

WYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 7172 (Llinell Union)

Oddi wrth yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol



WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE

WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER

Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 7172 (Direct Line)

From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

BF 5. 2. 81

2 March 1981

*I have asked the Welsh Office
for the "report" mentioned in
Dear Mike, the draft. Sddawwi within 2 days.*

In John Craig's absence in Japan, I enclose
a draft Private Secretary reply to Cynon
Valley Borough Council as requested in your
letter of 16 February.

*MJD
3/3*

yours,

Chris Burdett

C J BURDETT
Private Secretary

M Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1



A

BACKGROUND NOTE ON DISPUTE BETWEEN CYNON VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND MID GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Cynon Valley Borough Council wrote to the Welsh Office on 12 June 1978 enclosing a formal request for a determination under part II of schedule 20 to the Local Government Act 1972 (now repealed and re-enacted by schedule 7 of the Highways Act 1980). The Mid Glamorgan County Council have refused to approve supplementary expenditure by the Borough Council in respect of highway maintenance for the years 1975/6 and 1976/7; the sums in question are £9761.36 and £9388.29 respectively.

The letter was acknowledged on 15 June 1978 but the papers were mislaid and only came to light again in January 1979.

After seeking legal advice on the procedure to be adopted in this case, the Welsh Office wrote to the Borough Council for permission to forward their case to the County Council for comments; approval was received in February 1979 and the papers were passed to the County Council with a request for their comments and their agreement to their comments being sent to the Borough Council for their further observations.

Despite a number of reminders, the County Council's comments were not received until November 1979 and then did not convey their agreement to them being passed on to the Borough Council.

This agreement was finally received and the County Council's letter was passed to the Borough Council in March 1980.

The final observations of the Borough Council were received in May 1980; no further correspondence has been received from them since that date.

All the observations and comments were then collated and engineering and legal advice has been sought.

Whilst the more substantial delays have been the fault of the County Council some delays have occurred in the Welsh Office due to pressure of work and the allocation of staff to other duties.

Recent legal advice on another similar case has now enabled a submission and draft decision letter to be prepared and this was issued on 3 March.



DRAFT REPLY FOR PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY TO SEND TO
CYNON VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 February about your Council's request to the Secretary of State for Wales to determine a dispute between your Council and the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

I have received a report from the Welsh Office on this matter. The Welsh Office very much regrets that some part of the delay in dealing with this case is attributable to them. They have asked me to pass on to your Council their apologies for the time that it has taken to reach a decision in this matter but I understand that a letter conveying the Secretary of State's determination has now been sent.