

NATIONAL COAL BOARD  
HOBART HOUSE  
GROSVENOR PLACE  
LONDON SW1X 7AE

01-235 2020

PS. JH

working miss  
(Sample letters)

CHAIRMAN  
Ian MacGregor

22nd October, 1985.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,  
Prime Minister,  
Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

20/10

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your reply to Mr. Hunt's letter to you dated 14th September, 1985.

You are, of course, fully aware of the Board's determination to prevent intimidation, and the actions being taken to do so. As you have said in your letter, these efforts by the Board's management have led to a marked reduction in the incidence of intimidation.

The Board's local management are fully aware of the considerable difficulties Mr. Hunt has been facing - resulting mainly from his own return to work during the strike, his effort to persuade others to do so, and the close proximity of his home to Darfield Main Colliery. I can assure you that every effort is being made to assist Mr. Hunt to resolve his problem. He was transferred, with his son, to Denby Grange, on 15th July, 1985 and this has resolved his work difficulties at Darfield Main.

As regards his housing situation, the Board have, of course, paid for all the damage reported to his present house. Action has been taken to find alternative housing for Mr. Hunt and he was interviewed again on Friday, 18th October regarding this. He was offered a short-term lease on a house nearer to his new colliery (Denby Grange), whilst he decides what permanent arrangement, as regards house purchase, he wishes to make. At the same time, the Board offered to purchase his present house at a price to be determined by independent valuation.

I hope that these further actions will fully overcome Mr. Hunt's difficulties.

Sincerely,







10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 October 1985

*Dear Mr Hunt,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 September.

I was most distressed to hear that you are suffering continued intimidation. The Government and the NCB are determined that intimidation of those who worked during the strike should not continue and succeed. I am glad to hear that the police have given you their support and co-operation. You do not mention whether local NCB management have been involved. In those areas where management have been given evidence and have been able to take firm action, there has been a very marked reduction in the incidence of intimidation and it is essentially for them to decide whether help can be given for the disposal of your house. I am pleased at least that you are happy with your transfer to another pit.

I am therefore passing your letter to the Chairman of the NCB so that he is aware of your present difficulties. I very much hope that things improve for you soon.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

R.F. Hunt, Esq.

*BM*

*cc NCB  
Energy*

*ECH*





FILE

27

cc: D/N

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 September, 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 29 July. She was concerned to hear that you are still suffering intimidation.

The Government and the National Coal Board are determined that the intimidation of miners like yourself who worked during the recent strike should not continue and must not succeed. It is noticeable that where managers have been given evidence and been able to take firm action, there has been a marked reduction in intimidation.

I have passed your letter to the Chairman of the National Coal Board, who I am sure will wish to ensure you are helped.

(Mark Addison)

J.E. John, Esq.





Je BEW

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 August 1985

Dear Mr. Dalton,

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 July and for your support.

I have ensured that all cases of intimidation or requests for transfers that have been brought to my attention have been pursued with the National Coal Board. I know Peter Walker and David Hunt have done the same and I am glad that we have in this way been able to discharge some of the debt we owe to the working miners.

The particular cases you mention have in fact already been reported to David Hunt and he is pursuing them with the NCB.

So good to hear from you again.  
We will do all we can to help the three  
concerned people mentioned in your letter

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Roger Dalton

Mrs. I. McGibbon