

Prime Minister

*M*

PARTY CONFERENCE

1. I attach an up-to-date programme (Flag A.)
2. One query which has been brought to our attention is that as you are not attending the Opening Session, or the Civic Ball (Tuesday evening) you will not be seeing the Mayor of Brighton during the week. Would you like to invite him in for a drink with you before the lunch in your Suite on Tuesday at, say, 12.45 p.m.? This would get it over with early during the week, and either Stephen or Michael could ensure that he does not stay too long so that the lunch can start fairly promptly. Agree?
3. Tour of Party Stands  
Derek suggests that you might do this from 11.30-12.00 on the Wednesday, although we need not tell anyone about this until that morning. Do you agree?
4. I attach a copy of correspondence between yourself and Mr Howells, Chairman of Nicholas Edwards' constituency (Flag B). I understand that Nicholas Edwards spoke to you after the last Cabinet before the recess about the possibility of Mr Howells seeing you at the Party Conference. Nicholas Edwards will be in Japan that week, but Michael or Stephen would sit in on any such meeting. Would you agree to see Mr Howells at 12.15 on Thursday, 11th October?

*I think  
will have to  
go to the  
Civic Ball  
for a short  
time.*

*Yes no*

*Before then  
Thursday is  
dependent on  
because of the  
spend on  
Friday*

.../...

5. I attach a 'reduced' list of your engagements so that you can make a note about which clothes you might like to take down to Brighton. (Flag C) I would suggest that your luggage might go down to Brighton ahead of you on the morning of Tuesday 9th October so that either Amanda or I can unpack for you.

TESSA GAISMAN

27.9.84



CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE - 1984PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMMETuesday 9th October

0915	Depart Downing Street	
1030 approx	Arrive Grand Hotel	
1055	Depart for Conference Centre	
1105	LAW & ORDER (Leon Brittan)	
1210	CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO CONFERENCE	
1300	Lunch in Suite	
1420	Depart for Conference Centre	
1430	ENERGY (Peter Walker)	
1530	Return to Grand Hotel	
1535	Meeting with Mrs Sheff (Soviet Jewry) + photographer	
1600	Work on speech	
1800	Look in at South Eastern Area Reception	Grand Hotel
1830 approx	Work on speech	
	Working supper in Suite	
2230 approx	Look in at Civic Ball - Brighton Centre	

Wednesday 10th October

0830	Hair	
0920	Depart for Conference Centre	
0930	RATES (Patrick Jenkin)	
1030	DEFENCE (Michael Heseltine)	
1130	Tour Party stands	
1200	Return to Grand Hotel	
1230	Lunch for constituents	
1420	Depart for Conference Centre	
1430	ECONOMY AND TAXATION (Nigel Lawson)	
1535	Return to Grand Hotel	
	Work on speech	
1800	Party Treasurer's Reception	Grand Hotel

1930	Mayor of Hove's Reception	Town Hall, Hove
2000	Agents' Dinner	Town Hall, Hove
2230 approx	Look in at YC Ball	Top Rank Suite

Thursday 11th October

0830	Hair	
0920	Depart for Conference Centre	
0930	FOOD & FARMING (Michael Jopling)	
1030	EMPLOYMENT (Tom King)	
1130	Return to Grand Hotel	
1200	Mr Broome + General Wyldbore-Smith	
1215	Mr Eric Howells (Chairman, Pembroke Constituency)	
1245	Lunch with Women Chairman	Hobden Room, Grand Hotel
1430 onwards	Work on speech Working supper in Suite	
2245 approx	Look in at Agents' Ball	Top Rank Suite
2330 approx	Return to Grand Hotel	

Friday 12th October

0900	Work on speech	
1200	Hair	
1230	Make-up Lunch in suite	
1415	Depart for Conference Centre	
1430	ADDRESS CONFERENCE	
1530 approx	Return to Grant Hotel	
1600	Thank you Tea Party in Suite	
1700 approx	Return by car to Chequers	



Prime Minister

CLOTHES FOR PARTY CONFERENCE

Tuesday  
9th October

Travel down  
to Brighton  
Attend Conference  
Lunch in suite  
Attend Conference  
—  
Look in at SE Area  
Reception  
Working supper

Wednesday  
10th October

Attend Conference  
Constituency lunch  
Attend Conference  
—

Party Treasurers'  
Reception

AGENTS' DINNER

Black Tie

YC Ball

Thursday  
11th October

Attend Conference  
Lunch with Women  
Chairmen

Work on speech  
all afternoon  
and evening  
—

Agents' Ball

Black Tie

Friday  
12th October

Work on speech  
all morning

Address Conference

\* The platform back-drop will be middling to light blue

Prime Minister

CLOTHES FOR PARTY CONFERENCE

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9th October

Travel down  
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AGENTS' DINNER  
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all morning

Address Conference

\* The platform back-drop will be middling to light blue



THE RT. HON. NICHOLAS EDWARDS, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26 September 1984

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mrs Gaisman

Further to your letter of 24 September and our telephone conversation, I write to confirm that Mr Edwards has spoken directly with the Prime Minister regarding the meeting which you are arranging for the Prime Minister and Mr Howells.

As I said, all the parties concerned are aware that Mr Edwards will be unable to attend since he will be undertaking an official trip to Japan and Korea during Party Conference week.

Yours sincerely

*Kate Howell*

Kate Howell  
Private Secretary

Mrs T Gaisman  
Political Office  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Howells

'A'



10 DOWNING STREET

24th September 1984

Dear Mr Edwards,

Mr Alison is away in his constituency this week, but he has asked me to write to you in connection with the possibility of your Constituency Chairman, Mr Eric Howells, coming to see the Prime Minister during the week of the Party Conference, at the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

I attach the correspondence which relates to this matter.

From the Prime Minister's diary, it would be possible for her to see Mr Howells at 12.15 p.m. on Thursday, 11th October. However, if meetings are arranged for individuals to come and see the Prime Minister, it is normally done through their own Member of Parliament. As Mr Howells has written direct, Mr Alison wanted to bring this to your attention, and wondered whether you would be able to attend the meeting, if it was set up. Do you think you could very kindly let me have your comments, and advice, to pass on to Mr Alison when he returns to the office?

Yours sincerely,

Tessa Gaisman

Tessa Gaisman (Mrs)  
Political Office

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP



87F

7th September 1984

I am writing on behalf of Mr Michael Alison to thank you for your letter of 4th September.

We will have a look at the Prime Minister's diary for the Party Conference week and will come back to you as soon as possible.

Tessa Gaisman (Mrs)  
Political Office

E W B Howells Esq



Telephone:  
Whitland 240205  
(STD 0994)

"Upper Fron"  
Llanddewi Velfrey  
Narberth  
Dyfed, SA67 7EJ

4 September 1984

Ack

Michael Alison Esq  
Parliamentary Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Dear Sir

I refer you to the Prime Minister's letter dated 24th July 1984 in reply to my letter dated 30th June requesting a meeting regarding the introduction of milk quotas and the considerable disquiet that has taken place in Dyfed as a result, not only among farmers but actually the whole community. In her letter Mrs Thatcher suggested that if I was attending the Party Conference at Brighton she would be happy to have a meeting with me there. I write to confirm that I will be at the conference and will be available for the meeting at any time that is convenient for her. I am however disappointed that she is unable to meet the delegation as I requested, also I query the statement of 'a short word together'. As County Chairman of the N.F.U. and Constituency Chairman of the Conservative Party the above has taken much of my time during the past six months and I would respectfully suggest a half hour meeting or at least fifteen minutes as being the minimum. I do of course realise the Prime Ministers' very heavily committed time table but a shorter meeting would not be worthwhile.

I thank you in anticipation of an early and favourable reply.



Yours sincerely

E W B Howells



Howells



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24th July 1984

Dear Mr. Howells,

Thank you for your letter of 30th June, in which you bring to my notice the considerable disquiet which may Welsh farmers are feeling in the light of the new provisions which we are introducing for milk production.

I have noted carefully what you have written, and I understand from Nicholas Edwards, whom I have consulted personally about your letter, that you have in fact had discussions with him about the more detailed aspects of the new milk regime. I will not therefore respond in detail to the points you make in your letter because I am sure that these will already have been dealt with in your discussions with Nicholas. But I have looked carefully at your suggestion that I should meet you and a party of farmers from the Pembrokeshire NFU sometime in the future to talk over these problems. I am afraid that it would not really be practicable for me to do this given not only my very heavily committed timetable, but the moral obligation that such a meeting would place upon me to receive many other such deputations. I would like the chance to talk to you privately about these matters, and I wonder if we could agree to have a short word together at the Conservative Party Conference at Brighton this autumn if you are going to be there. If this is agreeable to you, perhaps you could let my Parliamentary Private Secretary, Michael Alison, know, so that he can make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

E W B Howells Esq



Telephone:  
Whitland 240205  
(STD 0994)

"Upper Fron"  
Llanddewi Velfrey  
Narberth  
Dyfed, SA67 7EJ

30 June 1984

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP  
32 Smith Square  
Westminster  
LONDON  
SW1P 3HH

64

Dear Mrs Thatcher

I am writing to you in a desperate attempt to ask of you to please look carefully at the plight of the agricultural community at this present time. I am writing to you in many capacities, firstly as Chairman of the National Farmers Union in Pembrokeshire, also as Chairman of the Conservative Party (Nicholas Edwards Constituency a position which I have held for the last 6 years and one which I am under pressure by the farmers to resign from) I am also Treasurer of the Party in Wales and you may remember I made a financial appeal in the recent conference in Porthcawl and lastly but by no means least as a farmer myself.

The present crisis in the farming industry is having a far reaching effect not only on the dairy sector that is directly affected by the 'Quota' system and farming generally, but also on the servicing industry that is so dependent on agriculture. The effect on these people could be far more serious and devastating than that on farming itself.

The whole community in a county like Pembrokeshire depends on the prosperity of agriculture where the standard is already lower than that enjoyed in other parts such as the east of England.

The farmers do not deny the need to curb the present surplus in the dairy sector, but question the suddenness and severity of the cuts and the long delay in finalising the scheme. Had there been a transition period of two or three years the industry and the rural community would have been able to adjust itself without so much hardship. Now it is evident that we are not only going to see a large number of progressive and efficient farmers being destroyed but more in the supply industry will go bankrupt.

Inefficient farmers who have not increased their production or modernised their farms are far more likely to survive. The general feeling is



that while agreeing that there is overproduction and we need a review of the CAP the problems have been caused by the Governments of the EEC (including the U.K.) who have let the situation get out of hand during the past 5 years.

I am writing to you not only because of the present unrest among the farmers, but also because large numbers of loyal Conservative Party workers are now turning away from the Party.

In 1979 we lost the Mid and West Wales Euro seat to Labour by 10,000 votes. This time with a far more able and hard working candidate in David Lewis we lost the seat by over 30,000 due to the farming vote. As you are aware we will probably have a by election in Carmarthen in the Autumn and I now not only fear that Nigel Thomas will lose but he may not even retain his deposit and this will have a very serious effect on the morale of party workers in West Wales.

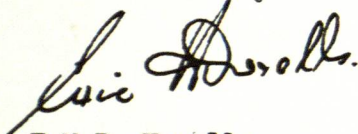
As you are aware there is at the moment a very active Action Committee in Dyfed, which is gaining a lot of publicity and support and this is before the quota's have had any real effect, while many deplore the action of this committee in Porthcawl, I am convinced that unless something positive is done before the Autumn when the 'Quota' levi will be deducted from the milk cheque, a very large number of moderate farmers who not only vote Conservative but who also support the Party financially will join the action committee.

I feel it would help considerably if you were to agree to meet a party of six farmers from the N.F.U. in Pembrokeshire in the near future at No 10 or another venue of your choice and at a time and date convenient to you. The length of meeting I would leave up to you, but suggest however if you fail to agree to the above then a joint meeting should be held between Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire N.F.U. but the total should then be twelve. The farmers that I would select would be prominent but responsible members of the community.

During the past six months Nicholas Edwards has met us on a number of occasions and we are extremely grateful to him, but due to various reasons the situation is far more serious in Dyfed than anywhere in the country and many are going to be destroyed, a sympathetic ear by the Prime Minister may be of a little assistance.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely



E W B Howells



Howells  
B/F

13th July 1984

I am writing to thank you for your letter of 30th June, addressed to the Prime Minister. For some reason this has only recently arrived here, but it will be placed before the Prime Minister, and a reply sent to you as soon as possible.

Tessa Gaisman (Mrs)  
Political Office

W W B Howells Esq .



Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG

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9 July 1984

*Dear Mike,*

Thank you for letting me have a copy of the letter from Mr Howells to the Prime Minister.

As the Chairman of an Association Mr Howells probably deserves a reply from the Prime Minister herself.

I have shown the letter to my Secretary of State. He feels that it would not be helpful for the Prime Minister to meet such a delegation and it would certainly create an undesirable precedent. Whether the Prime Minister would agree to see Mr Howells on his own I do not know nor do I think that it would satisfy his desires. Nevertheless, the Prime Minister should see this letter.

The Secretary of State has had frequent meetings both with Mr Howells and with many dairy farmers in Wales and is fully informed of their problems, and in fact devoted a substantial proportion of his speech in Porthcawl to the current difficulties faced by farmers.

Perhaps we should talk about this further over the telephone. Certainly, I think my Secretary of State would appreciate a copy of the reply which you eventually send to Mr Howells.

*Yours,  
Chris*

CHRIS BUTLER

Mike Webb Esq  
Political Office  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1