

01-405 7641 Ext.

Communications on this subject should
be addressed to

THE LEGAL SECRETARY
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS,
LAW OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
LONDON, W.C.2.

②

I have checked with Nigel
Prime Minister
CD 29/1 at
Cabinet
office.

A J Wiggins Esq.
Room 324
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1

29 January 1986

Dear John.

WESTLANDS: PRIORITY WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR ANSWER
BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

We discussed this morning on the telephone six Questions down to the Attorney,
five for answer on 30 January, one on 31 January. You indicated that you
were content with the draft answers we are submitting this evening to the
Attorney. As agreed, I am enclosing a copy of the six draft answers and am
copying this letter and its enclosures to Nigel Wicks and Michael Stark.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Saunders.

M L SAUNDERS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Thursday 30 of January 19 86

QUESTION

MR. DAVID WINNICK: To ask Mr Attorney General, by what means the Solicitor General first learnt that the Prime Minister wished him to write to the then Secretary of State for Defence, the Right honourable Member for Henley; how this communication determined the content of the letter; and if he will make a statement.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY: WALSALL NORTH (LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

As to the first part of the question, I have nothing to add to what my Rt.Hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 27 January (Col.652). The communication in no way determined the content of the letter written by my Hon. and Learned Friend the Solicitor General.

Good
CAG

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Thursday, 30th of January

19 86

QUESTION

11 MR. ALAN WILLIAMS: To ask Mr. Attorney General, when he first learnt that officials at No.10 Downing Street had been consulted about the leak of the Solicitor General's letter.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY: SWANSEA WEST (LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

On 22 January, when I saw the report of the inquiry carried out by the head of the Civil Service.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Thursday, 30th of January

1986

QUESTION

10

MR. ALAN WILLIAMS:

To ask Mr Attorney General, when he was first informed of the direct involvement of the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, the Right honourable Member for Richmond, Yorks, in the leak of the Solicitor General's letter.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY:

SWANSEA WEST

(LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

On 22 January, when I saw the report of the inquiry carried out by the head of the Civil Service.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Thursday, 30th of January 1986

QUESTION

12

MR. ALAN WILLIAMS:

To ask Mr. Attorney General, whether he recommended any alternatives to a formal inquiry as a method of resolving the controversy about the Solicitor General's letter.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY:

SWANSEA WEST

(LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

No.

PARLIAMEN TARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Thursday, 30th of January 1986

QUESTION

13

MR. ALAN WILLIAMS:

To ask Mr. Attorney General, on what date and at what time he first directly communicated to the Prime Minister his advice that a formal inquiry should be initiated into the publication of part of the Solicitor General's letter.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY:

SWANSEA WEST

(LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

I had no communication on this matter with my Right Honourable Friend, the Prime Minister, until after I had seen the report of the inquiry. My views on the desirability of holding an inquiry were communicated to the head of the Civil Service, as is made clear ~~in the statement~~ which my Right Honourable Friend made to the House on 27 January.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PRIORITY
FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Friday, 31st of January 19 86

QUESTION

135

MR. TAM DALYELL:

To ask Mr. Attorney General, when he first approached the Prime Minister or her office with a request that a leak inquiry should be set up into the disclosure of extracts from the Solicitor General's letter of 6th January to the then Secretary of State for Defence, the Right honourable Member for Henley; what response he received; what subsequent discussions took place on the matter between him or his office, on the one hand, and the Prime Minister or her office, on the other; and if he will make a statement.

MEMBER'S CONSTITUENCY:

LINLITHGOW

(LAB)

ANSWER

The Attorney General: -

I refer the honourable Member to the reply which I gave on 30 January to a similar question from the Rt. Hon. Gentleman the Member for Swansea West. When I initially sought the views of the head of the Civil Service on 7th January, as ~~is described in the statement~~ which my Right Honourable Friend the Prime Minister ~~made~~ ^{made} to the House on 27 January, the Prime Minister's ~~Principal Private Secretary~~ ^{Office} was informed.

