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T Flesher Esq
Private Secretary
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Please quote L86/1444/RADJ

Your reference

Date 13th May 1986

Dear Mr Flesher

MR RICHARD HOLT'S LIBEL ACTION

Thank you for your letter of ^{at top} 30th April 1986 on which I consulted Duncan Watson last week.

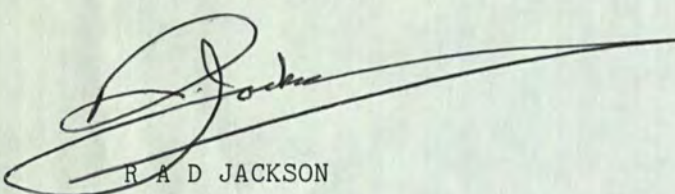
I fully appreciate what you say in your letter and it will, indeed, be my intention to resist vigorously any subpoena served on a member of staff in the Prime Minister's Office. As I have said, I believe that the chances of setting aside such a subpoena are higher if the proposed paragraph is not included in Mr Holt's Reply. Nevertheless, I cannot rule out the possibility that a subpoena might be served if this matter ever came to trial whether or not such a paragraph is included.

There are no legal means whereby Mr Holt can be prevented from including a paragraph in his Reply, even the original version which refers directly to verification by the Prime Minister's Office.

In accordance with your instructions, I shall now write to Mr Holt's solicitors stating that you cannot assist with his action in the way he wishes. Hopefully, Mr Holt will not go ahead and include an unverified paragraph. If his legal advisers consider that the point is crucial to his case, we may yet hear from them again.

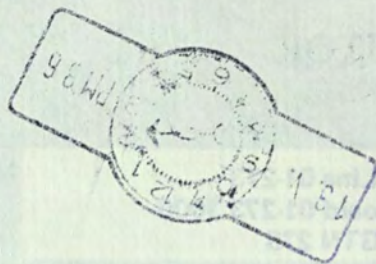
I am copying this letter to John Coleman, Legal Adviser at the DES.

Yours sincerely


R A D JACKSON

c.c. J E Coleman Esq

Downing St: R. Holt MP March, 1986



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