

The Prime Minister was willing that to assist the Lobby in processing the Report rapidly I should provide a list of the paragraph numbers of the more important paragraphs out of the total of 339 which made up the Report.

She had not of course authorised me to brief on the substance or contents of the Report and I had no intention of doing so. Nor have we done so prior to today.

It is now clear from this morning's broadcasting that a member or members of the Lobby has or have disclosed this intention to list key paragraphs to MPs, one of whom has also tabled a Parliamentary Question.

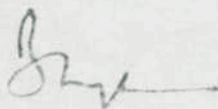
This has stimulated allegations that the purpose behind my identifying paragraphs is to manage the news.

I deeply resent this, especially when my performance can be readily checked later by reading the Report.

As a result the Prime Minister thinks it would be far better if I did not carry out my original plan. No question of news management could then arise.

I am therefore not able to help you in the way intended. I am sorry about this but I can only say the Lobby has brought it upon itself.

If I can be of assistance after publication in helping members of the Lobby through the Report I am at your disposal. But I stress that it will not be with any intention of news management.



B. INGHAM

18 January 1983

4-8 PM 1985



Mr R Butler



10 DOWNING STREET

MR TAYLOR
MR GOULDEN
MR STUBBS

Attached is the line that I shall be taking with the Lobby at 11.00am today on briefing on Franks. I would be grateful if you would follow it in your briefings and do nothing to assist the media in identifying the more important paragraphs in the Franks Report.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. Ingham'.

B. INGHAM

18 January 1983