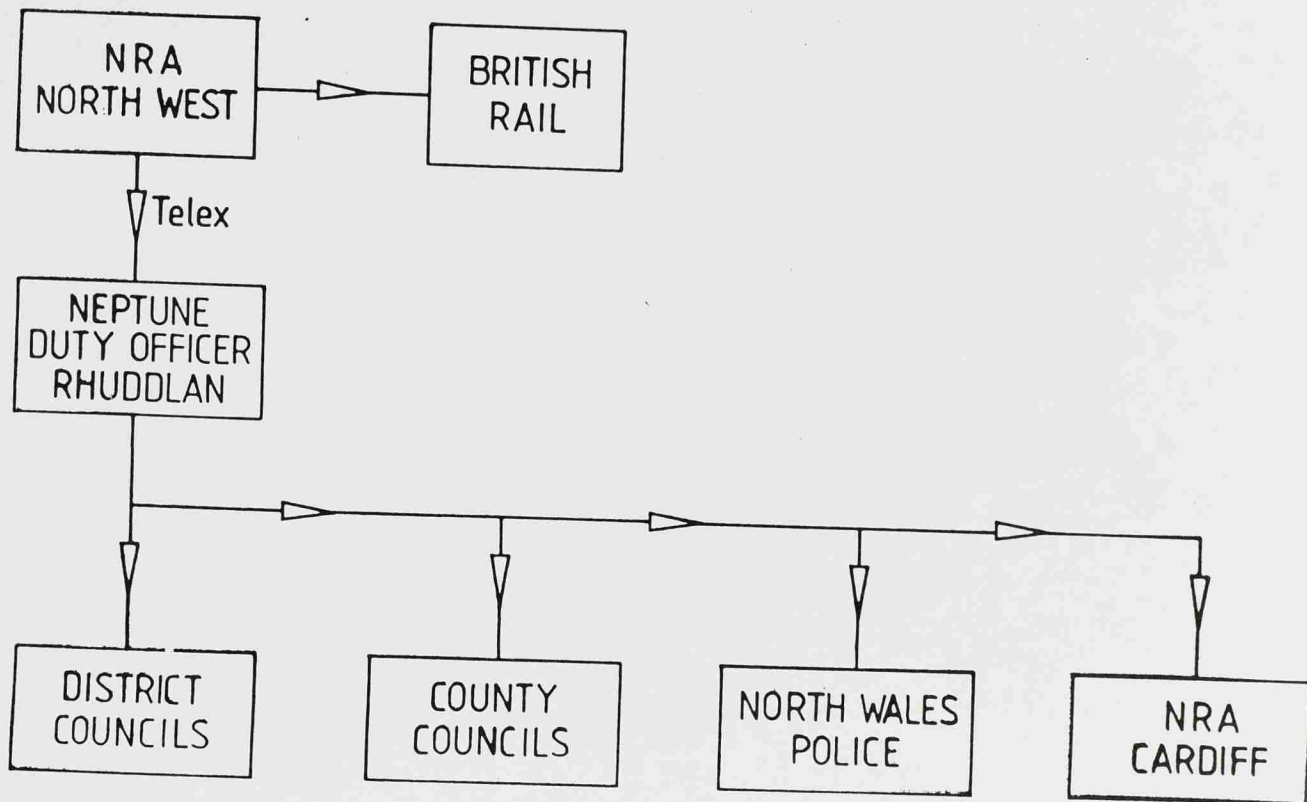
B. OPERATION NEPTUNE WARNING



C. NEPTUNE WARNING UPDATES



D. NEPTUNE WARNING STAND-DOWN



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
071-270 0538 (Linell Union)
Fax: 071-270 0561



n. b. P.M.
BHP
7/6

celle

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 071-270 3000 (Switchboard)
071-270 0538 (Direct Line)
Fax: 071-270 0561

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon David Hunt MBE MP

From The Secretary of State for Wales

CT/6145/90

6th June 1990

Dear Norman

FLOODING IN NORTH WALES: THE BELLWIN SCHEME

Thank you for your letter of ^{map} 30 May and for agreeing to my request for the grant rate on eligible expenditure under the Bellwin Scheme incurred after 1 April on the North Wales floods to be increased to 95%.

I agree with you that there should be no further increase in the rate of grant payable in respect of this particular event.

You also raised the question of offsetting savings. My officials have agreed with yours that I am able to make immediate payments of approximately £600,000 to the affected authorities from within my existing vote provision. We can come back to the issue of possible offsetting savings at a later stage in the financial year - probably at the time of the Winter Supplementary Estimates.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours ever

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

David

UNCLASSIFIED



n. b. P.M.

BHP

30/5

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon David Hunt MBE MP
 Secretary of State for Wales
 Welsh Office
 Gwydyr House
 Whitehall
 London
 SW1A 2ER

30 May 1990

Dear Secretary of State

THE BELLWIN SCHEME FOR THE FLOODING IN NORTH WALES

You wrote to me on 18 May asking that the grant rate on eligible Bellwin expenditure incurred after 1 April on the North Wales floods be increased to 95 per cent.

2. Given the very exceptional circumstances of this case, I am prepared to agree to your request, on the understanding that you will not propose any further increase in the rate of grant payable in respect of this particular event.

3. My agreement is also subject to the conditions in my letter of 8 March to Peter Walker, in which I agreed to the 85 per cent rate of grant under the old system. These include the condition that you will do your best to find offsetting savings from your existing provision. I am of course well aware of your views on this point from our exchanges when you were Minister for Local Government, and I realise that Peter Walker shared your view. Nevertheless, as you will recall from my letter of 17 April to you at the DoE, which I copied to Peter Walker and James Douglas-Hamilton, I am simply not able to accept that in all circumstances the triggering of the Bellwin arrangements means automatic access to the Reserve.

4. I note that you may well need a further extension of the qualifying time period. I would be very happy to consider that in due course.

5. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely

NORMAN LAMONT

(Approved by the Chief Secretary
 and signed in his absence)

elo

cut

RA



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-270 0538 (Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)
01-270 0538 (Direct Line)

Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP From The Secretary of State for Wales

Pine Mark 2 8 March 1990

The Treasury have now agreed to this.

REC
a/b

mt

**SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD DAMAGE IN NORTH WALES
25 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 1990**

Following my visit to North Wales on Tuesday, I am writing to seek your urgent agreement to the terms of the financial assistance I propose to make available to the local authorities affected by the severe flooding during the period 25 February to 1 March. Our officials have been in close contact about the details which are set out in the letter I propose to send to local authorities in Wales on Friday.

There are two key points: the cut-off date for the completion of work to qualify for assistance under the Bellwin Scheme and the rate of grant payable.

Following my discussions with the local authorities affected most by the flooding, I am satisfied that around two months will be sufficient in the first instance for the work under the scheme to be completed. Consequently, I am content to proceed on the basis of a completion date of 30 April. Another high tide is expected shortly and we will need to consider extending the cut-off date if further flooding occurs.

/Early estimates indicate

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Parliament Square
LONDON
SW1P 3AG



Early estimates indicate that total expenditure under the Bellwin definition will be much in excess of £5m and well above the thresholds for Colwyn District Council and Clwyd County Council, the councils mainly affected; with a population of around 45,000 Colwyn's total revenue expenditure in 1989/90 is just over £5m and gross capital expenditure around £4m. It is clear that significant expenditure under the scheme will be incurred in both this financial year and in 1990/91.

Consequently, without the highest possible level of assistance, the effect on the community chargepayer will be very significant indeed. For this reason and particularly bearing in mind the scale of the problem, I must ask for your agreement to a grant rate of 85% towards all eligible expenditure incurred in dealing with this incident. Even at this higher rate the financial impact on the authorities most affected, and Colwyn District Council in particular, could still be severe and particularly if further flooding occurs. We must therefore be prepared to review the level of financial support in due course.

I would be grateful for your agreement to the terms proposed by Friday please.

/ I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and to Sir Robin Butler.

celp



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2ER

NBhm
PRC6
9/3

8 March 1990

Dear Secretary of State

**SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD DAMAGE
IN NORTH WALES : 25 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 1990**

You wrote to me on 8 March ^{with PG} requesting agreement to grant at the rate of 85% towards all eligible expenditure incurred in dealing with the end-February floods in North Wales.

2. In the very exceptional circumstances of those floods, and in particular taking into account the likely costs relative to the resources of the local authorities directly concerned, I am prepared to agree to your request.

3. I do so on the understanding, however, that the only authorities which will qualify are those directly concerned with the Towyn disaster, and that you will do your best to find acceptable offsetting savings from your existing provision.

4. There has been some newspaper speculation on proceedings against British Rail; should the local authorities in due course recover any sums from that source, I would expect a proportionate refund to central government.

5. I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely
Aileen Campbell

NORMAN LAMONT
PP Approved by the Chief Secretary
and signed in his absence.

PRIME MINISTER

STORMS

The Home Secretary chaired a meeting of the Civil Contingencies Committee this afternoon. It was agreed that in terms of immediate action by the police, rescue services, army, etc., everything possible was being done.

This still leaves two difficult political problems:

- i) what additional assistance is available to local authorities to cope with the effects of the storms and how does this match up to the damage done? Mr. Walker was particularly anxious to avoid giving local authorities the opportunity to argue that they were bearing unreasonable costs and that Community Charges would be forced up as a result. At the meeting, DoE were asked to draw together the various forms of assistance, eg, under the Bellvin Rules and various grants, and to ensure that local authorities were informed of them.
- ii) What has been the Government's record on sea defences? (I think the answer is that it has been quite good.) Is the degree of protection adequate and if not, where does it need to be enhanced? Are there any longer-run trends or work here?

You might invite Mr. Patten to speak on i) and Mr. Gummer on ii). Out of the discussion you will be able to fashion a line for Questions. Mr Walker may want to speak on both.

AT

ANDREW TURNBULL

28 FEBRUARY 1990

c:\wpdocs\pps\storms.mrm

PG updated

BELLWIN SCHEME : NOTE ON STORMS OF 26/27 FEBRUARY

1. The storms affected the whole of England and Wales with winds gusting at 80 to 100 mph in many places. But they were significantly less intense than that on 25 January.
2. 18 people died directly as a result of this storm. Coastal areas were worst affected by a combination of high winds and spring tides. They led to widespread flooding along the coast of North Wales, Cornwall, Somerset, Avon, Kent and Sussex, and along the lower Severn Valley as far as Gloucester. Flooding was worst in North Wales where the Bellwin Scheme was activated yesterday by the Welsh Office. There will be a further spring tide today but with winds now dropping it is not expected to add significantly to the existing flooding.

Regional Position

3. The North, and in particular North West, (which were not badly affected by the January storms) had their worst storm of the winter so far. Emergency services were stretched and traffic was severely disrupted. In the Midlands there was widespread but generally minor damage, mainly to roofs and chimneys, but with some tree loss. In London, East Anglia, and the South East (away from the coast) damage seems to have been minor. The South West seems to have suffered only relatively minor damage away from the coastal areas.

Forecast

4. Winds will gradually subside today. No gales or storms are forecast for the remainder of the week.

Activation of the Bellwin Scheme

5. The scheme exists to help local authorities where they might otherwise face an excessive burden in carrying out "work necessary to prevent danger to

life or property, or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience among its inhabitants". On 25 January, the Scheme was activated for the whole of England. This time away from the worst coastal flooding and the North West, damage seems to be much less. Even in the North West it is not yet clear whether damage is of sufficient scale for local authorities to require help. At present we see no case for a general activation, but are in touch with those areas worst affected to assess the scale of the burden they face in dealing with the storms and will make a decision in consultation with this Treasury as soon as clear information is to hand.

Line to Take

6. The worst affected areas in England are those in coastal areas along the Bristol Channel, and in Kent and Sussex. Some areas of the North West seem also to have been hit badly. We are monitoring the position closely to see whether these authorities need financial help. If they do we shall not hesitate to activate the Bellwin Scheme just as we did in Wales yesterday.

PG updated

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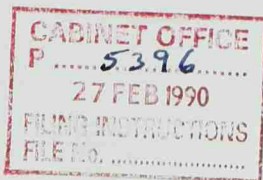
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Mr Gray

MR WILSON

*Pine Macke²
RCCG
27/2*



mt

Severe Weather

1. As you may know from news bulletins the bad weather of yesterday has continued today, after a brief lull in the wind last night. An additional hazard is snow in Northern England. Another depression is forecast to cross the country during the night. The low is expected to cross Wales, the Midlands and East Anglia with rain to the South of it and snow to the North. Severe but not exceptional gales are expected in exposed places.

2. There are still some people without electricity although numbers are much smaller than yesterday. However, new disconnections are occurring all the time. The largest figures this morning were: North West 4,000 (3,000 of which are in the Lake District), Man Web 10,000 (of which 4,000 are due to sea flooding on N Wales coast), Yorkshire 10,000 (snow and ice hindering repair work and may cause a loss to 50,000 in the Huddersfield area if one badly iced high voltage line collapses), W Midlands 4,000 (mostly rural areas of N Staffs), E Midlands 3,000 (mostly in Lincolnshire). The majority of reconnections should be completed today, weather permitting.

3. The other main problem is flooding. The following areas are affected and local contingency plans are in operation to look after people affected:

a. North Wales Some 2,000 people were evacuated yesterday and last night from the areas of Mostyn, Rhyl, Towyn, Rhos-on-Sea and Llanddulas. About 1,500 are lodged with friends and relatives, the remainder are in local

authority emergency rest centres. Depending on wind and tides further evacuations may be needed today and tomorrow. Many will not be able to return to their homes until the end of the week, when the spring tides will be over. The armed forces are helping local authorities in preparing emergency repairs for breached sea defences and carrying out further evacuations.

b. South Coast Serious flooding in the Folkestone and Hythe, St Marys Bay, Romney Marsh and West Sussex coast between Elmer (West of Littlehampton) to Bracklesham, (South West of Bognor Regis). Some evacuation needed and property damaged.

c. North West Coast Sea defences breached or overtopped over a wide area including Haverigg (Cumbria), Bolton-le-Sands, Morecombe, Lancaster, Blackpool and Wirral (Cheshire). Many houses and hotels flooded and damaged.

d. South West Coast Some properties flooded and sea defences damaged along the Somerset and Avon coast in the Western-Super-Mere, Clevedon and Minehead areas.

e. Thames Barrier Planned to be closed for this afternoon's high tide and probably again for high tide tonight.

4. SofS Wales has announced the Bellwin rules will be applied for local authorities in the flooded areas of N Wales. No comparable announcements have been made for other parts of the UK but D.Environment are standing by to do so if necessary.

5. No major problems have yet arisen in Scotland or Northern Ireland

6. I will carry out a further check tomorrow.



BRIGADIER J A J BUDD

27 February 1990

4/2



YDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITE HALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-270 0538 (Llinell Union)

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-270 3000 (Switchboard)
01-270 0538 (Direct Line)

Odiwr Yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru The Rt Hon Peter Walker MBE MP From The Secretary of State for Wales

Rice Minister

*Recd
27/2*

27 February 1990

Dear Chief Secretary

nr

BELLWIN SCHEME: NORTH WALES FLOODING

I am writing to advise you and other colleagues that I propose to announce in the House today (in reply to a private notice question from Sir Anthony Meyer) that the local authority expenditure incurred in dealing with the results of the severe flooding and other problems in North Wales over the last two days is eligible for consideration under the Bellwin Scheme. The local authorities are responding well to the emergency and I am sure that the expenditure they will incur will be very significant indeed.

In brief the combination of high tides, severe weather and gales (gusting at times to over 100 mph) has led to very serious flooding and associated difficulties along the North Wales coast. I am satisfied that these are of an extent and severity that require us to indicate today that qualifying expenditure incurred by the local authorities will be eligible for assistance under the Bellwin Scheme.

Parts of the Rhyl and Prestatyn areas have been flooded due to the overtopping of the sea defences and the new Nova Centre at Prestatyn has suffered extensive damage. Fifty people have been evacuated from their homes and the railway line has been flooded.

/At Towyn, where

The Rt Hon Norman Lamont MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG



At Towyn, where the problems are even more severe, some 300 metres of the sea wall has been breached, 900 people have been evacuated from their homes and there has been extensive flooding of properties. Further along the coast near Caernarfon 15 families have been evacuated from their homes following an overtopping of the sea wall.

These problems are expected to get worse due to today's high tide and a forecast of further gale force winds and a storm surge.

I am grateful for your agreement earlier today that the Bellwin Scheme will apply if the criteria are met.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours sincerely,

A E Clemons

*(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)*

PA
PRIME MINISTER

TODAY'S STORMS

Although the latest reports talk of 13 fatalities, today's storms do not seem to have been as damaging as those on 25 January.

The attached note from the Cabinet Office summarises the position as it was at midday. As you will see the main potential problem was identified as flooding.

Developments during the afternoon are:

- the risk of East Coast flooding seem to have receded. The winds are slackening and have not changed direction as feared.
- the DOE have concluded against invoking the Bellwin rules. DOE Ministers are anxious, I think rightly, to keep this procedure for genuinely exceptional conditions, and these latest storms do not seem to measure up to that. Press Offices will make clear to enquirers that the rules are not being invoked.
- the latest forecasts are still for strong winds to continue over the next 24 hours, but with some slackening from today's worst.

PLG,

Paul Gray

26 February 1990

c: storms (MJ)

Mr. Gray

You may wish to note X

*in para 8. The Home Secretary
has said that he does not
want a CCU meeting today.*

MR WILSON

B. 26/2



Today's Storms

1. I have received situation reports from the Home, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Ireland Offices, the Departments of Energy, Transport, Environment and Health and MAFF.
2. The overall picture is of damage over a wider area than on 25 January. This time the Midlands, NW and NE have been affected, 10 people are reported killed. The number of injured is not yet known. There has been widespread structural damage but mostly of a relatively minor nature. The winds are continuing at present (12.30 pm) but should moderate slowly during the afternoon. Squally winds are forecast for tomorrow with high risk of severe gales in many parts of the country (Met Office Severe Weather Warning 0950 hrs today).
3. Most electricity boards in England have some consumers cut off but reconnections should be completed today in most places. Largest numbers are Southern 35,000, South Wales 12,000, NW 15,000, W Midlands 25,000, E Midlands 15,000, North East 20,000.
4. The railways main lines from Euston and King's Cross are out of action because overhead power lines are down. Diesel drawn services are being used in some cases. There are delays and cancellations on other routes. Minor damage is reported at two London Underground stations. London buses are subject to some diversions. High sided vehicles blown over have affected traffic on the M1, M6, M63 and M64. Some roads (major and minor) blocked by falling trees but these are being cleared as quickly as possible.

5. Some farmers without electricity will be unable to cool milk but this seems likely to be a short lived problem.

6. There are no reports of substantial effects in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

7. There is concern about the possibility of flooding as follows:-

a. Severn Estuary - sea defences overtopped (not breached) on low lying parts of Somerset coast and could happen again at high tide this afternoon and tonight.

b. If wind veers to NW or North there could be a threat of some E coast flooding by the same high tides. MAFF flood division are watching situation carefully.

c. Sea defences were breached last night on the North and West Wales coasts. (Colwyn Bay, Llandulas, Kimmel Bay and Towyn) A careful watch is being kept there too for danger from this afternoon's and tonight's high tides.

In all these cases local contingency plans are ready for implementation.

8. The flooding risk seems potentially the most serious outstanding item although further reports of casualties and damage may come in during the afternoon. Departments advise that from their points of view a Ministerial meeting is not required. D.Environment are prepared to deal with Bellwin rules applications should they prove necessary and will consider

putting out a press statement later today. I have asked them to hold fire until a firm decision about a Ministerial meeting has been taken.

9. The Home Secretary is available between 4 and 5 pm and after 6 pm if we need him. In my view there is no need for a Ministerial meeting today to take substantive decisions but there is a presentational argument for having one say at 6 pm or shortly afterwards so that it can be announced that Ministers have met. The storm was second item on the World at One (after the Nicaraguan elections) and the point was made that it was less severe in its effects than that of 25 January.

10. The Home Secretary's Private Office has received a note summarising reports from County Emergency Planning Units which does not present an alarming picture. I have spoken to his Private Secretary. He believes the Home Secretary will not hold a meeting for purely presentational reasons. He will ask Mr Waddington when he returns from lunch at about 2.30 pm and will let me know the outcome.



BRIGADIER J A J BUDD

26 February 1990



a: / Bonney / delors

Prin

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 February 1990

Dear Monsieur Delors,

Thank you very much for your message about the further violent storms and for the Commission's generous grant of emergency aid for the families of those most affected. This is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Walker

Monsieur Jacques Delors

2

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T24/90



RM
afo

SUBJECT *CL MASTER*
OPB

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 February 1990

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your message of sympathy for the destruction and loss of life caused by the recent storms in our country. Your kind words and thoughtfulness are much appreciated.

With very good wish

Yours sincerely

Nayana Dalbir
—

His Excellency Dr. Hamed Karoui

RM



FILE KK

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 February 1990

BANGLADESH

Thank you for your letter of 6 February proposing a reply by the Prime Minister to President Ershad's message of sympathy about the recent storms. I am sure the Prime Minister would be content to reply in the terms proposed in your letter.

BM

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

UNCLASSIFIED

116563
MDLOAN 4724

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. *T23A/90*

*SUBJECT CC MASTER
OP*

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO PRIORITY DHAKA
TELNO 45
OF 062000Z FEBRUARY 90

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT ERSHAD

1. THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION HAVE FORWARDED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER FROM PRESIDENT ERSHAD:

'IT IS WITH A SENSE OF PROFOUND GRIEF THAT WE HAVE LEARNT ABOUT THE RECENT CYCLONIC STORMS THAT SWEEPED ACROSS YOUR GREAT COUNTRY CAUSING LOSS OF MANY VALUABLE LIVES AND EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH AND ON MY OWN BEHALF I EXTEND TO YOU OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AT THIS TRAGIC LOSS.'

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BE PASSED TO PRESIDENT ERSHAD.

'I WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY OVER THE DEATHS AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY OUR RECENT STORMS. THEY WERE SERIOUS BY OUR STANDARDS, AND YOUR CONCERN IS APPRECIATED.'

3. THERE WILL BE NO/NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HURD



celk

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 February 1990

Dear Anwar

Bangladesh

/ I enclose a copy of a message which President Ershad
has sent to the Prime Minister to express his sympathy over
the recent storms.

/ The Prime Minister might wish to send him a short
acknowledgement. I enclose a draft telegram.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification UNCLASSIFIED	Caveat	Precedence PRIORITY
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5	TO PRIORITY DHAKA	
6	TELNO	
7	OF 062000Z FEBRUARY 90	
8		
9		
10	MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT ERSHAD	
11	1. The Bangladesh High Commission have forwarded the following	
12	message to the Prime Minister from President Ershad:	
13	"It is with a sense of profound grief that we have learnt	
14	about the recent cyclonic storms that swept across your	
15	great country causing loss of many valuable lives and	
16	extensive damage to property. On behalf of the government and	
17	the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to you	
18	our heartfelt sympathy at this tragic loss."	
19	2. The Prime Minister would like the following message to be	
20	passed to President Ershad.	
21	"I was most grateful for your kind message of sympathy over the	
22	deaths and damage caused by our recent storms. They were	
23	serious by our standards, and your concern is appreciated."	
24	3. There will be no/no signed original.	
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26	HURD	
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28		
29	YYYY	

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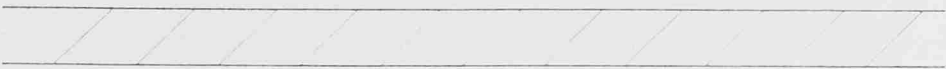
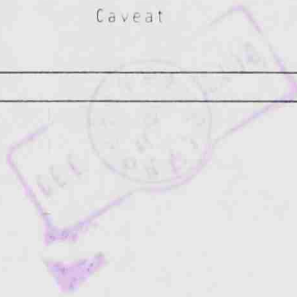
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification	Caveat	Precedence
UNCLASSIFIED		PRIORITY

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- 3 LIMITED
- 4 SAD
- 5 PROTOCOL DEPT
- 6 NEWS DEPT
- 7 PS
- 8 PS/LORD BRABAZON
- 9 PS/MRS CHALKER
- 10 PS/PUS
- 11 MR GILLMORE
- 12 MR MCLAREN
- 14 NNNN



For distribution order see Page Search word

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CGPC

TUNISIAN EMBASSY

29 PRINCES GATE
LONDON SW7

No.87/Prot
AA/KR

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

TEL: 01-584 8117

SERIAL No. T202/90

SUBJECT CC ORS
MASTER

The Tunisian Embassy presents its compliments to the Near East & North Africa Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and has the honour to enclose herewith a message from Dr Hamed Karoui, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia to The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, M.P. Prime Minister:

"Madame,

J'ai appris avec émotion et grande peine les pertes considérables tant humaines que matérielles qui ont été causées par l'ouragan ayant récemment frappé la Grande-Bretagne.

En cette douloureuse circonstance, je tiens a vous faire part ainsi qu'aux familles des victimes de toute ma sympathie."

The Tunisian Embassy would be most grateful if this message could be duly forwarded and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Near East & North Africa Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration. *JF*

London, 5 February 1990

Near East & North Africa Dept.
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
London SW1.



FILE
MfJ
cfo

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1990

Dear Monsieur Delors

Thank you for your message of sympathy on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities concerning the damage and loss of life caused by last week's storms. Your kind words are much appreciated as will be the emergency aid.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Jacques Delors

cb



SUBJECT cc
MASTER
bps

100
MS

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1990

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T188/90

Dear Mr. President

It was very good of you to send a message of condolence for the damage and loss of life caused by the very strong winds which struck the United Kingdom recently. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Comrade H Desmond Hoyte



SUBJECT CC
MASTER
ops.

Re
MJ
cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 February 1990

PRIME MINISTER
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T18A190

Dear Prime Minister,

It was very good of you to send a message of condolence for the damage and loss of life caused by the very strong winds which struck the United Kingdom recently. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Raymond De la Motte

The Right Honourable Michael Manley, M.P.

et

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T.17 F/90



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 January 1990

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS. fue c/o

(c:1 Banda)

cc fco

Dear Mr. President,

It was very good of you to send a message about the violent storms we suffered last week, which did such serious damage, and your words of sympathy will be much appreciated by people here. The experts say that the reason for the extraordinary high winds is that the Atlantic Ocean is unusually warm, and the North American landmass unusually cold. I do not know whether that is so, but the results have certainly been devastating, both in terms of loss of life and damage to buildings and trees, of which we have lost a very large number indeed.

I shall pass on your kind words of condolence to the families of those who lost their lives.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, G.C.B.

DTS

UNCLASSIFIED

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MDLIAN 4657

UNCLASSIFIED
FM KINGSTON
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELNO 46
OF 311800Z JANUARY 90

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T17/E 90

SUBJECT
"MASTER"
opn.

STORM IN THE UK : MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE MFA DATED 26 JANUARY
CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR MANLEY TO THE PRIME
MINISTER :

BEGINS

'I AM DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE LOSS OF LIVES AND THE DAMAGE TO
PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE STORM WHICH AFFECTED YOUR COUNTRY
YESTERDAY.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA EXTEND THEIR SYMPATHIES TO
YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT THIS TIME''.

ENDS

2. PLEASE PASS TO NUMBER TEN. I THANKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR
THIS MESSAGE WHEN I CALLED ON HIM ON 31 JANUARY.

MILTON

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 35

MAIN 31

LIMITED
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NEWS
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PS/MR SAINSBURY
PS/PUS
MR BEAMISH
MISS SPENCER

ADDITIONAL 4

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST

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PAGE 1
UNCLASSIFIED

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

TELEGRAM No. 7171/90

28 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5JA

Phones: 01-584 0081 (4 Lines)

01-589 4842 (3 Lines)

Grams: BANGLADOOT, LONDON, SW7

Telex: 918016



SUBJECT: C. MASTER
OPJ

No. Pol-VI/1/89

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to reproduce below, for favour of onward transmission to its high destination, the text of a message from the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh addressed to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:

Quote

Her Excellency
The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London.

Excellency,

It is with a sense of profound grief that we have learnt about the recent cyclonic storms that swept across your great country causing loss of many valuable lives and extensive damage to property. On behalf of the Government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf I extend to you our heartfelt sympathy at this tragic loss.

Hussain Muhammad Ershad

Unquote

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

London

29 January 1990





✓

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 January 1990

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 25 January and to acknowledge receipt of the message from President Babangida to the Prime Minister. I have passed this to her.

CHARLES POWELL

Mr. Peter J. E. Anegbeh.

ls

File ECL
u FCB

T



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.17/90

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

Subject CC Master OFS

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 January 1990

Dear Mr. President,

It was a very kind thought to send a message about the storm which caused so much damage and loss of life here. Your sympathy will be much appreciated by the British people. It was indeed one of the worst storms this century, coming on top of the hurricane two years ago. The experts say, apparently, that it all has to do with the Atlantic Ocean being unusually warm and the North American land-mass unusually cold. Whatever the reason, it has been enormously destructive.

Warm regards.

Yours sincerely

Baroness Thatcher

His Excellency General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, CFR, GCB.

h

NNNN

SUBJECT
u MASTER
ops.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T15 B190

28 JAN 1990/0941

ZCZC DLM9409 MWA636 PG625 TLX44113

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29/1

cc fcc

ETAT

RT. HONOURABLE MRS MARGRET THATCHER

PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN

NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1

I HAVE LEARN WITH DEEP SORROW OF THE DEATH OF 40 PEOPLE WHO DIED ON
WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY 1990 FOLLOWING THE VIOLENT STORMS THAT SWEEP
OVER SOUTHERN ENGLAND.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI SOLEMNLY JOIN ME
IN EXTENDING TO YOU, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OUR HEARTIFELT CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES ON THIS TRAGIC OCCASSION.

H. KAMUZU BANDU,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI.

CUL ETAT 10 40 251A 1990

International
Telegram
TELECOM
British
International
Telegram
For enquiries dial the
number shown in your
Phone Book
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number shown in your
Phone Book
International
Telegram



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.16/90

Subject cc Master OPS

T E X T O F A M E S S A G E

F O R

THE RT HON. MARGARET THATCHER, MP

PRIME MINISTER

F R O M

GENERAL IBRAHIM BADAMASI BABANGIDA
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES

DEAR MARGARET,

I WAS DISTRESSED TO LEARN LAST NIGHT OF THE FEROCIOUS STORM WHICH SWEPT OVER THE UNITED KINGDOM YESTERDAY AND HAS LEFT OVER 45 PEOPLE DEAD AND MANY MORE INJURED X

PLEASE ACCEPT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NIGERIA X

YOURS VERY SINCERELY,

IBRAHIM

500 ●

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NIGERIA

copy
1/0



TELEPHONE: 01-839 1244

9 NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE
LONDON WC2N 5BX

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

Dear Prime Minister

I have been instructed to transmit the enclosed message to you from President Babangida.

May I add too, Prime Minister, my humble condolences.

*Yours sincerely,
George Dove-Edwin*

(G. Dove-Edwin)
High Commissioner.



With the compliments of

**WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC
DEPARTMENT**

*Neil,
We spoke. Message
received by fax.*

Mark Copley

31/1

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

LONDON SW1A 2AH

81/1
Duty Clerk,
NOTO



With the compliments of
Asst
THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

An advance copy.

Neil Howard.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
SW1A 2AH

Cable Address:
Fo: Guyana.

FA: 1/117

*SUBJECT
CC MASTER
OPS*



cc/c
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
"Takuba Lodge",
254 South Road & New Garden Street,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. *TISA/90*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana presents its compliments to the British High Commission in Georgetown and has the honour to request transmission of the following message from His EXcellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C., President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to Her Excellency Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom:-

"Excellency,

The news of the storm and hurricane-force winds which swept across North Western Europe, resulting in the loss of life and property in the United Kingdom has saddened us.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and on my own behalf I extend deepest sympathy to the Government and people of the United Kingdom on the

occasion of this natural disaster.
May I also ask that you extend our
sincerest condolences to the relatives
of the deceased.

Please accept, Excellency,
the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hugh Desmond Hoyte
President of the Co-operative
Republic of Guyana."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Co-operative
Republic of Guyana avails itself of this opportunity to renew
to the British High Commisison in Georgetown the assurances of
its highest consideration.

GEORGETOWN

JANUARY 26, 1990.



EMBAJADA DE MEXICO
LONDRES

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

000175

SERIAL No. T.14a/90

Subject cc Master OPS

26th January, 1990.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I should like to convey to you my sincerest -
sympathy and the sympathy of my people at the
dreadful devastation which swept through -
England causing such a terrible loss of life
and so much damage.

Please be assured of our warmest feelings of
compassion.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Carlos Salinas de Gortari,
President of the United Mexican States.

27/1

EMBAJADA DE MEXICO
LONDRES

London, 26th January, 1990.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am enclosing a message from my President and would like to join my own sentiments to those expressed by him.

Yours faithfully,

B. Sepúlveda

Bernardo Sepúlveda,
Ambassador.

Encl. 1



[MEM]

c:\wpdocs\foreign\chiba

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 January 1990

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your kind message of sympathy for the damage and loss of life resulting from yesterday's storm. She will ensure that your condolences are passed on.

CHARLES POWELL

His Excellency Mr. Kazuo Chiba

MEM

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

101-104 PICCADILLY

LONDON

W1V 9FN

26th January, 1990

Dear Prime Minister,

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the tragic loss of life caused by yesterday's hurricane.

On behalf of my Government and of the people of Japan, may I express our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to all those who have suffered bereavement and injury as a result of this tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

Kazuo Chiba

Kazuo Chiba
Ambassador

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,
London.

MR. GRAY

I attach a copy of the statement that Bernard has put out tonight following the CCU meeting. That statement has been faxed to all the relevant departmental press offices.

There is no pressure for a statement to the House tonight. I understand that the Home Secretary has agreed with David Hunt that if there is demand for a statement tomorrow, David Hunt will do it. DoE have told Richard Wilson that there is a PNQ down for tomorrow on the application of the Bellwin rules (he did not know which MP had tabled it). I think the Speaker will almost certainly allow the PNQ.

I have agreed with Richard and with Tim Sutton that it makes sense for David Hunt to deal with such a PNQ and that if he prefaces what he says on the Bellwin rules with some more general remarks about the storm, role of emergency services, condolences to bereaved etc. (on the lines of Bernard's statement) that would be enough to satisfy Parliamentary demands. Tim Sutton is squaring the Whips Office on that basis tonight.



DOMINIC MORRIS

25 January 1990

STATEMENT

The Home Secretary, David Waddington, this evening chaired a meeting in Cabinet Office which heard preliminary reports from Ministers and their Departments about today's storm damage.

Other Ministers present were:

Tom King	Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence
Kenneth Clarke	Secretary of State, Department of Health
John Wakeham	Secretary of State, Department of Energy
David Hunt	Minister of State, Department of the Environment
Wyn Roberts	Minister of State, Welsh Office
Peter Bottomley	PUSS, Northern Ireland Office

Other Departments represented were:

Department of Transport
HM Treasury
Scottish Office

Ministers strongly commended the emergency services for all they were already doing to cope with the effects of the storm.

They were particularly concerned for those areas still without access by road or rail and without electricity and for commuters in the London area.

They were informed that Transport operators were keeping in close touch with the media so that travellers could be kept up to date about available services.

Ministers agreed that the armed services should continue to give all possible support to the electricity and other public utilities, local authorities and the emergency services in the effort to restore communities to normal life.

The meeting discussed the financial implications of the damage and the recovery effort. It is too soon to estimate the overall cost. But Ministers confessed that the existing arrangements for financial assistance to local authorities, known as the Bellwin scheme, will be available to the areas affected.

Ministers will continue to keep in close touch with the situation and its consequences as they develop.



TELEPHONE: 01-839 1244

REF.NO. BC.9/VOL.II

cc/c

NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
9 NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE
LONDON, WC2N 5BX

23RD JANUARY, 1990.

The Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Dear Sir,

LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

Please find enclosed herewith, an unsealed envelope conveying a special message from our President, General Ibrahim B. Babangida to the Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

2. I should be grateful if you would deliver the letter to its highest destination and acknowledge its receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Peter J.E. Anegbeh,
Counsellor
for High Commissioner.

Encl.

CC/BG

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH



From the Minister

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
London
SW1P 3AG

1. M. Jordan - loose Prime Minister 2
2. CF - pc with carbon paper a damn damage.
RCC
6/6
2 June 1988

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May.

with request if required

I have discussed the financing of supplementary grants with Nicholas Ridley and have consulted the Forestry Commission. We are agreed that to the extent that the Forestry Commission are unable to find the necessary offsetting savings then the Agriculture and Environment programmes should be considered as a source of savings. If we then find there are difficulties I take it that you will be prepared to respond to the Prime Minister's request that you should take a sympathetic view.

As far as this year is concerned we can consider offsets at the time of the Winter Supplementary Estimate when the position on the forestry programme is clearer. Only £0.6m at most is likely to be needed.

Can't they sell off some assets?

In respect of the PES period Malcolm Rifkind on behalf of Forestry Ministers has entered a bid from the Forestry Commission for £2.4m for the replanting supplement, spread over the next three years. At this stage it is not clear how the Commission might find the necessary savings, although my officials have suggested that revenue from sales of the Commission's land under their rationalisation programme might be acceptable. If sufficient savings cannot be found from the Commission's programme then Nicholas and I accept that our programmes should be scrutinised for offsets.

The announcement of the new grants will of course include a statement that there has been no addition to planned expenditure on programmes as set out in Cm 288.

/Given these undertakings....

Given these undertakings, I hope you can now agree to an early
● nouncement.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Nicholas Ridley, and
Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours,
jm

JOHN MacGREGOR



C.B.G.
I. M. Smith
L. MBM - p.c.
RCG
26/5

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
 Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 Whitehall Place
 London
 SW1A 2HH

25 May 1988

Dear Minister,

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Thank you for your letter of 20 May.

I do not think that I can add very much to my letter of 5 May on this subject. If the Forestry Commission would have difficulty in meeting the costs of the supplementary grants within its existing programme I consider that they should be offset by savings on your cash limit Domestic Agriculture programme or the DOE's Other Environmental Services Programme. This position was quite clear in my Private Secretary's letter of 22 April and has now been endorsed by the Prime Minister.

I note that you do not consider that the costs of this scheme should be met from your programme. I would of course be prepared as an alternative, if Nicholas Ridley agrees, to accept savings on the Other Environmental Services Programme. I would also be content for decisions on the detailed allocations of any offsetting savings between the MAFF and DOE programmes to be resolved in the context of this year's Public Expenditure Survey and, if necessary, the Winter Supplementary Estimates for the current year when the position on the forestry programme has been clarified. However, until it is clear that both you and Nicholas Ridley accept the principle that we should look to your existing programmes to meet the costs of this scheme it will not be possible to introduce the supplementary grants. Any announcements about the new grants should include the usual statement that there has been no addition to planned expenditure on programmes as set out in Cm 288.



DISASTERS: Storm Damage
OCT 27

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister,
Nicholas Ridley and Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours sincerely,
John Major

pp JOHN MAJOR



PA

cc B6

The Gov

I told Mr Bright
& Mrs Stegg that

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

unless the 2

deposits sorted

this out quick

24 May 1988

I would tell the P.N. Her
reaction could be imagined.

Dear John

N.C.W.
25.5

STORM DAMAGE

has

I have seen your letter of 5 May to John MacGregor, in which you repeat the suggestion you had made previously (and which was reflected in the letter of 25 April from the Prime Minister's Private Secretary) that the cost of the supplement to Forestry Commission planting grants in the area affected by the October 1987 storm should be met either from the cash-limited Agriculture programme or from my Other Environmental Services programme. The reason given was that the supplement had been justified largely on environmental and landscape grounds. I have also now seen John MacGregor's letter to you of 20 May.

I understand the Forestry Commission hope to be able to meet the cost from their existing provision in the current year, and any problem over financing therefore arises in relation to the 3 survey years.

There is some uncertainty at the moment about the Forestry Commission's expenditure on normal planting grants in those years, not only because of the Budget changes but because we do not yet know what take-up will be achieved under the Farm Woodland Scheme. The cost of the supplement must also be very uncertain, as the large variations in the estimates go to show. However, insofar as additional resources will be required, it would clearly be appropriate for Forestry Ministers to bid for them, rather than for me to include them in the bids I shall shortly be submitting to you in respect of DOE.

The new supplement is designed to help the owners of commercial woodlands in the south east, and was recommended by a committee set up jointly by the Forestry Commission and the industry. I have certainly given strong support to it because I believe it will also produce environmental benefits. However the Forestry Commission has a statutory duty to take environmental consideration into account in discharging its functions. The fact that there will be environmental benefits as well as commercial benefits is not therefore a justification for a PES transfer in this context, any more than in any other forestry context.



RECYCLE PAPER

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, John MacGregor
and Malcolm Rifkind.

James

Andrew

NICHOLAS RIDLEY



CCG

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH



From the Minister

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
SW1P 3AG

NBM

Recd 27/5

20 May 1988

Dear Chief Secretary *top enc.*

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Thank you for your letter of 5 May. I am grateful for your recognition of the fact that the additional grants fall to the forestry programme, a point which was in no way apparent from the funding proposal in your Private Secretary's letter of 22 April which the Prime Minister endorsed. Should there be any difficulty for the Forestry Commission in containing the expenditure it would of course be for Nicholas Ridley to deal with the question of any offsets on the DOE programme, having regard to the points you make about environmental and landscape grounds, but I do not see why it is right to accept an offset on the domestic agriculture programme. However, I wholly accept the need to scrutinise the Forestry Commission's provision carefully in this year's PES to see if offsetting savings can be found.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nicholas Ridley and Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours

Sincerely

for JOHN MacGREGOR

(Approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence)



DISASTERS: Storm Damage 16/10/87
- Oct. 87 ●



NBAM

CCB

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
 Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 Whitehall Place
 London
 SW1A 2HH

5th
 May 1988

Dear Minister,

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Thank you for your letter of 29 April. You also wrote to Nigel Lawson on this subject on 22 April.

I accept that additional grants to woodland owners affected by the storm last October would be paid by the Forestry Commission. But if it would be difficult for the Forestry Commission to meet this additional expenditure within its existing budget I consider that the costs of this scheme should be offset by savings on your cash limited Domestic Agriculture programme and, if necessary, on the DOE's Other Environmental Services programme. The relevant PES provision would then be transferred.

This is what I agreed to and was recorded in my Private Secretary's letter of 22 April. The Prime Minister has since endorsed it. The case for providing special assistance has been argued largely on environmental and landscape grounds. In addition the Forestry Commission will incur extra expenditure this year in restoring the storm damage to their own woodlands.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Nicholas Ridley and Malcolm Rifkind.

Yours sincerely

John Major

pp JOHN MAJOR
 (Approved by the Chief Secretary)



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

Nigel Wicks Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

The Gray to see.

NBP7

na.

29 April 1988

Dear Nigel

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

Thank you for your letter of 25 April in reply to mine of 21 April.

My Minister is grateful to the Prime Minister for her agreement that special assistance in the form of supplementary planting grants may be made available to owners of woodlands that were devastated by the storm. This should go a long way towards answering mounting criticism of a lack of positive action on the part of the Government.

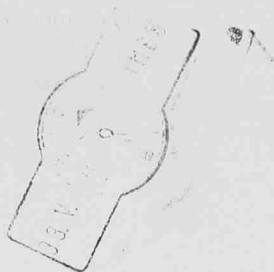
The additional expenditure involved will fall to be met from the Forestry Commission's grant-in-aid since the moneys will be paid through the Commission's grant schemes which have nothing to do with the MAFF and DoE programmes. Mr MacGregor assumes, in the light of the Prime Minister's comments, that the Chief Secretary will take a sympathetic line if the Forestry Commission face difficulties at the year end. He will be in touch with Mr Major on this and on the arrangement for announcing the decision.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment) and Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

Sincerely

Shirley Stagg (Mrs)
Principal Private Secretary

DISASTERS: Storm Hurricane Oct 87



RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

25 April 1988

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLAND IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 21 April which records your Minister's strong view that special assistance for replanting woodlands damaged in last Autumn's storm, amounting to £3.5 million over five years, should be given to woodland owners for environmental and social reasons. The Prime Minister has also seen the letter from the Chief Secretary's Office of 22 April.

The Prime Minister agrees with your Minister and the Secretary of State for the Environment that there is a good case for special assistance to woodland owners on the lines described in your Minister's letter. But she agrees with the Chief Secretary that the full costs involved should be offset by savings from within the MAFF and DoE cash limited programmes. She would like the Chief Secretary for his part to agree that this would be on the understanding that should either Department find that this would cause them difficulties as year-end approaches, he would be willing to consider sympathetically how these difficulties should be dealt with. The Prime Minister would like the Departments concerned to see whether they can settle the matter on this basis.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment) and Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

N. L. WICKS

Mrs. Shirley Staggs
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

RESTRICTED

ea



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Nigel Wicks Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

22 April 1988

Dear Mr Wicks,

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

The Chief Secretary has seen a copy of Shirley Stagg's letter to you of 21 April.

The Chief Secretary accepts that the clearance and replanting of woodlands affected by the storm last October will involve the owners in additional expense, which in some cases could be substantial. But he is not fully persuaded that special assistance for these woodland owners should be introduced before it is clear that this is necessary to ensure that the work is done. Substantial increases in planting grants have only recently been announced. Acting now may well involve unnecessary public expenditure by assisting those woodland owners who would have carried out the work without it.

However, if the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary of State for the Environment consider it necessary to introduce special assistance now, the Chief Secretary would not wish to object, provided that the full costs are offset by savings from within those Ministers' cash limited programmes. He considers that this should not cause them difficulties. Even at their peak, the expenditure is expected to be below £0.9 million in any year. The cash limited part of the domestic Agriculture programme this year amounts to £385 million and the cash limited part of DOE's Other Environmental Service Programme amounts to £440 million.

If this approach is accepted, the Chief Secretary is content for the details of the support scheme, and the savings in existing provision, to be settled with the relevant Treasury officials.

I am copying this letter to Shirley Stagg and Roger Bright.

JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

TEMPORARILY
RETAINED

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT.

PRIME MINISTER

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

I asked departments for advice on whether the Government should consider further financial help to land owners who suffered damage to their trees in last Autumn's storm. MAFF's reply is at Flag A.

Briefly, Mr. MacGregor sees a strong case for special assistance to woodland owners for environmental and social reasons. Mr. Ridley agrees. The total cost of the scheme they have in mind is some £3.5 million over five years (ie. £700,000 a year). The Chief Secretary argues (in the letter at Flag B) that the costs involved, which are expected to be below £900,000 in any one year, should be found from within MAFF and DOE cash limited programmes (which amount to £385 million and £440 million respectively). The departments say they cannot find the savings.

I suggest that I should reply to Mr. MacGregor's Private Secretary in the following terms:

"STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLAND IN THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 21 April which records your Minister's strong view that special assistance for replanting woodlands damaged in last Autumn's storm, amounting to £3.5 million over five years, should be given to woodland owners for environmental and social reasons. The Prime Minister has also seen the letter from the Chief Secretary's Office of 22 April.

The Prime Minister agrees with your Minister and the Secretary of State for the Environment that there is a good case for special assistance to woodland owners on the lines described in your Minister's letter. But she

agrees with the Chief Secretary that the full costs involved should be offset by savings from within the MAFF and DOE cash limited programmes. She would like the Chief Secretary for his part to agree that this would be on the understanding that should either department find that this would cause them difficulties as year-end approaches, he would be willing to consider sympathetically how these difficulties should be dealt with. The Prime Minister would like the departments concerned to see whether they can settle the matter on this basis.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Roger Bright (Department of the Environment) and Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

The two spending departments will not like this decision. But it is difficult to accept that they cannot find from within their substantial cash limited programmes, the small sums involved for what their two Ministers regard as a politically, environmentally and socially important objective.

Content to proceed in this way?

N.L.W.

Yes

N. L. WICKS

22 April 1988

SL3BAT

Mr. Francis's Minute of 25 March 1988 Mrs. Huggins
cc P. H. M. S. Mrs. Neville-Ratbe
P. / Perm Sec Mr. Osmond
Mr. Smith
Mr. Anderson

KE

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON SW1P 3AG

22 April 1988

FORESTRY STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

Thank you for your letter of 10 March.

I am afraid I cannot let the question of additional help for those affected by the storm simply slip away. The transitional arrangements, with tax relief on clearance costs and for replanting, the old grants with tax relief or the new grants with no tax relief, do not in fact give the owners concerned anything extra. Tax relief on clearance costs would have been available to them as occupiers of woodlands on 14 March and the options of planting under the old or new grants are the same for any occupier of woodlands. Therefore the owners of storm damaged woods will be in precisely the same position as any other owner and nothing will have been done to recognise the problems they face nor to show any concern for the environmental effects of the storm.

What we have to focus on are the extra costs that the owner of storm damaged woodlands will incur compared with an owner who did not suffer such damage. You will have seen, from the paper attached to my letter of 31 December to John Major, that the Forestry Commission estimates that the additional costs for conifers and best quality broadleaves were unlikely to be less than £300 per hectare. For much of the broadleaved area they were unlikely to be less than £800 per hectare. In these circumstances, my proposed supplement for replanting of £150 per hectare for conifers and £400 for broadleaves is not over-generous.

We will need to respond to the Report on Storm Damage by the House of Commons Agriculture Committee by mid-May. They have been extremely critical of the complete lack of any assistance to owners of storm damaged woods.

/The Forest Windblow.....

The Forest Windblow Action Committee produced their report and recommendations at the end of last year. There is a limit to how much longer we can procrastinate and the delay will be recognised simply as a holding operation if we come out with a totally negative response at the end. If we ignore both the principal recommendations of this widely-representative Committee it may well lead our critics to call into question the Government's concern for the widespread and extensive damage which has been done to woodlands in south-east England.

I think it would be most regrettable if we failed to recognise and respond to the real and genuine concern over the environmental impact of this storm.

This is not something which will simply disappear, the physical reminders will be present to jog everyone's memory for a long time yet. I do strongly urge you to reconsider the situation. The sums are relatively small, but the gains, both politically and in environmental terms are very great. I am sending a copy of this letter to Nicholas Ridley.

JOHN MacGREGOR



A

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

Mr N L Wicks
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

21 April 1988

Dear Nigel

STORM DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS IN S.E. ENGLAND

In your letter of 28 March to Roger Bright you asked for advice on whether the Government should consider further financial help to landowners who have suffered damage to trees in last autumn's storm. I am replying as my Minister has primary responsibility for Forestry in England. I have set out below the position of woodland owners and the help given for amenity trees.

Woodland

2. So far no special assistance has been offered to woodland owners affected by storm damage, either for clearance or restoration. Landowners with storm damaged woodlands are, of course, eligible for Forestry Commission planting grants under the recently announced Woodland Grant Scheme. In addition, a limited number of occupiers of commercial woodlands previously assessed under Schedule D would be able to offset clearance costs against income under the transitional arrangements announced in the Budget, but could not offset replanting costs if they benefit from the Woodland Grant Scheme. All these arrangements are general ones which are available to all landowners, and they do not recognise the particular costs facing owners affected by storm damage.

3. The level of clearance costs will vary according to the kind of woodland destroyed, and whether there is a possibility of salvaging and marketing a proportion of the timber. Unfortunately, many of the woodlands are not of good quality and sale of the timber will not be possible in the time before the timber deteriorates. Owners can expect to face clearance costs, typically in the range of £500-£1,500 per hectare, and exceptionally as high as £2,500 per hectare. When it comes to replanting, all woodland owners will be faced with increased costs due to the problem of dealing with large upturned stumps and root plates, small size and irregular shapes of replanting and the likelihood of additional maintenance and protection costs. Normal costs of replanting vary between £1,700 per hectare and £3,600 per hectare according to the

/size of the area ...

size of the area and the type of planting stock, while additional costs of replanting under storm damage will amount to between £200 per hectare and £1,000 per hectare. It is impossible to generalise, but some owners with extensive woodlands will face restoration costs approaching £1 million. The figure of £1.25 million for restoration costs at the Montreal Estate near Sevenoaks quoted in Charles Clover's article in the Daily Telegraph on 15 April could be realistic.

4. My Minister believes that the circumstances of this storm are wholly exceptional, and considers that there is a justifiable case for special assistance. This has been the subject of a lengthy exchange of correspondence with the Treasury. Rather than proposing assistance for clearance as such, we consider that there should be maximum encouragement for replanting, since help directed in this way will achieve the highest environmental impact. It would also recognise the fact that many woods may not otherwise be replanted in view of the costs involved and because there are no regulations requiring replanting as would normally be the case for felled woodland. This proposal is strongly supported by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

5. My Minister's proposal is to focus on the extra cost associated with the restoration of storm damaged woodlands, and to provide assistance in the form of a top-up to the normal planting grant. This would be paid as a supplement to the planting grant at the rate of £400 per hectare for broadleaves and £150 per hectare for conifers. The total cost of these supplements would be some £3.5 million over 5 years.

6. The payment of a supplement to the Commission's planting grant is also a recommendation which has been made by the Forest Windblow Action Committee, a forest industry committee representing landowners and trade interests set up by the Forestry Commission in the immediate aftermath of the storm. The case for assistance made by the Committee has wide support throughout the forest industry. The need for special assistance for woodland owners has also been urged by the House of Commons Agriculture Committee in their report on storm damage (to which the Government will have to give a reply by early May) and in the subsequent debate in the House. There has also been a vociferous protest about the lack of action which has been reflected in the large volume of correspondence from constituency MPs.

Amenity Trees

7. Additional resources of £3 million were made available in 1987/88 to the Countryside Commission to aid the replacement planting of amenity trees (including woodlands of up to 1/4 hectare). The Commission set up a special unit, Task Force Trees, to administer the programme. As far as these grants were concerned, Environment Ministers took the view that the priority was planting and that funds made available should be used primarily to that end. Further resources of £800,000 have now been made available to the Commission to supplement their normal planting programme in 1988/89; this latter sum will be channelled mainly to private landowners. Only in exceptional circumstances will

/clearance work ...

clearance work as such be eligible for grant aid. DoE are currently discussing with the Countryside Commission the need for a continuation of their special programme of grants, and the Secretary of State for the Environment has undertaken to make a statement of his intentions in good time for the next planting season.

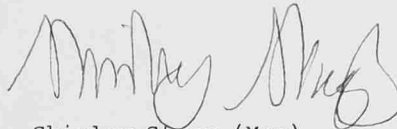
Case for further financial help

8. Damage to the woodlands in the south east is on an unprecedented scale - estimates suggest that some 20% of the tree stock has been destroyed in the worst affected counties, and that overall some 16,000 hectares of woodlands require replanting. There is no doubt that many owners face horrific costs for restoration and that, without assistance, an extensive area of woodland, much of it in the public eye, will be allowed to become derelict and remain as an unsightly tangle - both unproductive and dangerous for public access. My Minister considers that it is strongly in the public interest that special assistance should be given to woodland owners for environmental and social reasons, and he considers that this would be widely welcomed by the public at large as well as by landowners.

9. You also asked for a possible response for correspondence on ... this issue I attach a copy of the type of reply we are currently sending.

† I am copying this letter to Roger Bright (DoE) and to Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

Yours Sincerely



Shirley Stagg (Mrs)
Principal Private Secretary

Mr Macgregor
RFO leading

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

18667



From the Minister

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

18 April 1988

Dear Sir,

As you know, your letter of 7 March to Nicholas Ridley about points raised with you by Mr S Leavey, Counties' Secretary of the National Farmers' Union for East Sussex, concerning the clearing up of damaged woodland, has been passed to this Department for reply.

As far as commercial woodlands that suffered damage are concerned, I think it is worth making the point that tax relief for owners of commercial woodlands for the cost of clearing damage caused by the storm is already available under the existing tax rules and will continue to be available during the transitional period, up to 5 April 1993, announced by the Chancellor. Tax relief for the cost of replanting will also be available under the transitional provisions; alternatively, owners will be able to take advantage of the substantially higher rates of grant for replanting woodlands available under the new Woodland Grant Scheme. This should provide a significant measure of help to those concerned.

The Government has considered very carefully the report of the Forest Windblow Action Committee, but a decision has yet to be reached on whether any added form of assistance would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,
JH

JOHN MacGREGOR

DISASTERS: Storm Damage

Oct 87



RESTRICTED



Alc

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

28 March 1988

Dear Roger,

LAST AUTUMN'S STORM: ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE LANDOWNERS FOR
CLEARING TREES

It has recently been suggested to the Prime Minister that the Government should consider further financial help to those landowners who have been put to considerable expense in clearing up fallen trees brought down by last autumn's storm. The Prime Minister recognises that some financial assistance has already been made available but she wonders whether anything more should be done. She wonders, too, whether there is a case for diverting part of the recently announced grants for forestry for this purpose.

I should be grateful if you, in consultation with MAFF, could let me have a short note of advice for the Prime Minister together with a suitably worded draft letter which might be used as a reply to such questions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Shirley Stagg (MAFF) and to Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office).

*Yours sincerely
Nigel Wicks*

N.L. WICKS

Roger Bright, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

RESTRICTED

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ECU

cc ps

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 December 1987

Dear Brian,

**16 OCTOBER STORM DAMAGE:
TOTAL EXPENDITURE EXCLUSION**

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's letter of 4 December to the Chief Secretary about the possibilities for giving further help with storm damage to local authorities. She has commented that this is a matter which must be dealt with properly even if it means extending the 31 January deadline. She has noted that there is a great deal of work still to be done and that bad weather in January would increase the pressures.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(LA) and to Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

David

(David Norgrove)

Robin Young, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

RLW

210

CCB/...

Prime Minister



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

Agree that some further assistance must be given, but DoE and Treasury must discuss the details urgently?

My ref:
Your ref:

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

DLV

4/12. 4 December 1987

Need visit to property

which is an absolute emergency if means extending the date. There is a lot of work still to be done and we could have a bad January.

Dear Chief Secretary,

16 OCTOBER STORM DAMAGE: TOTAL EXPENDITURE EXCLUSION

As you know, I have been consulting local government on a proposal to exclude from total expenditure, ie from grant penalty, that 25% of Bellwin eligible expenditure above the threshold not covered by special grant. You will also be aware that I have come under considerable pressure from backbenchers and our supporters in local government about the handling of the costs of the storm. In particular I am faced with the claim that "Treasury will make a profit out of the storm".

I have now carefully considered responses to the consultation and the purpose of this letter is to seek your urgent agreement to a widening of the exclusion to cover all revenue spending on the storm - that is on Bellwin eligible spending below the threshold, on the 25% above the threshold as proposed, on non-Bellwin eligible spending and on the costs of servicing capital. This would be my final word on the handling of local authority aspects of the storm. I would therefore also be making clear that I did not intend to extend beyond 31 January 1988 the date for Bellwin eligible spending, nor to provide cover in GREs for capital spending on storm damage.

BACKGROUND - COSTS OF THE STORM

The only broadly comprehensive data we have on the costs of the storm was collected by telephone shortly after the storm. Obviously these were early estimates, and they do not cover all authorities; the figures may therefore rise. They are nevertheless the best figures we have got. They suggest:

- i. total gross expenditure of £150m - including capital and current, whether or not insured or insurable and whether or not eligible for the Bellwin scheme;
- ii. Bellwin-eligible expenditure of £50m, £33m above the threshold leading to
- iii. special financial assistance of about £25m;
- iv. a saving of about £4m in grant loss to authorities on their 25% of eligible expenditure above the threshold; and leaving



- v. about two thirds of the total cost (£100m) as ineligible for Bellwin, or capital.

On the basis of these figures the overall grant effect of retaining an exclusion on only that 25% of Bellwin-eligible expenditure above the threshold is as follows:-

<u>Treasury pays out</u>	-	£25m in special assistance
<u>Treasury gains</u> (in grant lost by authorities)	-	£ 9m on Bellwin eligible expenditure below the threshold
	-	up to £60m on the £100m of non-Bellwin eligible expenditure

<u>Yielding a potential Treasury profit of</u>	-	up to £44m

This assumes the worst, ie that authorities will take all non-Bellwin eligible expenditure to revenue. The particular counties concerned have shown considerable reluctance to meet the costs of storm damage by capitalising. However, on these figures, authorities would only have to take about £25m of the £100m revenue to put the Treasury in profit. That is the national picture. On Bellwin-eligible expenditure alone, individual authorities which spend below the threshold, or just above it, will lose grant to the Treasury. The indications are that Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Suffolk fall into this category.

I believe this position is quite unsustainable and that we must therefore widen the exclusion.

WIDENING THE EXCLUSION

Local government has, variously, asked me to remove penalties on non-Bellwin eligible revenue expenditure, on the servicing costs of capital expenditure, on Bellwin eligible expenditure below the threshold - or at its simplest on all revenue spending on the storm.

I can see no case for retaining grant penalties on revenue spending which is non-Bellwin eligible, or the servicing costs of capital for the last two years of the RSG system. Any grant lost by authorities would be an uncovenanted benefit to the Treasury because of the storm. There is no merit from our point of view in trying to direct authorities from revenue spending to capitalisation. Prudentially we would prefer them to meet costs now if they can. Granting an exclusion is no gain to the authorities concerned: it simply avoids a grant loss.

The case of Bellwin-eligible spending below the threshold is slightly more difficult, but I nevertheless believe there are very strong arguments for widening the exclusion to cover this also. We have argued that authorities should have budgeted for a contingency equivalent to the threshold amount, including the block grant consequences, and we would have to go back on that.

In fact most authorities have said they have not made provision. The Bellwin scheme was developed at a time when most authorities were on positive marginal rates of grant. If we removed penalties on this element of spending we would still be requiring the counties to find the product of penny rate without special assistance. Further if, as I believe we must, we widen the exclusion to cover non-Bellwin expenditure, it would look curious to retain penalties on Bellwin expenditure. Since most authorities claim that they have not budgeted for this type of contingency, we are likely to be paying out much the same level of grant if we give the exclusion as they would have expected to against authorities original budgets.

You may be concerned about the precedent the widened exclusion I am proposing would create. I would make two points. First, the motion for all of this is the acceptance of a Bellwin emergency. Secondly, the issue of grant penalties will disappear in 1990 when we have the new grant system in place.

OTHER MATTERS

I believe the grant of the widened exclusion I propose would be our final word on what we are prepared to do to help local authorities with clearing up after the storm. We should not agree to extend the deadline for work to be carried out under Bellwin beyond 31 January 1988, nor to provide extra GRE cover for capital spending. The latter would anyway be inappropriate if we grant an exclusion.

CONCLUSION

I would therefore be grateful for your and colleagues' agreement to my proposals to extend the total expenditure exclusion for storm damage to cover all revenue spending on clearing up after the storm ie.

- Bellwin eligible expenditure below the threshold
- non-Bellwin eligible expenditure
- the cost of servicing capital up to and including 1989/90.

I would hope to be able to announce this change before next Wednesday's debate on the Rate Support Grant Settlement for 1988/89. This would mean a written Parliamentary Answer on Tuesday and therefore your clearance on Monday. Our officials will need to be in touch to agree the wording of the exclusion.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of E(LA) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

Ridley

NICHOLAS RIDLEY

'' (Approved in draft by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence.)

R 30/11 aBa



PO/CF pps?
NIT in S.R.

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

David Norgrove Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Prime Minister²
The local
authorities are likely
to be dissatisfied, nevertheless.

30 November 1987

Please let
Admin see. Gandy
on low raised the
same point with
me
out

DLW
1/12

Dear David,

STORM DAMAGE

Thank you for your letter of 20 November, about the concern of the Conservative Area Women Chairmen on the operation of the Bellwin rules. Since the Prime Minister met the Conservative Area Women Chairmen we have sent out a claim form to local authorities to apply for special financial assistance under the Bellwin scheme, and also to make application for additional capital allocations.

The form provides guidance which we hope local authorities will find helpful in making their claims. Many items of expenditure which some authorities had assumed would not be eligible will in fact qualify for assistance - for instance, temporary hire of premises or plant and vehicles, removal of trees and timber from parks and highways, and initial repairs to highways, pavements and footpaths, as well as removal and replacement of street furniture. The form also allows local authorities to identify other expenditure which they think might be eligible for grant, and we hope they will either ask the Department for advice on such expenditure, or include it in the claim so that it can be considered.

Moreover, my Secretary of State has made it clear both in Parliament and to deputations that claims will be looked at flexibly and reasonably, and that he expects the additional costs of storm damage above the threshold will largely be met either under the Bellwin scheme or from additional capital allocations. In his statement on 21 October my Secretary of State also proposed that where a local authority gains grant assistance under the Bellwin scheme, the 25% of the expenditure above the threshold which it has to bear itself should be excluded from our definition of total expenditure, and so not result in loss of grant.

The Bellwin scheme was set up to provide special financial assistance as a consequence of an emergency, and for carrying out immediate works to safeguard life or property, or prevent suffering severe inconvenience. It is reasonable therefore to expect emergency expenditure on storm damage to be completed by 31 January 1988, which is also the date by which authorities are to make initial claims.

So far as capital works are concerned, insurance payments for loss or damage may freely be used outside the capital control system. The additional capital allocations which may be claimed this financial year will primarily be of use to those authorities which failed to insure against storm damage.

In summary, we suspect that the great majority of expenditure will either fall within the Bellwin rules, or be eligible to be covered by the new capital allocations.

Gows,

R Shi.

R U YOUNG
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

DISASTERS:
Storm 16/10



~~SECRET~~
file V16
Lof Ann
cc BG

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

20 November 1987

THE BELLWIN RULES

87/11
The Conservative Area Women Chairmen came to see the Prime Minister yesterday. I understand that they complained about the operation of the Bellwin rules, particularly that the rules allowed help to be given only for immediate recovery costs and not for later expenditure. The Prime Minister undertook to look into this, and I should be grateful for a note.

I am copying this letter to Jill Rutter (Chief Secretary's Office, H.M. Treasury).

DAVID NORGROVE

Robin Young, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

DS

CONFIDENTIAL



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE

CCB4

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

13th November 1987

✓CDP
2.1a

Dear Mark Addison

STORMS OF 15/16 OCTOBER AND SUBSEQUENTLY:
EUROPEAN COMMISSION AID

I thought it might be helpful if I brought you up to date on the arrangements that have been made for the distribution of the EC grants of 300,000 ECUs (£210,000) for England and 200,000 ECUs (£140,000) for Wales and Northern Ireland together.

Under the Commission's criteria the grant must be divided between the needs of the bereaved, the injured, and those who have suffered material loss; however, the proportion to be devoted to each is left to local assessment. Ministers have now agreed that the English grant should be divided in the following way:

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------|
| i. | £5,000 for the families of each of the 19 English dead. | £ 95,000 |
| ii. | A single payment (not exceeding £5,000) to any person admitted to hospital as an in-patient (the sum to be established on completion of DHSS investigations to determine the numbers involved). | £105,000 |
| iii. | The remaining sum to be available to defray emergency-related expenditure by voluntary bodies such as the Red Cross (for example to cover the cost of blankets supplied to those made homeless); in accordance with the usual EC practice for these grants, such expenditure must have taken place <u>after</u> the announcement of the grant on 21st October. | £ 10,000 |
| | | -----
£210,000 |

/All payments will

Mark Addison Esq

... All payments will be made through the Commission's London office and they issued the attached press notice about the grant on 12th November. (It had originally been hoped that the Red Cross would be involved in distributing the grant, but when it became clear in discussions between the British Red Cross, officials, and the Commission, that the Commission were insisting on the bulk of the grant being distributed as cash to victims, rather than in kind, the BRC said they would prefer not be involved). Officials are writing in the first instance to the relatives of the dead to explain the position carefully and sympathetically and to warn them to expect a letter from the Commission.

For Wales and Northern Ireland, the territorial Ministers concerned have agreed that after making payments to the families of the 5 Welsh dead at the same rate as the English, the residue of the grant (£115,000) should be divided equally between the two. As this grant relates to the distinct problems caused by local flooding, the bulk of the sum will be used to provide cash to help those who have suffered material damage.

Yours
Rowena Collins Rice

R. COLLINS RICE

Private Secretary



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

8 Storey's Gate London SW1P 3AT
Telephone: 01-222 8122 Telex: 23208 EURU

ISEC/23/87

12 November 1987

Press Release

EMBARGO: Not for publication or broadcast
before 11.00 HOURS G.M.T., THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1987.

EMERGENCY AID

Emergency aid of 300,000 ECU (about £210,000) from the European Community to the victims and families of those most affected by the recent storms in South-East England will be distributed within the next few weeks, the European Commission announced in London today.

The emergency aid is intended to express a sense of solidarity and understanding on the part of other Europeans for those who have suffered. It is not meant to serve in any way as a substitute for normal compensation from insurance companies for personal accident or damage to property. Nor is it linked to UK Government assistance.

The bulk of the aid will be distributed directly to the recipients individually; a provision will also be made for the part that voluntary bodies are playing in the aftermath of the storm.

A separate amount of 200,000 ECU (about £140,000) will be made available on a shared basis between Wales, 118,000 ECU (about £82,500), and Northern Ireland, 82,000 ECU (about £57,500).

Amounts of 200,000 ECU (about £140,000) are also being made available in France, Spain and Portugal for the same reason.

*

*

*

Please note embargo!

RESTRICTED

125346
MDLOAN 3014

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 202A/87

SUBJECT
cc MASTER
OPS.

RESTRICTED
FM FCO
TO PRIORITY LILONGWE
TELNO 222
OF 091715Z NOV 87

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BANDA FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER:
BEGINS

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF
SYMPATHY OVER THE DEATHS AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED HERE IN BRITAIN
BY THE RECENT HURRICANE.

I KNOW THAT MALAWI HAS HERSELF BEEN SUFFERING GREATLY
FROM THE RECENT DROUGHT. IT WAS MOST KIND OF YOU TO THINK OF
US IN OUR OWN DIFFICULTIES.

WITH WARM GOOD WISHES.

MARGARET THATCHER

2. THERE WILL BE NO (NO) SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

25

MAIN 25

MINIMAL
CAFD
PS

PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST
MR REEVE

NNNN



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

CCB6
nbpm

6 November 1987

Dear Alastair,

THE STORM: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 29 October to Nick Sanderson with which you enclosed a report on the damage to telecommunications services caused by the gales on 16 October. ^{WITH A6?}

The Home Secretary was grateful for the report, and a small working group of the Departments most closely concerned will be drawn together by the Head of the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) Secretariat, when the various CCTA reviews have been completed, to consider what happened to the Government's telecommunications facilities on 16 October and to make recommendations as soon as possible about what practical steps can be taken to prevent a recurrence. This will include considering whether more use could have been made of emergency systems already in place. The study will be directed at measures which can be taken in the short term: the longer term development of Government telecommunications facilities is already the subject of separate study.

Mr Clarke will also wish to know that the Head of the CCU Secretariat is putting in hand a more general inter-Departmental study of the lessons to be learned from the storm exercise. This will enable matters other than telecommunications to be considered.

A copy of this letter goes to the recipients of yours, and to Richard Wilson and Brigadier Budd in the Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely,

P J C MAWER

Alastair Morgan, Esq.,



EU

b.c.p.c

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 November 1987

Dear Lyn,

MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER
FROM PRESIDENT BANDA

Thank you for your letter of 6 November enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Banda's message. This may issue.

Could you please add:
"With warm good wishes"
at the end.

Yours sincerely,

(Charles Powell)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EU



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 November 1987

Dear Charles,

Message to the Prime Minister from President Banda

I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister to President Banda in response to his message of condolence following the recent cyclone. My apologies for the delay: the message was temporarily mislaid in the department. *jeap.*

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

Revise

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO
HIS EXCELLENCY DR H KAMUZU BANDA, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

I was deeply touched by your kind message of sympathy
over the deaths and destruction caused here in
Britain by the recent hurricane.

I know that Malawi has herself been suffering greatly
from the recent drought. It was most kind of you
to think of us in our own difficulties.

DISASTER: Storm Danny - Oct 1987



SUBJECT
CC OPS
MASTER



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc To
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 1967107

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 November 1987

Dear Mr. President,

I was touched to receive your generous message of sympathy following the severe weather here last month. It was most kind of you to think of Britain, especially when Bangladesh is itself in the process of recovering from a natural disaster.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency President Hussain Muhammad Ershad

ccp



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 November 1987

Dear Charles,

Thank you for your letter of 27 October, enclosing the letter to the Prime Minister from President Ershad of Bangladesh.

I enclose a draft letter for the Prime Minister's signature. The Prime Minister may be interested to know that the Deputy Foreign Minister of Bangladesh has sent a letter of sympathy to our High Commissioner in Dhaka. The High Commissioner has acknowledged the letter.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING: ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO: His Excellency President
 Hussain Muhammad Ershad
 President
 People's Republic of Bangladesh

Copies to:

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

I was touched to receive your generous message of sympathy following the severe weather here last month. It was most kind of you to think of Britain, especially when Bangladesh is itself in the process of recovering from a natural disaster.

CM

CAVEAT

Enclosures flag(s)

ACW

DISASTGRS Storm Damage

Oct 87





10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

RED (1)
for onward transmission
SEPS
810
29/10

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 October 1987

Dear Monsieur Delors,

I was grateful for your message after the storms of 15/16 October. The emergency aid which the Commission has since decided to provide will certainly be helpful. I understand that our officials are working together, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that it is distributed quickly and effectively.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Monsieur Jacques Delors

Original filed in: HOME AFFAIRS
policy towards the
prison service p 3.

SECRET

P 02895

MR NORCROVE

Prime Minister
DLS
27/10.

From: R T J Wilson
27 October 1987

INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY PRISON OFFICERS AND STORM DAMAGE

You may wish to know the latest information about the prison officers' dispute and storm damage which we have gleaned from officials in the relevant Departments.

Prisons

2. Industrial action is now confined to Wandsworth. Wormwood Scrubs, Pentonville and Camp Hill (Isle of Wight) have reached local manning agreements and are working normally. Chelmsford has today voted to suspend industrial action. This leaves Wandsworth, where a militant meeting of the Wandsworth branch of the Prison Officers' Association took place this morning. Present signs are that the Wandsworth branch of the Prison Officers' Association will wait until members are actually suspended before staging a walk-out. If they pursue this course, it points to a walk-out at 4.30 pm tomorrow.

3. The Home Office say that the police should be able to cope with whatever might happen at Wandsworth. They take comfort in the existence at Wandsworth of a core of loyal prison officers.

Storm Damage

4. The Department of Energy say that fewer than 23,000 consumers are without electricity in the South East (they are not in a position to update the briefing they provided for Prime Minister's Questions).

SECRET

SECRET

5. On telephones, some 71,500 consumers in London and the South East, and some 38,000-39,000 elsewhere (the rest of southern England, central England and Wales) are without telephone services. The figure of 71,500 for London and the South East represents a slight increase on Sunday's figure (due to more faults being reported as debris is cleared) but a decline of 20,000 since last Friday.

R.T.W.

R T J WILSON

SECRET

Amanda

Tony + I discussed,
and concluded GR
would keep - but
on reflection I
think you should
have this.

TR



He DA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 October 1987

Monsieur Delors,

I was grateful for your message after the storms of 15/16 October. The emergency aid which the Commission has since decided to provide will certainly be helpful. I understand that our officials are working together, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that it is distributed quickly and effectively.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Reagan

Monsieur Jacques Delors

rc



VC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

A/ 27 October 1987

I attach a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from the President of Bangladesh.

BF || I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature. It would be helpful if this could reach me by Tuesday 10 November.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Culshaw, Esq., MVO,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

VC



file SH
CCP

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1987

**MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM
GENERAL LEKHANYA OF LESOTHO**

Thank you for your letter of 27 October
enclosing a draft reply from the Prime
Minister to General Lekhanya of Lesotho.

Bf

This may issue.

C D POWELL

A. C. Galsworthy, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

✓



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 October 1987


Dear Charles,

Message of sympathy from General Lekhanya of Lesotho

Our High Commissioner at Maseru has forwarded in his telegram number 86 a message of sympathy from General Lekhanya, the Chairman of the Military Council and of the Council of Ministers of Lesotho, to the Prime Minister about the storm which hit southern England on the night of 15/16 October.

Lesotho has also suffered from some unusually severe and unseasonal snow storms. Following a Lesotho Government appeal for assistance, the High Commissioner has been given authority to spend up to £10,000 on disaster relief.

In her reply to General Lekhanya's message, the Prime Minister might like to take the opportunity to send her own regrets for Lesotho's misfortune. I attach a draft telegram along these lines. There need be no signed original.

Yours ever,


(A C Galsworthy)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification UNCLASSIFIED	Caveat	Precedence IMMEDIATE
ZCZC TC CAVEAT FM TO TELNO OF AND TO	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 /// 26 // 27 / 28 29	ZCZC UNCLASSIFIED FM FCO TO IMMEDIATE MASERU TELNO OF 261500Z OCTOBER 87 AND TO YOUR TELNOS 86 AND 87: MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY 1. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GENERAL LEKHANYA IN REPLY TO HIS MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER: <i>BEGINS</i> I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS MESSAGE EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SORROW AT THE RECENT STORM DAMAGE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. I KNOW THAT THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO HAS ALSO SUFFERED FROM UNUSUALLY BAD WEATHER AND I SHOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY OWN REGRETS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LESOTHO. WE IN BRITAIN SHARE THE DISTRESS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED IN LESOTHO AND HOPE THAT THE EMERGENCY AID WE HAVE GIVEN WILL HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE SUFFERING. <i>ENDS</i> 2. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL. HOWE YYY NNNN	
		Catchword:	
YYY MAIN ADDITIONAL NNN	File number	Dept	Drafted by (Block capitals)
		Telephone no	
		Authorised for despatch by:	Initials Date/time
For COD use only	Comcen reference	Telegram number	Processed by

UNCLASSIFIED

064275
MDHOAN 1508

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE MASERU
TELNO 67
OF 261500Z OCTOBER 87

YOUR TELNOS 86 AND 87: MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY

1. GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
GENERAL LEKHANYA IN REPLY TO HIS MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER:

BEGINS

I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS MESSAGE EXPRESSING
CONDOLENCES AND SORROW AT THE RECENT STORM DAMAGE IN THE UNITED
KINGDOM. I KNOW THAT THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO HAS ALSO SUFFERED
FROM UNUSUALLY BAD WEATHER AND I SHOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY OWN
REGRETS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LESOTHO.
WE IN BRITAIN SHARE THE DISTRESS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED
IN LESOTHO AND HOPE THAT THE EMERGENCY AID WE HAVE GIVEN WILL
HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE SUFFERING.

ENDS

2. THERE WILL BE NO (NO) SIGNED ORIGINAL.

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

57

MAIN 51

LIMITED
SAFD
NEWS D
INFO D

PS
PS/MRS CHALKER
MR MUNRO
MR REEVE

ADDITIONAL 6

UNCLASSIFIED

064275
MDHOAN 1508

PS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

NNNN



cc/1

From: R T J Wilson
26 October 1987

P 01891

*Prime Minister²
JWS
26/10.*

MR NORNGROVE

I attach today's report on progress with coping with storm damage.

RJW.

R T J WILSON

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 3 PM 26 OCTOBER

This report updates the report prepared on 23 October.

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

There are still 34,500 customers cut off from supplies today. This is an improvement of 54,500 since the morning of 23 October.

Statistics for individual Boards are:

South Eastern Electricity Board 30,000 customers are still cut off, a decrease of 25,800 over the weekend.

Southern Electricity Board 4,500 customers are still cut off, an improvement of 20,500 over the weekend.

Eastern Electricity Board All consumers had been reconnected by the evening of Sunday 25 October.

The Electricity Boards are drafting in yet more engineers from unaffected areas to complete reconnections as quickly as possible. Other measures taken by the area Boards to relieve hardship, such as providing a daily hot meal for those who depend on electricity for cooking, have been featured in the media during the weekend.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BT have reported that in London and the South East there were 69000 customers still disconnected on Sunday evening - a reduction of 21000 since Friday. They have not yet provided up-to-date figures for E Anglia or the other areas reported for the first time on Friday. BT also state that the rate at which new faults are being reported has begun to decrease.

AGRICULTURE

During the weekend 24/25 October, daily milk wastage declined to 30,000 litres, an insignificant amount by comparison with total milk production. MAFF emergency offices have now closed.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY

Since 16 October service assistance to deal with storm damage has exceeded 3,000 man/days. Over the weekend 300 servicemen have been working in the South East Army District and 100 in Eastern District. It is expected that service assistance will finish in Eastern District today and be finished in South East District by the end of this week.

Note The MOD have explained today that the overall figures in earlier reports should have been described as man/days, not the number of men employed daily. The latter figure has varied between 300 and 400 since the storm struck.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 October 1987

GA
Dear Mark,

As requested in your letter of 19 October, I attach a draft reply to the telex which the Prime Minister has received from the President of the Commission, M Delors, about the recent storm.

On 21 October, the Commission announced details of the emergency aid to victims in those Member States worst affected by the storm, ie. the UK, France, Spain and Portugal. The UK is to receive 300,000 ECU (£210,000) and the others 200,000 ECU (£140,000) each.

The Community aid is intended to provide emergency help to people, and is not for long term projects such as tree-planting. The Civil Contingencies Unit of the Cabinet Office are working, in consultation with the Commission, to decide how it might be most effectively distributed.

The Commission have a budgetary provision of 2.7 MECU (£2 million) for emergency aid to Member States. They gave 250,000 ECU (175,000) earlier this year to the victims of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Secretary, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,
L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
No 10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM: Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference
RB4AKH

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

M Jacques Delors
 President of the European
 Commission
 Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 BRUXELLES

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

I was grateful for your message after the storms of 15/16 October. The emergency aid which the Commission has since decided to provide will certainly be helpful. I understand that our officials are working together, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that it is distributed quickly and effectively.

GM

ABW

Enclosures flag(s)

cc BGI

From: R T J Wilson
23 October 1987

P 02885

Prime Minister 2

MR NORGROVE

JWS
23/10

STORM DAMAGE

1. I attach today's report on progress with repairing storm damage.

2. The position on electricity customers continues to improve but they are still some way from the aim which the Energy Secretary reported to Cabinet yesterday, of having the vast majority of customers reconnected by the end of the week. We understand that Mr Parkinson may be providing a note for the Prime Minister's weekend box.

3. The position on telephones is not very good. The number of subscribers disconnected has got worse rather than better, and BT have now disclosed another 60,000 subscribers disconnected in an area from North Wales across to East Anglia. We understand that the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster may provide you with a report too.

4. Otherwise there is steady improvement.

RJW

mt

R T J WILSON

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 2 PM 23 OCTOBER

This report updates those parts of the report prepared on 22 October where significant problems remain.

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

There were still 89,000 customers cut off from supplies this morning. This is an improvement of 36,000 on the position at the same time yesterday.

Statistics for individual Boards are:

South Eastern Electricity Board 55,800 customers are still cut off, a decrease of 15,200 in the past 24 hours.

Southern Electricity Board 25,000 customers are still cut off, an improvement of 11,500 on the day before.

Eastern Electricity Board 8,340 still off supply, a reduction of 9,660 on the previous days figure.

We understand that the Secretary of State for Energy is providing a detailed estimate of the time required to complete restoration of power for the Prime Minister's box tonight.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BT BT repair efforts have suffered a setback. By the end of 22 October 90,000 subscribers were disconnected in London and SE England (an increase of 11,000 on the previous day). In addition BT have now reported to DTI for the first time that there are another 60,000 customers cut off in an area stretching from North Wales through the Midlands to East Anglia. Half of them are in E.Anglia, directly attributable to the storm; the remainder result from more recent rain damage. To some extent BT are dependant on the Electricity Boards where their lines are carried on the same poles as power lines. This is particularly so in East Anglia. BT explain their disappointing figures as being due to:

- new faults arising from tree and debris clearance work.
- water seepage following heavy rain and flooding.
- installations made fragile by wind and rain finally breaking down.
- late reporting of faults by subscribers in some areas.

BT now anticipate repairing the bulk of all these faults (both the 90,000 and the further 60,000) within the next 14 days if spared further bad weather. They continue to move additional repair teams into the areas and are retraining some exchange maintenance personnel to carry out overhead line work to boost their repair force further. BT continues to give the highest priority to repair work.

AGRICULTURE

Milk wastage on 22 October reduced to 70,000 litres, due to some restoration of mains power and more extensive use of generators permitting milk-cooling machines to operate more effectively. It is hoped MAFF regional emergency rooms can be closed in the next day or so.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY

In the past 24 hours 500 additional servicemen have been deployed. Servicemen involved now total 2,500. It is expected that servicemen assisting restoration of electricity supplies in East Anglia will be released progressively from this evening.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND WALES

Floods continue to go down. Progress with repair work continues. No major new developments.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 October 1987

Dear Mark,

As requested in your letter of 19 October, I attach a draft reply to the telex which the Prime Minister has received from the President of the Commission, M Delors, about the recent storm.

On 21 October, the Commission announced details of the emergency aid to victims in those Member States worst affected by the storm, ie. the UK, France, Spain and Portugal. The UK is to receive 300,000 ECU (£210,000) and the others 200,000 ECU (£140,000) each.

The Community aid is intended to provide emergency help to people, and is not for long term projects such as tree-planting. The Civil Contingencies Unit of the Cabinet Office are working, in consultation with the Commission, to decide how it might be most effectively distributed.

The Commission have a budgetary provision of 2.7 MECU (£2 million) for emergency aid to Member States. They gave 250,000 ECU (175,000) earlier this year to the victims of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Secretary, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

Mark Addison Esq
No 10 Downing Street

(Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/now

TYPE: Draft/Final I +

FROM:

Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Reference
RB4AKH

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

Your Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Copies to:

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

M Jacques Delors

President of the European

Commission

SUBJECT
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 BRUXELLES

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

I was grateful for your message after the storms of 15/16 October. The emergency aid which the Commission has since decided to provide will certainly be helpful. I understand that our officials are working together, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that it is distributed quickly and effectively.

Enclosures flag(s)

From: R T J Wilson
22 October 1987

P 02878

MR NORGROVE

Prime Minister 2
JLW
22/10.

STORM DAMAGE

I attach our latest report on progress with the handling of storm damage. Apart from the torrential rain in Northern Ireland, the main development has been a reduction of nearly 50,000 in the number of people cut off from electricity supplies, as the Energy Secretary told Cabinet this morning. You will also note that some 79,000 customers are still disconnected from their telephones and that BT are only just holding their own.

R T J WILSON

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 2 PM 22 OCTOBER

This report updates the more detailed report prepared on 21 October.

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

There are still 125,500 customers cut off from supplies. Repair teams in all areas continue to work flat out. Priority is being given generally to repairs that will reconnect the maximum number of customers quickly. This means that isolated individual establishments may have some time yet to wait for restoration of power.

Statistics for individual Boards are:

South Eastern Electricity Board 71,000 customers are still cut off - a decrease of 26,000 in the past 24 hours.

Southern Electricity Board 36,500 customers are still cut off. An improvement of 6,500 on the day before.

Eastern Electricity Board 18,000 still off supply, a reduction of 22,000 on the previous day's figure.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BT BT are only just holding their own. New faults, many arising from damage to lines caused by tree clearance activity and water seepage from the heavy rain into lines and junction boxes lying on the ground have roughly balanced out faults repaired in the past 24 hours. BT will continue their high level efforts until all repairs are completed - their estimate of 7 days to reconnect the majority and up to 21 days in the worst cases still holds. Some 79,000 customers in the affected area are still disconnected.

ENVIRONMENT

Water Problems reported by the East Anglian and Southern Water Authorities are now fully under control. Minor local difficulties still exist but restoration of normal water and sewerage services should be achieved in the next few days.

TRANSPORT

Roads The only problem on motorways, trunk and D.Transport principal roads results from flood damage to two sections of the M25. 100 metres of fast lane on the anti-clockwise section at Chorleywood and 30 metres on the clockwise section at Potters Bar have disintegrated. Repairs are expected to take some days. Clearance of minor roads still blocked is continuing.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Reports by County Emergency Planning Officers at 0915 hrs this morning revealed that all storm related problems were being dealt with satisfactorily.

AGRICULTURE

Milk wastage continues to decline - only 100,000 litres were wasted on 21 October. The heavy rain is hampering recovery operations in places but no major difficulties are reported. Work to establish damage levels is continuing.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY

In the past 24 hours some 500 more servicemen have been deployed in the SE Military District - total servicemen involved now 2,000. Numbers are expected to begin decreasing in East Anglia at the end of this week.

HEALTH

Problems in the East Anglian and South East Thames Health Authority areas have now been overcome.

WALES

No fresh flooding in Wales in past 24 hours. With one exception (River Dee) all flood warnings have been cancelled. Clearing up continues and damage survey, especially of some bridges, is proceeding apace.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Torrential rain in Northern Ireland on 21 October produced widespread flooding, particularly in the West of the Province. The extent of damage to property and livestock is currently being established. It is expected that livestock losses may be

heavy. No reports of major power failures or disruptions to telephone services have been received. Some roads are impassable. The Emergency Services and local authorities assisted by the Armed Forces (including the Ulster Defence Regiment) are coping with the problems caused by these floods.

SUBJECT CC MASTER
OPS

UNCLASSIFIED

043550
MDLOAN 1229

UNCLASSIFIED
FM FCO
TO PRIORITY HAMIL
TELNO 181
OF 212121Z OCT 87

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. 1188A/87

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PREMIER SWAN. BEGINS
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR THE KIND MESSAGE OF CONCERN AND
SYMPATHY SENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BERMUDA,
FOLLOWING LAST FRIDAY'S SEVERE STORMS. I AM PARTICULARLY
TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE BUT OUR EMERGENCY AND
RELIEF SERVICES HAVE RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY AND LIFE IS NOW
ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL. THE WEATHER GODS HAVE BEEN UNKIND TO
BOTH OF US AND, AS YOU KNOW, WE HERE HAVE BEEN MUCH CONCERNED
AT THE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO BERMUDA FROM HURRICANE EMILY. I AM
RELIEVED TO LEARN THAT BERMUDA IS RECOVERING SO QUICKLY UNDER
YOUR DEDICATED LEADERSHIP.
I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AGAIN ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE
UK.
ENDS

HOWE

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION 28

MAIN 28

LIMITED
WIAD
PS
MR FEARN
MR GILLMORE

PS/PUS
PS/NO
PS/MR EGGAR
NEW DEPT

NNNN

PAGE 1
UNCLASSIFIED



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 October 1987

**HURRICANE DAMAGE IN ENGLAND:
REPLY TO MESSAGE FROM GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA**

Thank you for your letter of today's date enclosing a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Premier Swan's recent message of sympathy about hurricane damage in this country. This may issue.

(Charles Powell)

R. N. Culshaw, Esq., MVO,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

GA

PRIME MINISTER

Kew Gardens are not a Royal Park. They
are administered by the Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food who will be making extra
money available for their restoration.

ms
ms
PAB

21 October, 1987.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 October 1987

Dear Charles

**Hurricane Damage in England: Message of
Sympathy from Government of Bermuda**

I attach a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Premier Swan's message of sympathy (Hamilton telno 160) following last week's storms. Bermuda itself suffered grave damage as a result of a hurricane which hit the island on 25 September. We provided material assistance worth £20,000, and a message of sympathy was sent by Mr Eggar on behalf of HMG.

Yours sincerely

(R N Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification	Caveat	Precedence
	↓	UNCLASSIFIED		PRIORITY
ZCZC	1	ZCZC		
TC	2	UNCLASSIFIED		
CAVEAT	3			
FM	4	FM FCO		
TO	5	TO PRIORITY BERMUDA		
TELNO	6	TELNO		
OF	7	OF Z OCT 87		
AND TO	8			
	9	PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO		
	10	PREMIER SWAN. BEGINS		
	11	Thank you so very much for the kind message of concern and		
	12	sympathy sent on behalf of the Government and people of Bermuda,		
	13	following last Friday's severe storms. I am particularly		
	14	touched by your kind offer of assistance but our emergency and		
	15	relief services have responded magnificently and life is now		
	16	almost back to normal. The weather gods have been unkind to		
	17	both of us and, as you know, we here have been much concerned		
	18	at the serious damage to Bermuda from Hurricane Emily. I am		
	19	relieved to learn that Bermuda is recovering so quickly under		
	20	your dedicated leadership.		
	21	I look forward to meeting you again on your next visit to the		
	22	UK.		
	23	ENDS		
	24			
	25	HOWE		
///	26			
//	27	YYYY		
/	28	WIAD		
	29	Mr Fearn		
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YYYY				Catchword: Mr Gillmore
MAIN	File number	Dept PO	Drafted by (Block capitals) R N CULSHAW	Telephone no 270 2070
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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

		Classification UNCLASSIFIED	Caveat	Precedence PRIORITY
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For distribution order see Page	Catchword:
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-212 3434

21 OCT 1987

J D Shortridge Esq
Private Secretary to
The Secretary of State for Wales
Welsh Office
Gwydyr House
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2ER

MEB

Dear Jon

FLOODING IN WALES

Thank you for a copy of your letter of 21 October to Steven Wood. We spoke about the Statement to be made by your Secretary of State this afternoon. Our discussions culminated in a suggestion from my Secretary of State to delete the final six words of the paragraph referring to the train accident. If the Inquiry were to be a Formal Inquiry under the Regulation of Railways Act, it would take some time to set up. If the reference is to a non-Formal Inquiry, it has already begun.

with MEA?

I also promised you some notes for supplementaries. I would draw your Secretary of State's attention particularly to the second supplementary which deals with whether the Inquiry should be held in public.

I am sending copies of this letter and attachment to those who received copies of yours.

Yours sincerely
Roy Griff

R J GRIFFINS
Private Secretary

NOTES FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

Q1. Will the results of the inquiry be published?

A1. Yes.

Q2. Will the inquiry be held in public?

A2. Yes, if necessary. But that must depend in part on whether preliminary investigations reveal a case for prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work Act. [If it is decided to prosecute, then procedurally a public inquiry cannot take place or would have to be deferred.]

Q3. Will the inquiry be fully independent?

A3. Yes. (It will be carried out by the Railway Inspectorate).

Q4. How soon will the inquiry begin?

A4. Preliminary investigations have started already.

Q5. Will the coroner be able to look into railway safety issues?

A5. Yes, if he thinks it is relevant; and he can call for help from the Railway Inspectorate.

CONFIDENTIAL



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Robin Young Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Environment
Department of the Environment
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 3EB

MGA

21 October 1987

Dear Robin,

STORM DAMAGE IN ENGLAND: 15/16 OCTOBER

WITH MGA 10W?

The Chief Secretary has seen the draft statement attached to your letter of 20 October.

As I told you he had the following comments.

In paragraph 4 he would wish to see the section at the start of page 2 redrafted as follows:

"....expenditure on emergency work. The amount the local authorities most affected will be expected to find within their existing budgets will amount on average to slightly less than 0.5% of their grant related expenditures. Above a threshold, which I am setting at expenditure equivalent to the product of an exclusive penny rate for the county councils and of 0.15p for shire districts, authorities will be eligible for 75% grant assistance from Government."

The subsequent reference to the percentage of GRE should be deleted.

On paragraph 6 the Chief Secretary would wish the reference to be to capital works restoring "buildings" not "housing".

On paragraph 9 the Chief Secretary asked that it be made clear that the increase of the grant for local authority planting to 90% was temporary and specifically

CONFIDENTIAL



related to trees damaged in the storm emergency.

The Chief Secretary has been discussing the possible MAFF response with the Minister for Agriculture. MAFF officials and Treasury officials are supposed to be agreeing a revised form of words. The present paragraph 11 should be deleted.

On paragraph 12 we would wish to see this more closely linked to the Bellwin formulation which you used in your paragraph 4. You agreed to amend it to refer simply to "assistance to local authorities in their emergency work".

I am copying this letter to David Norgrove at No. 10, the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, Home Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Wales, Defence, Employment, Transport, Social Services, Education, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Chief Whips in both Houses; and to Richard Wilson and Brigadier Budd in the Cabinet Office.

Yours,

Jill

JILL RUTTER
Private Secretary

CC PRESS
ON
MEA
DC.

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
21 OCTOBER

STORM DAMAGE IN ENGLAND, 15/16 OCTOBER

Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement about the hurricane force winds which hit southern England early last Friday morning. Tragically 19 people were killed. We offer heartfelt condolences to their relatives and friends. There was widespread damage to property and trees; road and rail links were blocked; electricity and telephone lines were brought down on a large scale. Most of the damage was caused by falling trees.

Ever since, emergency teams from the local authorities, the electricity supply industry and the other services affected have been working incessantly, helped greatly by the Armed Services. They have done a magnificent job. Normal services have now been restored to the great majority of people. They will continue to make every effort. About 4 million electricity consumers have been reconnected, although 168,000 are still without supply. The electricity supply industry is making every effort to reconnect the bulk of them by the weekend, but the extent of the damage in some areas and the continuing adverse weather may result in some consumers not being restored till next week. The industry is working closely with other emergency services to minimise hardship to those still affected.

It is too soon to estimate the overall costs of these events. But I have already announced the Government's decision that the existing financial arrangements to assist local authorities in emergencies - known as the Bellwin scheme - will be available in the areas affected in England for emergency work connected with that storm damage. My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales will be making a separate statement on those areas of Wales affected by severe flooding over the last few days. .

Prudent local authorities have long provided for contingencies and emergencies in their budgets. But in 1983, after consultation with the local authority associations, the Government issued guidelines

"To provide special financial assistance to local authorities who, as a consequence of an emergency would otherwise incur an undue financial burden in providing relief and carrying out immediate works to safeguard life or property or prevent suffering or severe inconvenience to affected communities."

Under this scheme, authorities are themselves responsible for the first tranche of expenditure on emergency work. The amount the authorities most affected will be expected to find from within their existing budgets is likely on average to be slightly below 0.5% of their GRE. I am setting the threshold at expenditure equivalent to the product of an exclusive penny rate for county councils and of 0.15p for shire districts. Expenditure above that will be eligible for 75% grant assistance from Government. The threshold in London will be based on the product of a 1.15 penny rate divided between tiers according to GRE shares. The Department is writing today to the local authority associations and to those authorities who initially appear most likely to be affected explaining details of how the scheme will operate. I am placing copies of that letter in the Library and in the Vote Office. It will be up to any authority who considers itself eligible for such assistance to apply to the Department. The scheme does not cover losses which are insurable.

I shall take account too of the effect on rate support grant. In response to requests from a number of councils, I propose that where a local authority gains grant assistance under the Bellwin scheme, the proportion of expenditure above the threshold borne by the local authority should be excluded from the definition of total expenditure, and will not therefore result in loss of grant. I shall be consulting the local authority associations on the precise terms of the total expenditure exclusion.

Turning to the capital side, insurance payments for loss or damage are anyway outside the capital control system. But to help local authorities with capital works in restoring their buildings, the Government will be giving limited additional allocations for expenditure in the current year.

Mr Speaker, I recognise too that the public feel deeply about the massive damage that has been done to mature trees. There is a strong feeling that we should replant for the benefit of future generations.

The Royal Parks are my direct responsibility, and we will press ahead with clearing and appropriate replanting as fast as possible.

There are already in existence for rural areas Countryside Commission schemes for grant assistance to local authorities and private owners for tree planting. I propose to extend these schemes in three ways, to cope specifically with the loss of trees as a result of the hurricane force winds. First, for this temporary purpose, the rate of grant aid for local authority planting will be increased to 90%. Secondly, and also temporarily, these schemes will be extended to cover London and other urban areas. Thirdly, the Countryside Commission will have discretion to grant-aid at a higher rate than their present scheme historic landscapes of great value where the scale of tree loss justifies this. I shall make extra resources available in the current year for these schemes. These extensions will enable the taxpayer to contribute to restoring our heritage of fine trees for future generations.

In addition, my Department will be issuing guidance on the protection of surviving but damaged trees through the press to householders.

My Rt Hon Friend, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is urgently consulting the European Commission with a view to increasing the rates of grant under the Agriculture Improvement Scheme for shelter belts, hedges and traditional walls in the storm damage areas to 60% (with conifer belts at 30%) until the end of 1988/89. He will also be providing special additional help to Kew Gardens and Wakehurst Place which suffered severe damage of national and international significance. My Rt Hon Friend is also arranging for the Farm and Countryside Initiative to provide help to some particularly hard hit rural communities both for tree clearing and tree planting.

The measures I have announced today will provide both for appropriate short-term assistance to local authorities in their emergency work, and with repairing, as soon as possible, the long-term damage to the environment.

Meanwhile, Mr Speaker, the House will want to join me in thanking the local authorities and all the Emergency Services for their unstinting efforts, and in offering sympathy for the loss and suffering experienced by people in the areas affected.

CBA



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

20 October 1987

Dear Robin,

NBA.

STORM DAMAGE IN ENGLAND, 15/16 OCTOBER

WITH DM?

You copied to me your letter of today's date to Jill Rutter covering the draft of a statement which your Secretary of State proposes to make in the House tomorrow.

The Home Secretary appreciates the importance of including a reference to the question of tree replacement in the draft statement. At the same time, having been the recipient of many of the representations from MPs and others in the wake of the storm, he believes that this issue should be seen alongside all the other questions which seem to be of perhaps even more pressing concern to those affected. In that context, there may be a danger that the relative emphasis in the draft statement will be thought a little odd by at least some of the Government's supporters and invite exploitation by the Opposition. The Home Secretary suggests that the passage on tree replacement in the draft statement should be shortened, perhaps by removing some of the details in paragraph 9 (which could be reserved for a supplementary or promulgated separately by way of an Arranged Written Answer). You may also wish to consider ending the statement with a renewed tribute to the local authorities and emergency services for their response to the disaster (emergency procedures are generally recognised to have worked well), and with a recognition of the personal suffering many people in the areas affected have experienced as a result of the storm.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,
P J C Mawer

P J C MAWER

Robin Young, Esq.,

486



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

Miss Jill Rutter
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary
HM Treasury
Parliament Street
LONDON
SW1P 3AG

My ref:

Your ref:

Prime Minister²

20 October 1987

Dear Jill,

STORM DAMAGE IN ENGLAND, 15/16 OCTOBER

At yesterday's meeting under the chairmanship of the Lord President, it was agreed that my Secretary of State should make an oral statement tomorrow. I am writing to record the agreement about the financial aspects which my Secretary of State has reached with the Chief Secretary today, and to seek comments on the attached draft of the statement.

There are 2 financial points:

- i. Our Ministers discussed at some length and agreed that the threshold to be applied before authorities become eligible for assistance under the Bellwin scheme should be the product of an exclusive penny rate for the county councils, and a rate of 0.15p for shire districts. In London the same exclusive rate of 1.15p will be divided between tiers according to GRE shares. Expenditure above the threshold will be eligible for 75% Government grant, and the residual 25% for which the local authority remains responsible will be excluded from the definition of total expenditure, and therefore not result in decreased block grant entitlements.
- ii. My Secretary of State considers it very important that we say something positive and substantive about tree replacement, and you will know from David Norgrove's letter to me of 19 October that the Prime Minister shares that view. Hence the references to tree-planting in the draft statement. The Chief Secretary has agreed that up to £3 million can be spent: up to £0.25 million for work in the Royal Parks and the rest for an extension of the Countryside Commission's existing scheme in aid of tree-planting.

New Gardens?

We have separately telephoned Private Offices of the relevant Departments asking urgently for suitable speaking notes on the impact of the storms on their services. I should be grateful if they could reach us without fail this evening. Please could I have comments on the draft statement by 10.00 am tomorrow morning.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to David Norgrove at No 10, the Private Secretaries to the Lord President, Home Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Wales, Defence, Employment, Transport, Social Services, *Education*, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Chief Whips in both Houses; and to Richard Wilson and Brigadier Budd in the Cabinet Office.

*Yours,
Robin.*

R U YOUNG
Private Secretary

STORM DAMAGE IN ENGLAND, 15/16 OCTOBER

1. Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement about the hurricane force winds which hit southern England early last Friday morning. 19 people were killed; there was widespread damage to property and trees; road and rail links were blocked; electricity and telephone lines were brought down on a large scale. Most of the damage was caused by falling trees.

2. Ever since, emergency teams from the local authorities and the other services affected have been working incessantly helped in appropriate cases by the Armed Services. They have done a magnificent job. As a result normal services have now been restored to the great majority of consumers. They will continue to make every effort. x million electricity consumers have been reconnected and I expect them to complete restoration of electricity by the weekend.

3. It is too soon to estimate the overall costs of these events. But I have already announced the Government's decision that the existing financial arrangements to assist local authorities in emergencies - known as the Bellwin scheme - will be available in the areas affected in England for emergency work connected with that storm damage. [My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Wales will be making a separate statement on those areas of Wales affected by severe flooding over the last few days.]

4. Prudent local authorities have long provided for contingencies and emergencies in their budgets. But in 1933, after consultation with the local authority associations, the Government issued guidelines

"To provide special financial assistance to local authorities who, as a consequence of an emergency would otherwise incur an undue financial burden in providing relief and carrying out immediate works to safeguard life or property or prevent suffering or severe inconvenience to affected communities."

Under this scheme, authorities are themselves responsible for the first tranche of expenditure on emergency work. Expenditure above a threshold set equivalent to the product of an exclusive penny rate for county councils and of 0.15p for shire districts will be eligible for 75% grant assistance from Government. The threshold in London will be based on the product of a 1.15 penny rate divided between tiers according to GRE shares. The threshold is likely to be less than 0.5% of an authority's GRE. The Department is writing today to the local authority associations and to those authorities who initially appear most likely to be affected explaining details of how the scheme will operate. I am placing in the Library copies of that letter. It will be up to any authority who considers itself eligible for such assistance to apply to the Department.

5. I shall take account too of the effect on rate support grant. Where a local authority gains grant assistance under the Bellwin scheme, I propose that the proportion of expenditure above the threshold borne by the local authority should be excluded from the definition of total expenditure. I shall be consulting the local authority associations on the precise terms of the total expenditure exclusion.

6. The scheme above does not cover losses which are normally insurable. To help local authorities with capital works in restoring their housing, I shall however be giving limited additional allocations for expenditure in the current year. Insurance payments for loss or damage are anyway outside the capital control system.

7. Mr Speaker, I recognise too that the public feel deeply about the massive damage that has been done to mature trees. There is a strong feeling that we should replant for the benefit of future generations.

8. The Royal Parks are my direct responsibility, and we will press ahead with clearing and appropriate replanting as fast as possible.

9. There is already in existence for rural areas a Countryside Commission scheme for grant assistance for tree planting. That will continue to be available. In addition, I propose to extend

this scheme in two ways, to cope specifically with the loss of trees as a result of the hurricane force winds. First, the rate of grant aid for local authority planting will be increased to 90%. Secondly, on a temporary basis, the same will be extended to cover local authorities in London and other urban areas. I shall make extra resources available in the current year for this scheme. This extension will enable the taxpayer to contribute to restoring our heritage of fine trees for future generations.

10. In addition, my Department will be issuing guidance on the protection of surviving but damaged trees through the press to householders.

11. I recognise also in the wider countryside there will be major problems over hedgerows, shelter belts, and private sector forestry schemes. My colleagues responsible for agriculture fisheries and forestry are considering these, together with the specific damage caused to arboreta.

12. The measures I have announced today will both provide for appropriate short-term assistance to local authorities in their work in clearing up after the emergency, and with repairing, as soon as possible, the long-term damage to the environment.

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PRIME MINISTER

has seen CJP 20/10.

Attached to this minute is a note from the Lord President with a sitrep on the storm damage of Friday last. You are to see the Lord President tomorrow morning at 1100, and this is one of the subjects he will wish to discuss with you. A separate meeting folder is in your box.

Welcome back

Andy

P A BEARPARK

20 October 1987

CONFIDENTIAL



A COBS
B/UP
PM seen

PRIME MINISTER

I chaired an ad hoc meeting of Ministers yesterday evening to review progress with the handling of storm damage. I enclose an up-to-date situation report.

2. The general picture is steady progress towards returning normal services in all areas. There are however pockets of difficulty. In particular there are still 180,000 customers cut off from electricity supplies: the number is declining daily but some will not be connected until the end of the week. Telephones have also been affected: British Telecom estimate that in the worst affected areas it could take up to 21 days to restore normal services.

3. There is considerable interest in Government financial assistance to local authorities towards the cost of repairing storm damage. At our meeting last night we agreed in principle that assistance should be made available to local authorities in the East and South East in accordance with the Bellwin scheme agreed in 1983. This covers 75 per cent of direct emergency expenditure on damage for which the authority could not have insured itself, over and above a threshold level. Similar arrangements are to be made for Wales. The details are being resolved urgently by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Chief Secretary. They are also considering how to ensure that the worst-hit authorities do not lose grants just because of this extra expenditure.

4. There will need to be an early statement in the House, in particular on this issue of financial assistance. It has been agreed that the Secretary of State for the Environment should make this tomorrow. I understand that he will be circulating a draft text this evening.



5. The failure of the Meteorological Office to give warning of the storm has attracted public criticism. The Secretary of State for Defence has invited Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer of the University Grants Committee and Professor Robert Pearce of Reading University to consider the findings of an internal inquiry and to report their conclusions to him.

6. On the replacement of trees I understand that the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment are finalising proposals for the quick replanting of Royal Parks and the provision of £3 million to be spent via the Countryside Commission on replacing trees in urban and rural areas. While there are some who are still suffering hardship because their electricity supplies have yet to be reconnected, the presentation and timing of these proposals will need careful handling.

hwlw

Privy Council Office
20 October 1987

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 1 PM 20 OCTOBER

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

Taking all areas affected by the storm together, 98% of the 8.8 million customers are now receiving power supplies.

South Eastern Electricity Board

80,000 customers are still cut off. 20,000 were reconnected during 19 October.

Some 600 staff from other Boards are currently working in the area, as are 30 from the CEGB, 100 from Army and Air Force with equipment and helicopters and 75 from contractors and local authorities.

Southern Electricity Board

50,000 customers are still cut off. 15,000 were reconnected during 19 October. 12,500 faults identified so far. Large amount of complete rebuilding of distribution system required. Main problem is shortage of linesmen. Aim to get everyone connected by Friday but will be hard pressed to achieve this. Negotiating with police to close roads to speed line rebuilding.

Eastern Electricity Board

40-50,000 still off supply. Some 25,000 reconnected during 19 October. Situation improving faster than previously expected. Sufficient extra assistance, including military, is available. Problems with Army assistance sorted out quickly.

Gas Supplies

Despite a large number of mains and services being damaged by fallen trees and some transmission stations being affected by electricity cuts, full gas supplies have been maintained with only minor exceptions.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industry No major outstanding problems reported.

City of London No significant operating problems due to storm damage.

BT In London and South East fault rate up to 12 times normal. 100,000 faults have been repaired since 16 October. Most new installation work stopped for time being. All staff on fault repair, plus 600 extra engineers drafted in from other areas to help. 100 small exchanges still operating on standby power. 3000 telegraph poles require replacement. Less than 1% of customers in the affected area remain disconnected. BT estimate that in the worst affected parts it could take up to 21 days to restore normal services (this last sentence is regarded by BT as confidential information). Included in this estimate is a high proportion of overhead work to individual premises, coping with the considerable technical problems of a two-way, reactive communications system and making existing temporary repairs permanent.

ENVIRONMENT

Housing Many houses damaged but local authorities in London, Eastern and South Eastern Regions report situation under control. No major structural problems with tower blocks have been identified: superficial damage only. No formal requests yet received from local authorities for financial assistance, but many expected in due course.

Water In the Anglian Water Authority, standby power is still being used in Suffolk and parts of Essex to provide drinking water. Some problems at sewage pumping stations due to lack of main power: no public health hazard reported at present. Service accommodation is being provided for Water Authority staff clearing water courses.

No major problems reported by other Water Authorities.

TRANSPORT

Rail All main railway lines have been open since AM 19 October. Only a handful of branch lines in Eastern and Southern regions are still blocked: completion of clearance may take a further 2 days.

Bridge destroyed by flood water has put Central Wales line out of action. 4 people were killed and 6 rescued when train ran off broken bridge into flood water. The line is unlikely to reopen until March 1988.

Roads All motor ways, trunk and D.Transport principal roads open. Some local authority roads still blocked - mostly in Kent. Clearance operations continue.

Shipping MV Hengist remains aground in Folkestone Harbour. It is not yet known when she can be refloated as there is some hull damage. The railway station in Dover Western Harbour is out of action due to storm damage to the building.

Aviation Has been operating normally since mid morning 16 October. This includes Gatwick and Heathrow.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Emergency Planning Officers of affected counties reported to the Home Office on Monday 19 October. They will be providing a further report at 0915 hrs Thursday 22 October. Emergency arrangements seem to have worked well. In most counties emergency control centres were opened on Friday 16 October but the majority had been closed down again by Sunday 18 October. Some of the homeless people have been re-accommodated under local authority arrangements, the remainder privately with relatives and friends. Emergency feeding and water supply was needed on a relatively small scale and with few exceptions for a short period only. Clearance of fallen trees, particularly to facilitate electricity board and BT repair team movement, was a major task and still continues on minor roads and in remote areas often to provide access to electricity supply poles and lines. The Armed Services provided a variety of assistance, at local authority request, in a number of areas. No insuperable problems are reported. The major concern of most local authorities will be financial compensation.

Ministers decided on 19 October that existing financial arrangements - the "Bellwin formula" - would be available to local authorities in the South East and East, and Wales. The total picture on costs was not clear and discussions with local authorities are continuing. It was agreed that the Secretary of State for the Environment should make a statement in Parliament on Wednesday 21 October.

AGRICULTURE

Throughout the storm-affected area there has been substantial damage to farm buildings, glass houses, and power supply cables. Worst losses are expected in the horticultural sector (particularly flowers) and orchards (particularly in Kent and Essex). Substantial losses in intensive livestock industry, but not major as a proportion of the industry overall. Currently some 400,000 litres of milk are being wasted daily because many farm milk-cooling machines have no power. Some animal feed supply problems are well on the way to being solved. MAFF Regional Emergency rooms have been manned continuously since 16 October to provide advice and assistance to farmers.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Disruption to the rail system delayed the issue of giro cheques during the period 16-18 October. This problem has now been overcome.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY

Since the emergency began some 1000 soldiers have been deployed to respond to requests for assistance in clearing roads and railway lines and restoring electricity supply to areas of Kent and East Anglia, Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey. In East Anglia, soldiers helped clear a caravan site at Clacton-on-Sea, generators were delivered to farms, old people's homes nursing homes and hospitals and water authorities and to the Port of Harwich. In Kent, soldiers have delivered meals to OAPS, cleared the rail line between Dover and Folkstone of trees and assisted the Water Authority to clear rivers. The RAF are providing support helicopters to assist the Electricity Boards to survey damage to power lines and to move soldiers to the scene of clearance operations. All over the area, affected by the storm, members of all three services are assisting in tree clearance operations including providing chain saws to local authorities to help the task of clearance. Similar requests for assistance continue to be received and are responded to as they arise. A few cases in which military assistance has allegedly been refused or withdrawn, on the grounds that the emergency aspect of the work appeared to be over, have come to light. All Military District Commanders have been reminded (19 October) that questions about who pays are to be resolved after essential work is done and that tasks once started should be completed. Assistance rendered by the Services has in virtually every case been much appreciated by those receiving it.

HEALTH

Only two Regional Health Authorities report problems:

EAST ANGLIA Ambulance services in Essex and Suffolk and Norfolk are for the time being dealing with emergency calls only; this means, for instance, that no routine hospital visits or day centre journeys are being carried out. The reason is difficulty in negotiating blocked roads and the time required for such journeys putting the facility to answer emergency calls in peril. Five hospitals are still without mains power but are coping for essential functions on standby generators.

SOUTH EAST THAMES A shortage of blood for transfusions means that only essential surgery will be performed until 21 October (until 22 October for blood groups 0+ and 0-.) Blood donor sessions are being well attended and depleted supplies are beginning to recover.

SOCIAL SECURITY No major problems. The Carmarthen Social Security Office re-opened 20 October after being closed by flooding. All Social Security Offices are prepared to apply the Urgent Cases Regulations to relieve financial hardship resulting from the storm: applications are already being processed.

WALES

Flooding over the weekend reached 3 to 4 feet in places including Haverfordwest and Carmarthen. But flood water is now receding in all parts of Wales. Mopping up operations are in full swing under local authority auspices. Electricity supplies have been restored to all but 100 customers in the Wales Electricity Board area and work continues to reconnect these as quickly as possible. Telephone communications in West Wales are much improved. Welsh Water are coping with emergency supplies to one small area in which a flooded pumping station has not yet been returned to normal working. All trunk roads are open, a few country roads are still flooded. All railway lines, except the mid Wales line, are open. All requests for Service assistance were met. No further assistance is required but servicemen remain on standby. Farmers heeded the flood warnings and livestock losses are expected to be minimal. Assessment of damage and costs continues.

PRIME MINISTER

I chaired an ad hoc meeting of Ministers yesterday evening to review progress with the handling of storm damage. I enclose an up-to-date situation report.

2. The general picture is steady progress towards returning normal services in all areas. There are however pockets of difficulty. In particular there are still 180,000 customers cut off from electricity supplies: the number is declining daily but some will not be connected until the end of the week. Telephones have also been affected: British Telecom estimate that in the worst affected areas it could take up to 21 days to restore normal services.
3. There is considerable interest in Government financial assistance to local authorities towards the cost of repairing storm damage. At our meeting last night we agreed in principle that assistance should be made available to local authorities in the East and South East in accordance with the Bellwin scheme agreed in 1983. This covers 75 per cent of direct emergency expenditure on damage for which the authority could not have insured itself, over and above a threshold level. Similar arrangements are to be made for Wales. The details are being resolved urgently by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Chief Secretary. They are also considering how to ensure that the worst-hit authorities do not lose grants just because of this extra expenditure.
4. There will need to be an early statement in the House, in particular on this issue of financial assistance. It has been agreed that the Secretary of State for the Environment should make this tomorrow. I understand that he will be circulating a draft text this evening.



5. The failure of the Meteorological Office to give warning of the storm has attracted public criticism. The Secretary of State for Defence has invited Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer of the University Grants Committee and Professor Robert Pearce of Reading University to consider the findings of an internal inquiry and to report their conclusions to him.

6. On the replacement of trees I understand that the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment are finalising proposals for the quick replanting of Royal Parks and the provision of £3 million to be spent via the Countryside Commission on replacing trees in urban and rural areas. While there are some who are still suffering hardship because their electricity supplies have yet to be reconnected, the presentation and timing of these proposals will need careful handling.

hollw

Privy Council Office
20 October 1987

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 1 PM 20 OCTOBER

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

Taking all areas affected by the storm together, 98% of the 8.8 million customers are now receiving power supplies.

South Eastern Electricity Board

80,000 customers are still cut off. 20,000 were reconnected during 19 October.

Some 600 staff from other Boards are currently working in the area, as are 30 from the CEGB, 100 from Army and Air Force with equipment and helicopters and 75 from contractors and local authorities.

Southern Electricity Board

50,000 customers are still cut off. 15,000 were reconnected during 19 October. 12,500 faults identified so far. Large amount of complete rebuilding of distribution system required. Main problem is shortage of linesmen. Aim to get everyone connected by Friday but will be hard pressed to achieve this. Negotiating with police to close roads to speed line rebuilding.

Eastern Electricity Board

40-50,000 still off supply. Some 25,000 reconnected during 19 October. Situation improving faster than previously expected. Sufficient extra assistance, including military, is available. Problems with Army assistance sorted out quickly.

Gas Supplies

Despite a large number of mains and services being damaged by fallen trees and some transmission stations being affected by electricity cuts, full gas supplies have been maintained with only minor exceptions.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industry No major outstanding problems reported.

City of London No significant operating problems due to storm damage.

BT In London and South East fault rate up to 12 times normal. 100,000 faults have been repaired since 16 October. Most new installation work stopped for time being. All staff on fault repair, plus 600 extra engineers drafted in from other areas to help. 100 small exchanges still operating on standby power. 3000 telegraph poles require replacement. Less than 1% of customers in the affected area remain disconnected. BT estimate that in the worst affected parts it could take up to 21 days to restore normal services (this last sentence is regarded by BT as confidential information). Included in this estimate is a high proportion of overhead work to individual premises, coping with the considerable technical problems of a two-way, reactive communications system and making existing temporary repairs permanent.

ENVIRONMENT

Housing Many houses damaged but local authorities in London, Eastern and South Eastern Regions report situation under control. No major structural problems with tower blocks have been identified: superficial damage only. No formal requests yet received from local authorities for financial assistance, but many expected in due course.

Water In the Anglian Water Authority, standby power is still being used in Suffolk and parts of Essex to provide drinking water. Some problems at sewage pumping stations due to lack of main power: no public health hazard reported at present. Service accommodation is being provided for Water Authority staff clearing water courses.

No major problems reported by other Water Authorities.

TRANSPORT

Rail All main railway lines have been open since AM 19 October. Only a handful of branch lines in Eastern and Southern regions are still blocked: completion of clearance may take a further 2 days.

Bridge destroyed by flood water has put Central Wales line out of action. 4 people were killed and 6 rescued when train ran off broken bridge into flood water. The line is unlikely to reopen until March 1988.

Roads All motor ways, trunk and D.Transport principal roads open. Some local authority roads still blocked - mostly in Kent. Clearance operations continue.

Shipping MV Hengist remains aground in Folkestone Harbour. It is not yet known when she can be refloated as there is some hull damage. The railway station in Dover Western Harbour is out of action due to storm damage to the building.

Aviation Has been operating normally since mid morning 16 October. This includes Gatwick and Heathrow.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Emergency Planning Officers of affected counties reported to the Home Office on Monday 19 October. They will be providing a further report at 0915 hrs Thursday 22 October. Emergency arrangements seem to have worked well. In most counties emergency control centres were opened on Friday 16 October but the majority had been closed down again by Sunday 18 October. Some of the homeless people have been re-accommodated under local authority arrangements, the remainder privately with relatives and friends. Emergency feeding and water supply was needed on a relatively small scale and with few exceptions for a short period only. Clearance of fallen trees, particularly to facilitate electricity board and BT repair team movement, was a major task and still continues on minor roads and in remote areas often to provide access to electricity supply poles and lines. The Armed Services provided a variety of assistance, at local authority request, in a number of areas. No insuperable problems are reported. The major concern of most local authorities will be financial compensation.

Ministers decided on 19 October that existing financial arrangements - the "Bellwin formula" - would be available to local authorities in the South East and East, and Wales. The total picture on costs was not clear and discussions with local authorities are continuing. It was agreed that the Secretary of State for the Environment should make a statement in Parliament on Wednesday 21 October.

AGRICULTURE

Throughout the storm-affected area there has been substantial damage to farm buildings, glass houses, and power supply cables. Worst losses are expected in the horticultural sector (particularly flowers) and orchards (particularly in Kent and Essex). Substantial losses in intensive livestock industry, but not major as a proportion of the industry overall. Currently some 400,000 litres of milk are being wasted daily because many farm milk-cooling machines have no power. Some animal feed supply problems are well on the way to being solved. MAFF Regional Emergency rooms have been manned continuously since 16 October to provide advice and assistance to farmers.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Disruption to the rail system delayed the issue of giro cheques during the period 16-18 October. This problem has now been overcome.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY

Since the emergency began some 1000 soldiers have been deployed to respond to requests for assistance in clearing roads and railway lines and restoring electricity supply to areas of Kent and East Anglia, Sussex, Hampshire and Surrey. In East Anglia, soldiers helped clear a caravan site at Clacton-on-Sea, generators were delivered to farms, old people's homes nursing homes and hospitals and water authorities and to the Port of Harwich. In Kent, soldiers have delivered meals to OAPS, cleared the rail line between Dover and Folkstone of trees and assisted the Water Authority to clear rivers. The RAF are providing support helicopters to assist the Electricity Boards to survey damage to power lines and to move soldiers to the scene of clearance operations. All over the area, affected by the storm, members of all three services are assisting in tree clearance operations including providing chain saws to local authorities to help the task of clearance. Similar requests for assistance continue to be received and are responded to as they arise. A few cases in which military assistance has allegedly been refused or withdrawn, on the grounds that the emergency aspect of the work appeared to be over, have come to light. All Military District Commanders have been reminded (19 October) that questions about who pays are to be resolved after essential work is done and that tasks once started should be completed. Assistance rendered by the Services has in virtually every case been much appreciated by those receiving it.

HEALTH

Only two Regional Health Authorities report problems:

EAST ANGLIA Ambulance services in Essex and Suffolk and Norfolk are for the time being dealing with emergency calls only; this means, for instance, that no routine hospital visits or day centre journeys are being carried out. The reason is difficulty in negotiating blocked roads and the time required for such journeys putting the facility to answer emergency calls in peril. Five hospitals are still without mains power but are coping for essential functions on standby generators.

SOUTH EAST THAMES A shortage of blood for transfusions means that only essential surgery will be performed until 21 October (until 22 October for blood groups 0+ and 0-.) Blood donor sessions are being well attended and depleted supplies are beginning to recover.

SOCIAL SECURITY No major problems. The Carmarthen Social Security Office re-opened 20 October after being closed by flooding. All Social Security Offices are prepared to apply the Urgent Cases Regulations to relieve financial hardship resulting from the storm: applications are already being processed.

WALES

Flooding over the weekend reached 3 to 4 feet in places including Haverfordwest and Carmarthen. But flood water is now receding in all parts of Wales. Mopping up operations are in full swing under local authority auspices. Electricity supplies have been restored to all but 100 customers in the Wales Electricity Board area and work continues to reconnect these as quickly as possible. Telephone communications in West Wales are much improved. Welsh Water are coping with emergency supplies to one small area in which a flooded pumping station has not yet been returned to normal working. All trunk roads are open, a few country roads are still flooded. All railway lines, except the mid Wales line, are open. All requests for Service assistance were met. No further assistance is required but servicemen remain on standby. Farmers heeded the flood warnings and livestock losses are expected to be minimal. Assessment of damage and costs continues.

MCA



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233-3000 (Switchboard)
01-233-8646 (Llinell Union) 270 0549

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233-3000 (Switchboard)
01-233-8645 (Direct Line)

ODDI WRTH YSGRIFENNYDD
PREIFAT YSGRIFENNYDD
GWLADOL CYMRU

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WALES

20 October 1987

Dear Steven

In view of the severe flooding in parts of the Principality the Secretary of State has decided he should make a Statement to the House tomorrow (21 October). I shall be circulating a draft of this Statement tomorrow morning, but I thought I should let you know at once.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for the Environment, and the Chief Whip, and also to the Chief Press Secretary at No 10.

Yours sincerely
Jon Shortridge

J D SHORTRIDGE

Steven Wood Esq
Private Secretary to
The Lord Privy Seal



cc/c

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 October 1987

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister² info

Message from Turkish Prime Minister

I enclose a self-explanatory message to the Prime Minister from Mr Ozal which we have received via the Turkish Embassy in London.

however,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MARGARET THATCHER MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

20.10.87

SUBJECT
Le MASTER
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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T187/87

I WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AT THE NEWS OF THE TRAGIC LOSS
OF LIVES AND MATERIAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE STORM AND
FLOOD DISASTER IN YOUR COUNTRY.

I WISH TO EXTEND TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THROUGH
YOU TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS MY HEARTFELT
CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY.

TURGUT ÖZAL
PRIME MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister. ⁽²⁾

There are two statements
tomorrow on the storm damage:

1. SoS for Wales
2. SoS for Environment.

We have rejigged the diary
somewhat so that you may
sit in for both. Thanks -

MEAT 20/10

mb

Jacques Delors
26/10



PA

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

Not ack'd.
19 October 1987

16-10-87

I attach a copy of a telex which the Prime Minister has received from Jacques Delors, President of the European Communities.

I should be grateful for advice, together with a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Monday 26 October.

(CDP)

(Mark Addison)

R. N. Culshaw, Esq., MVO,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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PRIME MINISTER'S

cc PC



PERSONAL MESSAGE
No. T186A187

HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

28 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JA
Phones: 01-584 0081 (4 Lines)
01-589 4842 (3 Lines)
Grams: BANGLADOOT, LONDON, SW7
Telex: 918016

SUBJECT
a MASTER
OPS

HIGH COMMISSIONER

No. POL-I/VI/78

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh presents its compliments to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has the honour to furnish the following message from the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh addressed to Her Excellency The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Quote

Her Excellency
The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London

Dear Prime Minister,

The Government and the People of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and I personally have been pained to learn of the tragic loss of valuable lives and other casualties and extensive damage to property caused by the severe hurricane which hit Southern England on 16th October, 1987.

I would like to convey to you and through you to the Government and the people of United Kingdom, our deepest sympathy and condolence at the moment of grief and sorrow.

While extending our sincerest feelings of concern,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,

Hussain Muhammad Ershad

Unquote

It would be appreciated if the Foreign and Commonwealth Office could kindly transmit the message to its high destination.

The High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 18th October, 1987

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
South Asia Department
London SW1.



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COPY NO 15

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Conference Room A, Cabinet Office
on MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 1987 at 5.45 pm

PRESENT

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw
Lord President of the Council
(In the Chair)

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Secretary of State for the
Home Department

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MP
Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP
Lord Privy Seal

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Secretary of State for Energy

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Chief Secretary, Treasury

The Rt Hon John Gummer MP
Minister of State Ministry
of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Donald Thompson MP
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Mr Timothy Eggar MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State, Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

Mr Peter Bottomley MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of state,
Department of Transport
(Minister for Roads and Traffic)

Mr D Nargrove
10 Downing Street

Mr M Scicluna
Ministry of Defence

Mr P J Fletcher
Department of Environment

SECRETARIAT

Mr R T J Wilson
Mr G W Monger
Mr A M Wells

SUBJECT

SITUATION REPORT ON STORM DAMAGE: GOVERNMENT'S LINE ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR STORM DAMAGE

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VIOLENT STORMS IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND AND FLOODING IN WALES

The Meeting considered a report by the Cabinet Office on progress in coping with storm damage in Great Britain, and the response which the Government should make to calls for financial assistance in coping with damage.

a. Situation Report

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT said that he had been receiving many representations from Members of Parliament about the Government's response to the recent storm. Some were seeking financial assistance. But there was also calls for Ministers to adopt a higher public profile, to stress the Government's concern and the assistance it was already providing. It was clear that the Government would need to make a statement as soon as Parliament reassembled. In addition there was considerable press interest in the Meteorological Office's failure to give advanced warning of the storm, and the Government would need to respond to this in due course.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY said that the number of customers who were without electricity was falling continuously. The figures were already somewhat below those quoted in the Cabinet Office situation report. In the Southern and South Eastern areas the great majority of customers should be re-connected by Wednesday, although in the Eastern area some customers might have to wait until the weekend for re-connection. Ministers at the Department of Energy had been attracting a good deal of positive publicity through interviews and visits to affected areas. They had made it clear that the area electricity boards would be dealing with local problems, but that the Government stood ready to give assistance where it was needed, eg by providing troops to help in restoring supplies. There had however been isolated instances in which local army commanders had apparently refused to give further assistance unless the electricity industry gave assurances that it would reimburse costs. This was a very unhelpful attitude, which could cause the Government considerable harm if it became public. He hoped that action could be taken to ensure that the army continued to give assistance without prior assurances that their costs would be reimbursed.

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MR SCICLUNA (MINISTRY OF DEFENCE) said that the provision of assistance by the army was delegated to district commanders. There should be no question of charging for assistance in dealing with an emergency which threatened life and limb. It was possible that some dispute had arisen about whether specific calls for assistance met that criterion. However there was no doubt that the army should be giving assistance without charge in the present circumstances, and he would ensure that this message was passed down to district commanders. The Secretary of State for Defence had commissioned an urgent inquiry into the Meteorological Office's failure to give advanced warning of the storm; the results were expected to be available fairly quickly.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER said that the storms in Southern England had caused fewer problems for industry than had been expected. The failure of parts of the national telephone network had mostly been attributable to the loss of electricity supplies. Around 100 small rural exchanges were still on standby power, and a large number of telegraph poles needed to be replaced. British Telecom had drafted a substantial number of extra staff into the south of England, and more were on their way. At the meeting of the Civil Contingency Unit on Friday 16 October (CCU(87) 1st Meeting) he had been asked to investigate the causes of the failure of the Government telephone network on Friday morning. He had now received a preliminary report. It appeared that when the public electricity supply had failed, the Government network had switched to a standby generator. But that had also failed, and the back-up battery system had soon been exhausted. Links outside the London area had also been affected by high winds. He had commissioned a detailed report from the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, which reported to Treasury Minister, and from the Property Services Agency. Those reports would cover the question of measures to prevent a recurrence of the failure and their costs. When they were available he proposed to discuss them with Treasury Ministers.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT said that there had been surprisingly little damage to property considering the violence of the storms in Southern England. What damage there was had mostly been caused by trees falling onto buildings. When the initial shock of the emergency had passed, there would undoubtedly be substantial public concern about the loss of so many trees. The Prime Minister had already written about the possibility of Government grants for tree replacements. He would wish to bring forward proposals on this in the near future.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD said that the worst problem for the agricultural industry was the possible effects of power cuts on the intensive farming of animals. Long-term interruptions to electricity supply could lead to many animals dying, and could therefore attract damaging publicity. However, most large-scale farmers should have back-up generators, and the emergency services and electricity boards could provide help in other cases.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES said that large areas of Wales were now subject to severe flooding, and faced problems which equalled those in Southern England. The situation could get still worse if there was substantial rainfall over the next one or two days. A number of bridges had been destroyed, resulting in one case in a train crash in which a number of people were reported to have died. There had been calls over a long period for more money to be spent on bridges, and this could become a particularly contentious issue. He would be touring areas affected by flooding on the following day, and the Welsh Office was taking the necessary emergency measures. He would of course ask colleagues if further assistance was needed, eg from the army.

b. Possible Financial Assistance

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT said that the Government would undoubtedly face calls from local authorities for assistance with their revenue costs in coping with storm damage. A standard scheme for

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Assistance with emergencies of this kind had been set out in a letter sent by Lord Bellwin to the Local Authority Associations on 14 April 1983. The scheme was not particularly generous. Local authorities were expected to bear emergency costs locally up to a threshold equivalent to a 1 penny rate. Government assistance would pay at a rate of 75 per cent above the threshold, leaving authorities to find the remaining 25 per cent. If the Government did nothing more than introduce the Bellwin scheme, many local authorities would still lose block grant under the normal rules because of their share of emergency spending. In effect, they would be fined through the block grant system on account of emergency expenditure. He therefore believed that the Government should respond to the emergency by introducing the Bellwin scheme, and in addition excluding the full amount of expenditure on the emergency which fell locally from the definition of total expenditure on which block grant was calculated. The effect of the total expenditure exclusion would be to prevent block grant losses arising from emergency expenditure. However, he had to make it clear to colleagues that it was not possible at present to estimate the amount of expenditure which might qualify, and therefore the cost to the Government. Local authorities would also face capital expenditure for damaged buildings. But these were clearly insurable costs, and it would be wrong for the Government to offer financial assistance, particularly since many private individuals would face similar costs. There might however, be a case for additional capital allocations to ensure that councils were not constrained by the capital control system from undertaking repairs. Local authorities generally were heading for a massive capital underspread in 1987/88, and he was already in correspondence with the Chief Secretary, Treasury, about possible additional allocations. Finally, he would want to bring forward proposals for Government assistance to replace trees lost as a result of the recent storm.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY said that the electricity industry was incurring substantial costs in dealing with storm damage. As a commercial organisation, they would expect to meet these costs in the normal way without Government assistance. However it would be very damaging if immediate price increases were necessary to prevent the industry breaching its External Financing Limit (EFL). He therefore proposed to say that there was no question of immediate price increases, and sought agreement to an adjustment to the EFL if this proved necessary.

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, TREASURY, said that he was sympathetic both to the introduction of the Bellwin scheme and to an exclusion from total expenditure for part of the remaining costs which would be borne by local authorities. There were of course a number of restrictions on the Bellwin scheme. In particular, it provided assistance with genuine emergency work and not with longer-term repair and maintenance work, and it did not apply to costs against which authorities could have insured. He would need to discuss with the Environment Secretary the per capita threshold which should apply, and the other details of the scheme. Discussion would also be needed on the basis of the exclusion from total expenditure. His view was that it should be restricted to expenditure above the threshold for the Bellwin scheme, since authorities should be expected to have made contingency provision for costs up to that level. More generally, it would be necessary to ensure that claims for assistance were for expenditure which had genuinely been undertaken as a result of storm damage. He was also happy to discuss with the Environment Secretary the possibility of additional capital allocations for authorities which needed to undertake capital works to repair damage caused by the storm. Finally, he was prepared to look again at the External Financing Limit for the electricity industry if that was necessary to ensure that the costs of coping with storm damage could be met without an immediate price increase.

In discussion the following main points were made

- a. There was a strong case for a general announcement that evening that the existing financial arrangements - the Bellwin scheme - would be available to local authorities in the South East and East which had incurred costs in dealing with storm damage. The present situation was quite exceptional, and would not provide a precedent for assistance with any damage caused by normal weather conditions.
- b. An early announcement was bound to lead to questions about the details of the scheme, and about the block grant consequences of emergency expenditure. A line on these would need to be agreed in time for the statement which the Environment Secretary was to make in Parliament on Wednesday.

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c. It would be important not to give assistance with costs which were insurable, particularly where they were similar to costs incurred by members of the public, such as repairs to buildings.

d. It would be premature to make any announcement about Government assistance with the replacement of trees while many members of the public were still suffering from problems caused by fallen trees which had not yet been cleared.

e. Any scheme of assistance with storm damage in England should be extended to similar costs incurred in Wales as a result of the extensive flooding there.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, summing up the discussion, said that it was useful to have an up-to-date picture of the situation. It was clear that the responsible agencies were making every effort to cope with storm damage and restore normal services. Reports that the army was refusing to provide assistance without assurances that its costs would be reimbursed were a cause of considerable concern. The Ministry of Defence should ensure that local commanders were instructed to provide assistance in present circumstances without any such assurances. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in consultation with the Chief Secretary, Treasury, should continue his investigation of the causes of the failure of the Government Telephone Network on Friday morning and recommend measures to prevent a recurrence. The meeting also noted that the Secretary of State for Defence had commissioned an inquiry into the Meteorological Office's failure to give advanced warning of the storm: it was important that the results should be ready as soon as possible.

As far as financial assistance was concerned, the Environment Secretary should announce that evening that the Government had decided that the existing provisions for assistance to local authorities in an emergency - the Bellwin scheme - would be available in the present circumstances. The Environment Secretary should agree with the Ministers principally concerned the precise form of words to be used, which should include a short general

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statement on progress in responding to storm damage, particularly by the electricity industry and British Telecom. He should prepare a fuller statement on similar lines, again in consultation with the Ministers principally concerned, to be made in Parliament on Wednesday. The Environment Secretary should agree with the Chief Secretary, Treasury the precise details of the scheme, and of an exclusion from total expenditure for the purposes of calculating block grant for costs which remained to be met locally. Similar arrangements should be agreed between the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary, Treasury, in respect of costs arising from the severe flooding in the Principality. The Secretary of State for Energy should discuss with the Chief Secretary, Treasury any adjustment to the External Financing Limit for the electricity industry which was necessary to prevent the costs of dealing with storm damage resulting in immediate price increases. The meeting noted that the Environment Secretary would want to bring forward arrangements for Government assistance with tree replacement, but felt that the presentation of any announcement would need careful handling at a time when many people were still suffering from problems caused by fallen trees.

The Meeting -

1. Invited the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in consultation with the Chief Secretary, Treasury, to continue his investigation of the causes of the failure of the Government Telephone Network on Friday morning and to recommend measures to prevent a recurrence.
2. Invited the Secretary of State for Defence to report as soon as possible the results of the inquiry he had commissioned into the Meteorological Office's failure to give advanced warning of the storm.
3. Invited the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Wales to agree with the Chief Secretary, Treasury the detailed terms of schemes for financial assistance to local authorities incurring emergency costs, and of corresponding exclusions from total expenditure for the purpose of calculating block grant.
4. Invited the Environment Secretary, in consultation with the Ministers principally concerned, to prepare the text of statements to be made that evening and in Parliament on Wednesday, on the lines set out in the Lord President's summing up of their discussion.

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5. Invited the Secretary of State for Energy to agree with the Chief Secretary, Treasury any adjustment in External Financing Limit for the electricity industry necessary to prevent costs arising from storm damage resulting in immediate price increases.

6. Noted that the Environment Secretary would bring forward proposals on Government assistance with tree replacement.

Cabinet Office

20 October 1987

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

No ack 19 October 1987

I enclose a copy of a telex which the Prime Minister has received from the President of Malawi about the storm experienced at the end of last week.

I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to President Banda.

Mark Addison

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

✓/6

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MS 274V

Lie

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1987

REPLANTING OF TREES

BF || The Prime Minister, as I mentioned to you at the weekend, has suggested that it would be useful for the Government to be able to announce early this week that special grants are to be made available to help finance the replacement of trees which were lost through last week's storm. I should be grateful if urgent consideration could be given to this.

I am copying this letter to Shirley Stagg (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Jill Rutter (HM Treasury).

David Norgrove

Robin Young Esq
Department of the Environment.

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Lord Whitelaw this afternoon chaired a meeting of Ministers which had full reports from all the Ministers concerned with coping with Friday's storm damage. They also had a report from the Secretary of State for Wales about the floods *the*.

The meeting strongly commended the work done by the emergency services, local authorities, the electricity and water industries, British Telecommunications engineers and others.

Ministers noted that ^{out} of seven million consumers, electricity had been restored ^{to} all but 180,000 and that all major roads had now been reopened.

The armed services would continue to give all possible support to local authorities and the emergency services in the effort to restore communities to normal life.

The Government have decided that the existing financial arrangements for emergencies - the Bellwin scheme - will be available to local authorities in the East and South East and in Wales. The Government do not yet know the costs. ^{They} ~~It~~ will be discussing the situation with local authorities.

Departmental ministers will keep in close touch with the recovery effort and will report to Cabinet on Thursday.

PROGRESS ON COPING WITH STORM DAMAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN
SITUATION REPORTED BY DEPARTMENTS 3 PM 19 OCTOBER

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies

South Eastern Electricity Board

100,000 still off supply. Main areas affected

Tunbridge Wells 29k

Crawley 24k

Hythe & Romney 22k

Assistance of 440 staff from other Boards + 140 staff from other Boards on the way, 30 from the CEGB, 100 from Army and Air Force with equipment and helicopters and 75 from Contractors and Local Authorities.

Of 1.843M consumers 1.76M have power.

Southern Electricity Board

60-65,000 customers still off. 12,500 faults. Large amount of complete rebuilding required. Main problem is shortage of linesmen. Difficulties in obtaining assistance from the Army eg who pays. Aim to get everything back by Friday but will be hard pressed to achieve this. Negotiating with police to close roads to speed line rebuilding.

Of 2.348M consumers 2.3M have power.

Eastern Electricity Board

75,000 still off supply. Situation better than previously expected. Has sufficient extra assistance including military.

Of 2.82M consumers 2.77M have power.

Gas Supplies

Despite a large number of mains and services being damaged by fallen trees and some transmission stations being affected by electricity cuts full gas supplies have been maintained with only minor exceptions.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN WALES AND CUMBRIA AS A RESULT OF FLOODING

South Wales Electricity Board

1,700 customers had been disconnected, due to flooding in Carmarthen. Difficulty of access hampered repair work. All but 150 now reconnected.

Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board

Any customers cut off should have been reconnected by midday today.

North Western Electricity Board

All customers in Cumbria are back on supply.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industry No major problems reported today. Sheerness Steel now operating at 90% capacity.

City of London No significant operating problems due to storm damages.

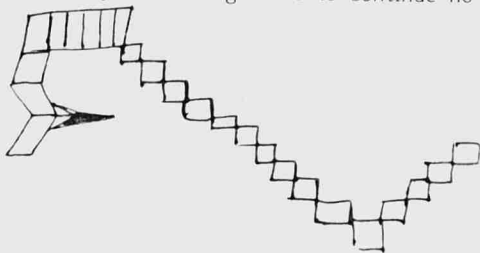
BT In London and South East fault rate up to 12 times normal. Most new installation work stopped for time being. All staff on fault repair, plus 300 from other areas already arrived with 200 more on the way. 100 small exchanges still operating on standby power. 3000 telegraph poles require replacement. No estimate available for completion date. Further problems arising in West Wales (main exchange in Carmarthen out of action) due to flooding. Problems also anticipated in NW England, Scotland and Northern Ireland following heavy rain.

ENVIRONMENT

Housing Many houses damaged but local authorities in London, Eastern and South Eastern Regions report situation under control. No major structural problems with Tower blocks have been identified - superficial damage only. No formal requests yet received from local authorities for financial assistance - but many expected in due course.

Water Anglian Water Authority - standby power still being used in Suffolk and parts of Essex to provide drinking water. Some problems at sewage pumping stations due to lack of main power - no public health hazard reported at present. Service accommodation being provided for Water Authority staff clearing water courses.

Southern Water Authority - report slight problem over (in their opinion) premature withdrawal of military assistance in clearing water courses. Military reported to take view that work they were being asked to continue no longer constituted an emergency.



TRANSPORT

Rail All main railway lines are now open only a few branch lines in Eastern and Southern regions still blocked - completion of clearance may take a further 3 days.

Bridge destroyed by flood water has put Central Wales line out of action - repairs likely to take some time. 4 people killed but 13 rescued when train ran off broken bridge into flood water

7

Roads All motor ways, trunk and D.Transport principle roads open. Some local authority roads still blocked - especially in Kent.

Shipping MV Hengist still aground in Folkestone Harbour - otherwise no major problems.

Aviation Normal.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL COMMUNITY:

Over the weekend, approximately 650 soldiers have been deployed to respond to requests for assistance in clearing roads and railway lines and restoring electricity supply to areas of Kent and East Anglia. In East Anglia, soldiers helped clear a caravan site at Clacton-on-Sea, generators were delivered to farms and old people's homes and to the Port of Harwich. In Kent, soldiers delivered meals to OAPS, cleared the rail line between Dover and Folkstone and assisted the Water Authority to clear rivers. The RAF provided support helicopters to assist the Electricity Board to survey damage to power lines and to move soldiers to the scene of clearance operations. All over the area, affected by the storm, members of all three services assisted in tree clearance operations and provided chain saws to local authorities to help the task of clearance. Similar requests for assistance continue to be received and are responded to as they arise.

HEALTH

Only two Regional Health Authorities report difficulties:

EAST ANGLIA Ambulance services in Essex and Suffolk and Norfolk are for the time being dealing with emergency calls only, ie. no routine hospital visits, day centre etc. journeys are being carried out. The reason is difficulty in negotiating blocked roads and the time required putting the facility to answer emergency calls in peril. Five hospitals are still without mains power but are coping for essential functions on standby generators. (Total cost so far estimated at £0.75M).

SOUTH EAST THAMES A shortage of blood for transfusions means that only essential surgery will be performed for the next two days, for the next three days for blood groups 0+ and 0-. (Total cost so far estimated as £15-20M (many buildings damaged)).

SOCIAL SECURITY No major problems. One office in West Wales closed 19 October as staff unable to reach it - emergency telephone number advertised for contact.

CHARLES

Thinking about the Prime Minister's idea, the main objection I can see from some parts of Whitehall is that to announce a grant of that kind might make it more difficult to resist claims from local authorities and emergency powers for the costs caused by the storm. It may be that such compensation may anyway have to be paid. If so then the objection falls. But in case there is to be no compensation it would be helpful in arguing the case in Whitehall to know any reaction the Prime Minister might have to this. Of course she may prefer to say nothing at this stage in which case I shall make the proposal on her behalf and then report back.

DAVID NORGROVE

17 October 1987



LESOTHO

THE PALACE,
MASERU,
L E S O T H O .

17 October, 1987

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Dear Prime Minister,

We have learned with shock and sorrow
about the disaster that has befallen London and her
environs.

This is to express our sympathy with
those who have been affected by this disaster. More
importantly, on our own behalf and on behalf of the
people of Lesotho, who have, over the years, been so
close to the British people, We convey our condolences
to the bereaved families.

Yours sincerely,

Moribese
MOSHOESHOE II
KING OF LESOTHO

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T185187



Jamaica

October 17th, 1987

Office of the Prime Minister

SUBJECT cc MASTER
OPS

Jamaica House
Kingston

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister

cs. F.C.O.

CDP

17/k

Dear Margaret,

I was shocked to learn of the devastating freak storm which ravaged southern sections of Britain yesterday. In the Caribbean there is at least predictability to the bad weather.

I trust that the loss of lives was minimal and the damage recoverable.

My best wishes.

Edchi



'T' CC/PC

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T193A187**

Premier

*The Cabinet Office
Hamilton 5-24, Bermuda
16th October, 1987.*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
England.

**SUBJECT re MASTER
OPS**

My Dear Prime Minister,

With Bermuda's experience with Hurricane Emily so fresh in mind, I write to offer, on behalf of the Government and people of Bermuda, our sincere regrets on the devastation caused by the hurricane which struck Britain earlier today.

We were saddened to learn of the loss of life and the widespread destruction which was caused by the storm and I would be grateful if you would convey to all those concerned the sympathy and best wishes of the people of Bermuda.

If there is any way in which the Government of Bermuda may assist you, please let us know.

*Kindest personal regards
John*

