

**Please reply to:**

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc  
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The Rt Hon The Baroness Thatcher  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Thank you very much for your kindness in writing to me on behalf of yourself and Denis when you heard about my illness. It is very frustrating to be struck down by this particular illness at this time but I am hopeful that, with a bit of patience and medical help, I may be able to make some form of recovery. In the meantime I am taking the greatest of interest in the extraordinary events that are taking place around us and I am sure you are doing the same.

I was amused the other day to be asked by someone that *it is all very well for you to criticise the failure of the Government to solve the strike but you had the same trouble with the miners*. I gave them a brief account of how we planned, well in advance and very carefully, as to how the miners could be defeated and how it turned out that our strategy did indeed work. It is a great tribute to you and your Government that in the end you turned out to be right and I think everyone, even those who ill-disposed towards you, must recognise that that is so.

I do think that Tony Blair and his colleagues have been extremely remiss in failing to use the last nine months to prepare, as we did, for the strike that was so clearly coming up. I do hope that one day somebody will come to recognise this. We did have a lot of luck, particularly that Arthur Scargill was such a bad strategist, but the fact is that we prepared every detail of how to keep the country supplied with coal even when both the mines and the railways were not working.

It undoubtedly was one of the highlights of my political life that we worked together on that and I am very proud that we did that so successfully. I found it a great privilege and a great pleasure to work with you and wish you very well in all that you are doing now.

Once more many thanks for writing. I am being well looked after although I doubt if I shall be able to return to the House of Lords before many months are out.

**THE RT HON VISCOUNT YOUNGER OF LECKIE KT KCVO TD DL**