



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr 147

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July 12th, 1984.

Mr. L.C. Stanford,
The District Auditor,
CHESTER.

Dear Mr. Stanford,

You will be aware that at yesterday's meeting of the Liverpool City Council a budget for the financial year 1984-85 was agreed. You will be further aware that on two previous occasions they considered unlawful budgets proposed by the Labour group, ~~which were~~ only defeated because of the opposition of six other Labour members.

Following these abortive meetings, and as the result of a 3 month delay before a lawful budget was passed, the loss to the Council must have been in excess of seven figures. It is said that you told the City Council representatives that so long as they were negotiating with the Government you would take no action. If this is correct, you appear to have neglected your own duty as guardian of the ratepayer's interests.

As I understand it your duty and function is to be independent of the protagonists in a dispute of this kind. Therefore, perhaps you will explain why:

- 1) no action was taken against those who have been playing ducks and drakes with the City's finances;
- 2) what action you now intend to take against those whose wilful misconduct has resulted in this loss.

If I have either misunderstood or misinterpreted the position no doubt you will say; but there remains no doubt in my own mind that those responsible for the introduction of an unlawful budget must be held to account for their actions.

It is said, with or without justification, that the district auditor is merely a toothless wonder. We will be able to judge the accuracy or otherwise of this description by your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton

David Alton MP

C.C. Patrick Jenkin MP
The Prime Minister
Sir Trevor Jones.