

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister ②

AT 26/3



Arrangements have now been made to get all the rebels to and from the meeting. They will travel in plain unmarked cars with plain clothes men.

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

27 March 1984

Dear John,

Good mb

You sent me a copy of a letter received by your Secretary of State from Mr Wilfred Johnson, one of the "rebel" councillors in Liverpool, who expressed fears for his safety between now and the budget meeting of the Liverpool City Council on 29 March.

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As you will see from the enclosed letter to Mr Johnson, we have been in touch with the police who will by now have made contact with Mr Johnson and, we hope, through him with any other councillors to discuss what arrangements are appropriate.

Although, as you said in your covering note to me, most of the points raised in the letter are for the Home Office and/or the police, I think we must leave it to your Department to reply to Mr Johnson's query about exemption from attendance at the City Council meeting.

I am sending a copy of this letter and the enclosure to Andrew Turnbull at No 10.

Yours GW

Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

J F Ballard, Esq.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

27 March 1984

Dear Mr Johnson,

The Secretary of State for the Environment has passed to the Home Secretary your letter, received on 26 March, about threats and possible disruption related to the meeting on 29 March of the Liverpool City Council.

Both Mr Jenkin and Mr Brittan were very concerned to hear of the problems you have encountered, and we have been in touch with the Chief Constable of Merseyside as a result of which, by the time you receive this letter, you will I am sure have been visited by the police. It is most important that you should disclose to them any threats to which you or your wife may have been subjected. I am sure they will be able to advise you that, if you have received threatening or other unpleasant telephone calls at your home, the police will investigate any possible criminal offences. British Telecom can, at your request, make arrangements for incoming calls to be received at the exchange so as to enable you to accept only those calls you wish to receive.

The police will also be ready to consider, in the light of any information you can give them, any necessary measures to ensure your safety. So far as the Council meeting on Thursday is concerned, you may be sure that the police will be taking all necessary measures to ensure that any persons entitled to attend the meeting are able to do so in safety.

You referred to the march which is likely to take place in the City on Thursday. As you will be aware, people wishing to take part in peaceful marches and other demonstrations are generally free to do so, provided they comply with the law. The police will ensure that the law is complied with on Thursday so as to ensure that any marches are peaceful and orderly and do not disrupt or obstruct the business of the Council.

Yours sincerely,
H Taylor

H H TAYLOR

W Johnson, Esq.

local gov relations