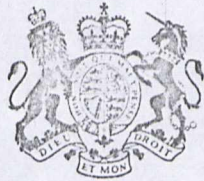


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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 May 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Richard

I last wrote to you on 25 November 1980 about the investigation by the Security Commission into the case involving Mr. Wagstaff, a former Executive Officer in the Ministry of Defence. The Commission reported on 2 April; I attach a copy of their report, which makes a number of criticisms concerning the behaviour of members of staff of the Ministry of Defence during events which took place before this Government took office. It also criticises the Ministry in respect of the management of Wagstaff, the regulations which were in force at the time, and the delay in investigation, and recommends that the Official Committee on Security should take steps to ensure that security regulations at present and in future are designed to cope adequately with advances in the technology for handling classified information.

In accordance with the arrangements announced in 1969 and subsequently modified, I will publish the Report. But I should be grateful for your agreement to a minor amendment in the published version to follow precedent and avoid specific reference to the Official Committee on Security by substituting "the responsible officials". Lord Diplock, the Commission Chairman, has agreed to this change.

/I propose

AD

I propose to acknowledge the criticisms and have already taken steps to implement the recommendations. I should like to follow the practice normal in such cases and make the announcement by way of a written Question and Answer on 8 May.

I hope you can agree to proceed in this way and to put down in due course a written Question that I could answer on the lines of the attached draft. If you are content, my office will make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable Michael Foot M.P.