



## Conservative Central Office

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From:  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY  
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP

9th December 1985

Private & Confidential

Rec'd 10/12.

*D. Norman Tebbit*

Having now been in Central Office for three months it is time I made the organisational and personnel changes which I believe are needed.

The first priority is the appointment of my Chief of Staff. I have secured the agreement of Saatchis to the secondment of Michael Dobbs to this post. Michael will remain a Deputy Chairman of Saatchis. He will be running down his responsibilities over the next few months. As soon as I am satisfied over any possible conflicts of interest I would like to appoint him as a special adviser (unpaid) in order that he may have access to Government papers.

I would like Michael to start work as soon as possible. I suggest Monday 16th December, and a draft press release is attached describing his terms of reference.

The other new appointment will be that of Chief Information Officer who will be responsible for relations with the press and broadcasting media. For this appointment there are three candidates in play. I hope the matter will be settled shortly.

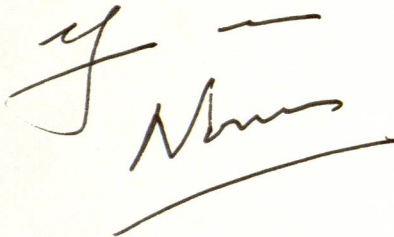
I am not convinced that I need so many Party Vice Chairmen. Tom Arnold is a tower of strength. Emma Nicholson's post is vital to our campaigns to capture the votes of women. Geoffrey Finsberg's London Vice Chairmanship is still essential. I could easily do without Hal Miller. However you may feel that there would be a downside to asking him to leave. I would be grateful for your advice.

2/.....



I inherited Harvey Thomas as Director of Communications. He is not the easiest person to integrate into the organisation. However I intend to do so. I also intend to bring Chris Lawson into help on this front.

I should report to you before long on the state of the Party and its finances.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. M.' followed by a surname that is partially obscured or illegible. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

The Prime Minister



## 10 DOWNING STREET

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Chairman

From time to time I get requests from Vice Chairmen of the Party to see the Prime Minister. For example at present, Emma Nicholson is coming in to see her in December and Jeffrey Archer is also pressing for a meeting with the Prime Minister. These meetings always last for at least half an hour.

Some of the Vice Chairmen of course do not seek meetings.

The Prime Minister's diary is so crowded that these meetings do impose an extra burden upon her. She would not, I think, want to say to them that she will not see them. But it may be something you want to discuss with your Vice Chairmen on a personal basis because there is nothing which they should be raising with the Prime Minister which you are not fully aware of. And it is to you that the Prime Minister looks for the administration of Conservative Party affairs.

I should add that I am writing this letter entirely off my own bat.



STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

25.11.85





Stephen  
cc. Michael

THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman has asked if he could come to see the Prime Minister about Central Office staff, etc.

The only possible time would be 1530 on Wednesday (he is due to come to the NUEC Meeting on Wednesday anyway). I explained this to Shirley but said that I would have to check because technically she has this slot blocked out in her diary, although only for briefing for the NUEC meeting. Presumably it would be OK to give this time to the Chairman. Can I go back to Shirley and say 'yes'?

TESSA  
8.11.85