


PRIME MINISTER

DAILY STAR INTERVIEW 

You are to give an interview tomorrow at 9.15am to Brian Hitchen, Editor of the Daily Star, who is a great fan of yours. He has interviewed you before and has, of course, presided over the Daily Star Gold Star Awards which you have presented on two occasions as well as once having recipients here for a tea party.

Mr Hitchen invited you to present the Awards this year but you have declined (privately because you do not feel you should make this an annual affair). He may well ask you to present them in 1991 and it may well make political sense to do so then.

You should also know that, being a populist, Mr Hitchen is instinctively on the side of ambulancemen. But he would not in the least find objectionable a two tier system broken down into taxi and paramedic services. If, as I suspect, he will ask you about this, you will be able to impress upon him (a) the offer; and (b) the special addition for the higher qualified and trained.

The interview will not be taxing. Indeed, having had dinner with Mr Hitchen last week, it is clear he wants to give you a platform to talk to his particular kind of reader. Who are they?

First of all, they number about three million (3 times the paper's circulation of just under one million); are predominantly working class; and with a strong bias towards the North. And according to a MORI survey in the Sunday Times last weekend the Daily Star's editorial policy is markedly out of line with the political attitude of its readers - 63% Labour compared with 26% Conservative, with a 9% swing to Labour over the last 2 years. (NB: The Sun splits 47/41 towards Labour, with an 8% swing to Labour over the same period).

All this underlines the value to you of the Daily Star in the Express stable and, not least, the advantage of having it edited by such a supporter as Mr Hitchen.

His interview is likely to follow the following structure set out below. Briefing on a number of points is in the Annexes as indicated at Annex B.

- How are you after this gruelling year? And are you (you must, he may add) going to stay on to the next election and beyond?

#### VIETNAM BOAT PEOPLE

- Many of us understand the reasons but how do you personally feel about having to order the return of the Vietnamese boat people?

#### MORTGAGES

- Have you any words of hope and encouragement for people who are desperately struggling to pay their mortgages?

#### NHS

- Since half your critics say you are going to privatise it and the other half claim you want to wreck it, what are you trying to do with the NHS?

He hopes you will scorn your critics and launch into a passionate defence (a) of the concept of a predominantly tax funded NHS; (b) of the high quality of service the vast majority of patients get from it; but (c) to dedicate yourself to an improvement in the service, especially by getting outpatients seen promptly by appointment.

This section will give you an opportunity to develop the FT theme that we are entitled to expect a good service for the public as well as the private sector.

In short, please put yourself on the side of the patient - the patient's friend - in this passage.

#### CRIME

- You keep telling us that the police have much more manpower; are better paid; and are better equipped. Yet they seem to waste a lot of time persecuting motorists. Surely the priority ought to be making the streets safe from muggers and burglars. Are you satisfied with the performance of the police?

This will give you a useful opportunity to remind the police - as Douglas Hurd did as Home Secretary - of the need to deploy their greatly increased resources much more efficiently.

#### SENTENCING

- Is there a need to review sentencing policy in view of the need to deter criminals? In plain terms should we not be a lot tougher?

#### CHILD ABUSE

- What is wrong with affluent Britain? Are we becoming a nation of Barbarians?

This will give you an opportunity to develop your "Good Housekeeping" points and to emphasise the need for much greater discipline in society - at home, in schools and in the institutions.

#### EDUCATION

- How are you trying to improve the educational condition in which people leave school - many are scarcely able to read or write or speak the Queen's English?

Again, you should speak passionately about how lack of discipline, Left prejudice, and new fangled ideas have done an immense disservice to youngsters. You are determined to end this plainly unacceptable position.

#### LITTER; GRAFFITI

- What can you say to people who are up to the knees in litter and affronted by graffiti?

This is an opportunity to explain how you are determined to clean up Britain while emphasising that you are not responsible for either litter or graffiti - only people in the end can produce a tidy Britain.

- Your hopes and dreams for Britain in the 1990s?

Here you can bring together so many of the previous themes in talking about the quality of life in a country in which home and capital ownership is ever more widely spread; the cascade of property down the generations: a free, prosperous but responsible society. Mr Hitchen will warm to this.

Finally, above all, keep it simple and crisp. Mr Hitchen will want to be assured you are in lively form after a tremendously taxing year and that your crusade for the responsible society is to go ahead with renewed vigour.



**BERNARD INGHAM**  
December 12, 1989

ANNEXES

1. Summary
2. Ambulance dispute
3. NHS
4. Police efficiency
5. Child Abuse
6. National curriculum
7. Litter

AMBULANCE DISPUTE: THIRTEENTH WEEK

Accident and emergency services are being provided by National Health Service crews in most areas of the country with the exception of London, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Yorkshire. The army, police and voluntary services have provided emergency cover in London for five weeks.

The service in many other places is not a full one and much inconvenience is being caused to hospitals and patients by various working practices adopted by ambulance personnel. Where the full duties are not being carried out ambulance management have made it clear full salaries would not be paid.

Non urgent services in some parts of the country are much reduced but alternative arrangements have been made for those attending clinics for example for radiotherapy treatments or being discharged from or transferred between hospitals.

In addition to the army, the police and voluntary services have responded in ensuring emergency ambulance cover when this has been fully or partly withdrawn by the normal crews. In particular they have responded magnificently in the West Midlands and South Yorkshire where ambulance crews are causing great distress by refusing to deliver patients urgently requiring treatment to the correct hospital department.

On 1 December Secretary of State decided to accept a new negotiating body for ambulance staff of which the Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel is the Staff Side. On 5 December, final pay offer was made that is being recommended to its members: the results of the ballot should be known on 15 December.

A similar offer was made to the TUC affiliated unions who make up the Staff Side of the existing Whitley Council.

EXTENDING CHOICE AND IMPROVING SERVICES

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The National Health Service Bill, covering Great Britain, would mainly seek to implement reforms proposed in White Papers "Working for Patients" (in respect of the NHS) and "Caring for People - Community Care in the next Decade and Beyond".

In connection with the NHS the Bill would:

- replace the existing Health Authorities and Family Practitioner Committees with smaller, more managerially focussed bodies with the new family practitioner services authorities accountable to the Regional Health Authorities rather than the Secretary of State
- empower health authorities to enter into contracts with each other as suppliers and purchasers of services to create competition and much greater flexibility in the treatment of patients
- establish NHS Trusts as corporate bodies to run hospitals which chose to become self managing
- create GP Practice funds to enable family practitioners who chose to do so to hold and operate their own budgets
- permit the establishment and operation of indicative drug budgets for family practitioners and the investigation of any apparent excessive prescribing
- transfer responsibility for statutory audit of the NHS from Government Departments to the Audit Commission.

In connection with community care the Bill would provide for:

- preparation and publication of detailed plans by local authorities and for the Secretary of State to carry out inspections
- stronger powers over defaulting local authorities
- local authorities to arrange nursing home care and make clear their responsibility for assessing the needs of disabled people

ANNEXES

1. Summary
2. Ambulance dispute
3. NHS
4. Police efficiency
5. Child Abuse
6. National curriculum
7. Litter



AMBULANCE DISPUTE: THIRTEENTH WEEK

Accident and emergency services are being provided by National Health Service crews in most areas of the country with the exception of London, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Yorkshire. The army, police and voluntary services have provided emergency cover in London for five weeks.

The service in many other places is not a full one and much inconvenience is being caused to hospitals and patients by various working practices adopted by ambulance personnel. Where the full duties are not being carried out ambulance management have made it clear full salaries would not be paid.

Non urgent services in some parts of the country are much reduced but alternative arrangements have been made for those attending clinics for example for radiotherapy treatments or being discharged from or transferred between hospitals.

In addition to the army, the police and voluntary services have responded in ensuring emergency ambulance cover when this has been fully or partly withdrawn by the normal crews. In particular they have responded magnificently in the West Midlands and South Yorkshire where ambulance crews are causing great distress by refusing to deliver patients urgently requiring treatment to the correct hospital department.

On 1 December Secretary of State decided to accept a new negotiating body for ambulance staff of which the Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel is the Staff Side. On 5 December, final pay offer was made that is being recommended to its members: the results of the ballot should be known on 15 December.

A similar offer was made to the TUC affiliated unions who make up the Staff Side of the existing Whitley Council.

EXTENDING CHOICE AND IMPROVING SERVICESNATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The National Health Service Bill, covering Great Britain, would mainly seek to implement reforms proposed in White Papers "Working for Patients" (in respect of the NHS) and "Caring for People - Community Care in the next Decade and Beyond".

In connection with the NHS the Bill would:

- replace the existing Health Authorities and Family Practitioner Committees with smaller, more managerially focussed bodies with the new family practitioner services authorities accountable to the Regional Health Authorities rather than the Secretary of State
- empower health authorities to enter into contracts with each other as suppliers and purchasers of services to create competition and much greater flexibility in the treatment of patients
- establish NHS Trusts as corporate bodies to run hospitals which chose to become self managing
- create GP Practice funds to enable family practitioners who chose to do so to hold and operate their own budgets
- permit the establishment and operation of indicative drug budgets for family practitioners and the investigation of any apparent excessive prescribing
- transfer responsibility for statutory audit of the NHS from Government Departments to the Audit Commission.

In connection with community care the Bill would provide for:

- preparation and publication of detailed plans by local authorities and for the Secretary of State to carry out inspections
- stronger powers over defaulting local authorities
- local authorities to arrange nursing home care and make clear their responsibility for assessing the needs of disabled people

POLICE EFFICIENCY/SOME BULL POINTS

- 1 Since 1979 the number of police officers has risen by 14,500 (England and Wales) to a total of 126,000
- 2 Since 1979 the number of civilians has gone up by 9,500 to 23,000.
- 3 In the last six years alone, 4,000 additional police officers have returned to operational duty through the civilianisation programme.
- 4 The best measure of police productivity is the number of crimes cleared up per officer which rose from 8.45 in 1980 to 9.9 in 1987 (no '88 figures available) and is still rising
- 5 Major cost savings now being realised from value for money initiatives include an efficiency auditing programme and value for money objectives in all forms. For example in 1988 the Met saved nearly £1m by reducing consumption of water and £500,000 by better management of its catering services; South Wales saved £150,000 per annum by switching to part time contract cleaning services; Thames Valley saved £600,000 per annum with a pilot scheme which would do away with unnecessary paper work and would expect to save £5.5m in a full year across the force.

**BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER  
VIOLENT CRIME IN LONDON**

WE WELCOME THE FALL IN BURGLARIES, ROBBERIES AND CAR THEFTS IN LONDON. THE INCREASE IN VIOLENT OFFENCES IS OF CONCERN BOTH TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE. THE INCREASE REFLECTS POLICE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE REPORTING OF SEXUAL OFFENCES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. ADDITIONAL MANPOWER HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE METROPOLITAN POLICE WHO CONTINUE TO GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO TACKLING OFFENCES OF VIOLENCE.

### Bull Points

- violent crime accounts for only 4% of all reported crime in the Met Police district.
- the Metropolitan Police produced recently a new package of advice for women called 'Positive Action' on how to avoid becoming a victim of violence.
- the increase in serious assaults is about 7.5%.
- over 4,000 more crimes were cleared up in London in the 12 months ending September 1989, compared with the previous year.
- some one-third of the 20% increase in assaults is accounted for by domestic violence.
- there is reason to believe that action taken by the police to encourage victims of sexual assaults and domestic violence to report these offences has been successful, thus accounting for some of the increase.
- an initiative in Battersea and Tooting whereby suspected offenders have been kept under surveillance has resulted in substantial falls in the number of street robberies (over 100% in Battersea) and rises in the clear-up rate.
- next year (1990-91) provision has been made for increases in manpower in the Metropolitan Police of 150 policemen and 150 civilians.

Background note

	Metropolitan Police figures			Comparative percentage change in corresponding England and Wales figures		
	Oct 87 - Sept 88	Oct 88 - Sept 89	% change	July 87 - June 88	July 88 - June 89	% change
Violence against the person	25,900	31,200	20			11
Sexual offences	4,100	4,600	12			5
Robbery	18,300	17,000	- 7			-
Burglary	148,100	145,700	- 2			-7.7
Theft	380,600	379,000	0			- 5
Fraud and forgery	31,100	31,000	0			- 6
Criminal damage	120,300	125,200	4			2
Other	4,100	5,000	22			9
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 732,500	<hr/> 738,700	<hr/> 1			<hr/> -3.7

The figures for domestic violence and offences against children reflect the activity of special police units dealing with domestic violence and abuse of children. These plus new reporting procedures have led to an increase in reporting.



## BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTERS QUESTIONS - 9 NOVEMBER

CHILD ABUSELINE TO TAKE

The Government continues to attach a high priority to the problem of child abuse, and has in hand a considerable programme of work. The Children Bill, which completed its passage through Parliament on 8 November is the most comprehensive piece of legislation which Parliament has ever enacted about children, and strikes a new and proper balance between family autonomy and the protection of children. Last year we issued to all agencies that work with children a comprehensive guide to arrangements for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse, and guidance to individual professions. We are also addressing training needs. A centrally funded training initiative on child abuse continues to develop and we have made available £7m this year under the Training Support Programme for the training of social services staff involved in child care with particular emphasis on child protection. This programme will continue next year at the same level. There is also a substantial programme of research completed or underway.



## CHILD ABUSE

### Background Note

The prevention and detection of child abuse is just one aspect of local authorities' work with children and has been the subject of increasing public and professional concern. Child sexual abuse has taken on a high profile following the events in Cleveland in 1987. As at 31 March 1988 39,200 children were listed on local authority child protection registers, ie 3 children per thousand under 18: a quarter were registered as being physically abused and a seventh as sexually abused.

DH published comprehensive guidance for relevant agencies and professions last year taking account of lessons learned from the Cleveland Inquiry. In addition the Home Office published guidance for the police on the investigation of child sexual abuse and DES produced guidance for the education service. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 increased substantially the maximum penalty on conviction for cruelty to children and made significant changes to law governing the giving of evidence by children in abuse cases.

### Work in Hand

**Training:** a central training initiative launched in 1986 covers training of managers and practitioners in child abuse work. The Government is also making available £7m this year under the Training Support Programme for training local authority staff involved in child care, with particular emphasis on child protection. This will continue in 1990/91 at same level.

**Research:** there is a substantial programme of work completed or

erway(DH spending £157,200 in 1988/89).

Monitoring: the Social Services Inspectorate has a programme of inspections of local authority services, including child protection, and paying particular attention to authorities that are failing to allocate all child protection cases to a social worker (mainly inner London boroughs).

Children Bill: is a major piece of Government legislation and reflects several years work by central government in partnership with local government, voluntary organisations and others. It will call for major commitment, new attitudes, and training. Target date for implementation is October 1991.

aims:

To provide an integrated framework of law covering the care and upbringing of children in both the public and private domains.

To ensure that everyone knows where they stand:

a. clearer investigative duties on local authorities;

b. stated requirements upon other agencies to assist local authorities in their duties;

c. clear emergency protection order grounds and shorter life of order;

d. child assessment order for non-emergency cases where parents are not co-operating;

e. parents and others with close interest in the child to have the opportunity for a proper say when questions of compulsory intervention arise.

To instill greater concentration on child's welfare throughout.

To provide major changes in court jurisdiction and procedures.

## BRIEFING FOR PRIME MINISTER

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM: TESTING AT AGE 7

Background

Today's Independent carries an article which claims that tests at age 7 will be entirely in teachers' hands, and that there will be no pass or fail. This is wrong. Nothing has yet been decided, and Ministers have not yet received the School Examinations and Assessment Council's advice.

The advice that is being drawn up does not in any case say this. First, the tests will have been devised centrally and will fall to be marked according to strict instructions with the packs. Second, teachers' conduct of the tests and their marking standards will be subject to double checking by an independent, external 'moderator'.

It is true that, within these terms, teachers will mark their own 7 year olds' tests; and that they will not be required to attend external moderation meetings en masse (as recommended by TGAT). But to do otherwise in the context of 7 year olds would be both unmanageable and unnecessary in a system which will test pupils again at repeated intervals. (Arrangements for older age groups are at a less advanced stage of design).

Pupils of all ages will be tested against a 10-level scale of achievement, as agreed by the Government in June 1988. Each child will either have achieved level X or not achieved level X: there can be no fudging. Whether achievement of level X is regarded as a success, or as a failure to achieve level X+1, will in the end be a matter of taste. Educationally, however, it is considered valuable to count achievement of level X as positive, signalling level X+1 as the next target to strive for, rather than dwell on failure to achieve X+1 first time round.

Speaking note

The article referred to is premature and misleading. Externally-devised tests remain the cornerstone of the system. My Rt. Hon. Friend will be considering the precise arrangements for administering them when he receives advice from the School Examinations and Assessment Council.

DES

11 December 1989

7.

678, 18 December 1986; "Air Pollution Control In Great Britain: Follow Up To Consultation Paper Issued in December 1986" December 1988 and "Air Pollution Control In Great Britain: Works To Be Scheduled For Prior Authorisation" Press Notice 715, 15 December 1988; "Integrated Pollution Control And Local Authority Air Pollution controls: Public Access To Information: A Consultation Paper", Press Notice 460, 31 August 1989; "Implementation of the Large Combustion Plants Directive", Press Notice 463, 1 September 1989).

### Waste

The proposals can be divided into four parts: a new duty of care on waste producers, new controls over trade in waste, tightening and strengthening of the licensing controls in the Control of Pollution Act 1974, and the reform of Waste Disposal Authorities and creation of arms' length Local Authority Waste Disposal Companies (Consultation Papers "Waste Disposal Law Amendment", Press Notice 490, 16 September 1986; "Waste Disposal Law Amendment: Decisions Following Public Consultation", Press Notice 364, 29 June 1988; "Waste Disposal Law Amendments: Follow Up Consultation Paper by The Department Of The Environment And The Welsh Office", Press Notice 652, 23 November 1988; "The Role And Functions Of Waste Disposal Authorities", Press Notice 24, 24 January 1989; "Waste Disposal Law Amendments: Decisions Following Public Consultation", Press Notice 502, 26 September 1989; "The Role And Functions Of Waste Disposal Authorities: Announcement Of Government Decisions", Press Notice 502, 26 September 1989).

### Litter

It is proposed to place a duty on local authorities and others to keep public areas clean of litter which will include dog faeces. Local authorities would also be given new powers to impose fixed penalties. Higher fines are also proposed. (Consultation Paper "Action On Litter: The Government's Proposals for Legislation", Press Notice 397, 20 July 1989).

### Radioactive Substances

These proposals are to update and strengthen the controls imposed by the Radioactive Substances Act 1960. The withdrawal of some Crown immunity would be involved (Consultation Paper "Control Of Radioactive Substances - Proposals For The Amendment Of The Radioactive Substances Act 1960 And For A Cost Recovery Charging Scheme", 19 May 1989).

RESUBMITTED BY WAY OF A REMINDER FOR TOMORROW'S INTERVIEW

①  
PRIME MINISTER

A Mrs Maureen Hiron has written in about a game she invented while a patient in the Royal Marsden Hospital last year called "CHIP IN". The game apparently has been a success among cancer patients at the hospital and is being used to raise money for the Royal Marsden Hospital building fund.

In an effort to raise as much money for the hospital as possible, Mrs Hiron approached Brian Hitchen, Editor of the Daily Star, who agreed to launch a £1 million campaign and kicked off in October with some five pages, plus a Leader, devoted to the plight of the Royal Marsden. The campaign has featured almost daily since that time.

Mrs Hiron has asked if it would be possible for either herself or one of the children from the Royal Marsden to bring CHIP IN to you so that a Daily Star photographer can take a picture. I did look into the possibility of her doing so when you give an interview to Brian Hitchen on 13 December. Unfortunately Mrs Hiron has to return to hospital two days earlier for a further operation.

Agree, however, to be photographed with Mrs Hiron when she comes out of hospital and a convenient date can be found as part of the Daily Star campaign?

Yes

T.J.P.

TERRY J PERKS  
5 December 1989