



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

4 June 1984

Thank you for your letter of 1 June about Prime Minister's Question Time. I can confirm your understanding of the Prime Minister's view of her oral Questions. In short, Mrs. Thatcher considers that, if there were to be any changes in the arrangements for Prime Minister's Questions, they should be initiated by the House rather than by her, although of course she would wish to have the opportunity to comment on any suggested changes.

(TIM FLESHER)

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1 June 1984

*Dear Tim,*

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

As you know, there is now a Commons Procedure Committee currently concerned with "shorter" speeches", but shortly to move on to Standing Committee procedure and eventually no doubt to other procedural matters within their general terms of reference.

We are currently taking a look at various procedural matters which might be drawn to the attention of the Leader of the House as suggestions which he might at some stage wish to bring to the attention of the Committee. One or two of these involve aspects of Question procedure, eg the effects of the present lack of any limit on the numbers of priority Written Questions. We are at present, however, working on the assumption that you would not wish any initiatives taken in relation to the current arrangements for Prime Minister's Question Time. Could you kindly confirm that we are right in this.

*Yours sincerely,  
Michael Townley.*

M W Townley