

PRIME MINISTER

Rowland

file

Attached is the correspondence between Mr. Rowland and Nicholas Ridley. As you will see from Mr. Ridley's letter of 7 June, the Treasury seem to have adopted a rather dismissive tone with Mr. Rowland, and I am not surprised that he was a little put out. I have told Mr. Ridley's office that the phrasing of the letter of 7 June was rather unfortunate, to say the least. We now await Mr. Rowland's later letter.

We will later pick
up again when his
letter arrives.

✓
Please look out for it!
NB
ms.

26 August, 1983.

ROWLAND, DEBONO LIMITED

Directors:

Peter M. B. Rowland
John Percival (Res. France)

11, Upper Brook Street
London W1Y 1PB

Associates:

J. G. Senior, OBE (Dubai)
Richard Coulson (Nassau)
John Kitchen, FIB

Tel: 01 - 493 9188/9
01 - 499 5904 (AnsaFone)

Telex: 23143
Cables: Monmachro

10th June, 1983.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt.Hon.Nicholas Ridley, M.P.,
The House of Commons,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear *Nicholas,*

Many thanks for your letter of the 7th June, and for mentioning the London & Northern Group matter to the Revenue.

I am sorry if you felt aggrieved at my writing to the P.M. but it seemed we had come to a complete dead end, and I considered the matter of sufficient importance not simply to abandon it. In any case I would probably not have done so except that, as you may or may not know, I was her pupil/master when she was in Revenue Chambers (rather appropriately) and we do keep in touch occasionally.

I am still puzzled why there is so much resistance to the suggestion in the Department. My immediate reaction to being told that something desirable is impracticable is to find a way of doing it, but no doubt you are much too busy to discuss the matter further. I shall therefore reluctantly treat the matter as closed so far as you are concerned, unless I hear to the contrary.

In the meantime, many congratulations on the election and very best wishes for the next Parliament.

With many thanks,

Yours
PS

FINANCIAL SECRETARY	
REC.	13 JUN 1983
ACTED	Mr KUCZYNSKI
COPIES TO	Mr ENGLE (P. Counsel)
	PS/JR



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Peter Rowland Esq

7 June 1983

Dear Mr Rowland,

Thank you for your letter of 19 May setting out the position of London & Northern Group PLC. I have asked the Inland Revenue to review their actions in this case, and, if appropriate, to discuss the matter with the Company.

It is not clear from your letter whether or not you act as an agent for the Company so for reasons of confidentiality I shall be unable to notify you of the outcome, but no doubt you will be kept informed by the Company.

No
The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 10 May on simplification of tax legislation. I do appreciate the strength of your feeling on this issue, but I was disappointed that you felt it right to appeal over my head to her. We are in full agreement on the need to keep legislation on taxation as simple as possible. The real issue is the practicality of your suggestions, and I am afraid there is nothing I can usefully add to the points made in my letters of 31 March and 4 May.

yours sincerely

Martin Donnelly

pp NICHOLAS RIDLEY