

PRIME MINISTER

Freedom of Kensington and Chelsea

I have had a word with Colin Peterson about this and attach his note to me. As you have lived in the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for so long I think it might be difficult to refuse. I see no reason however why we cannot say that you would be delighted to accept but will not be able to stay for very long.

*C.S.*

17 May 1979

*I really don't want  
to get involved in a  
big ceremony other than  
what they may want. Yes, in  
principle - but only small ceremony  
not.*



MISS STEPHENS

Freedom of Kensington and Chelsea

I think this is very much for the Prime Minister's personal decision. There is certainly no objection that I can see; Mr Callaghan received the Honorary Freedom of Sheffield in February this year. So far as I know he had no personal connection with Sheffield, and the honour was conferred "in recognition of the eminent service rendered by him to the Nation".

If the Prime Minister decided to accept, perhaps you could hint to the Council that she might not be able to spare very much time? But I realise that they would want to do things in style.

CVP

16 May 1979



MR. PETERSON

I wonder if you have any guidance to give us on whether or not the Prime Minister should receive the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Kensington?

Having lived there for 25 years, I think it would be rather rude if she refused but have you please got a precedent?

*E.J.*

15 May 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Do you want to receive  
the Freedom of the Royal  
Borough of Kensington and Chelsea?  
Although this might be fun I  
am afraid it will be very time-  
consuming.

E.J.

11 May 1979

What would  
be the consequences  
of refusing? Is it done  
to refuse? Can it  
be done nicely? Or should  
we plead no time. And