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THE PRIME MINISTER

15 February 1988

Dear Mr. Alton,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February.

I am certainly aware of the case you refer to in your letter, and I made enquiries about it. I understand, however, that the matter is at the moment being investigated by the police, and I am sure you will appreciate that it would not therefore be right to comment.

On the wider issues you raise in your letter concerning your own Bill, I believe I have already made my general position clear. This is of course a matter on which individual Members must make up their own minds, and there was an opportunity for the House to consider the matter fully in the second reading debate on 22 January, after which there was a free vote.

It is not my practice to meet delegations of the kind you propose in your letter, nor do I believe that such a meeting would serve a useful purpose. But I recognise your strength of feeling in these matters, and your reason for writing to me.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

David Alton, Esq., M.P.