



What action does
C.S.D. propose.
We can't stand
idly by for
much
longer.
not.

CSD have
advised. NFA
WM 7/5

Press Office
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

Prime Minister (for info)

The main problem is that the DVLC
computers will overheat and fail
without adequate air conditioning.
The PSA engineers are part of the
permanent workforce and are members
of the IPCS.

5 May 1981

WM
5/5

William Rickett Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear William,

This is to let you know that a serious situation has arisen
at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea. PSA
engineers who are responsible for maintaining heating and
air conditioning at DVLC are on strike and are picketing the
site.

Over the weekend they have prevented supplies of nitrogen
being delivered which are essential to maintain heating and air
conditioning. Further attempts today to secure delivery however
have failed. The delivery of the post is also being held up
and attempts to secure that have also failed.

|| We are considering urgently with PSA what other action might
be open to us to get in the essential supplies of nitrogen and
so to enable the heating and air conditioning which is essential
for proper working and computer operations to be restored. That
is the first essential and we shall also be considering urgently
what we can do to get the mail in.

Meanwhile we are issuing a press notice informing the public of
the effects of the action on applications to DVLC, and advising
them of what steps they might take. The main problem here is
that new drivers who have not previously had a provisional
licence will not be able to start driving until they actually
receive their provisional licences and these of course will
be held up while the action continues. To overcome this problem
would need a change in main legislation. The collection of
vehicle excise duty is not affected. This is done through
post offices and our local vehicle licensing offices.

I am copying this letter to David Edmonds (Environment) and
Jim Buckley (Civil Service Department).

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Mayer

R A J MAYER
Private Secretary