



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Personal

Dear Richard,

You will be interested to see Peter Sault's note & we attached. Please don't show it to anyone - not even Eric.

Everyone is too damned sensitive on this subject. They forget that we want for a

Govment whod though collective
responsibility, is supposed to
act as a seamless web!

I told Peter, in
an amiable conversation, but if
he had had problems, he should have
picked up the telephone and asked
for Eric to submit advice through
the C.D.I.'s office. In any event, I
did not regard the C.D.C. as
having a monopoly of Eric's Unit's
services.

But it all just
shows how sensitive people are.
Yours sincerely
Nigel

Richard Wilson, C.O.

Paul, Sue
Award Pl.
Nigel

dti

the department for Enterprise

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR OF THE
DUCHY OF LANCASTER
AND
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Nigel

cc R Wilson

I hope you don't mind me saying this but I thought it might have been better if this had come direct to me. We would then have referred it to Eric for advice in the normal way. There seems to me a slight otherwise of Eric's unit taking on a separate existence & perhaps not necessarily reporting to the Chancellor of the Duchy. I might add that these are my comments; the Chancellor has not raised it with me. Apologies for missing the deadline in your letter!

Peter Smith 10/3



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

1 March 1988

Dear Eric,

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY AND TEESIDE

Sir Hector Laing, Chairman of "Business in the Community" (BIC) came to see me the other day about an idea of Stephen O'Brien's, the Chief Executive of BIC, that the Prime Minister should host at No.10 a small reception of southern based business leaders in order to interest them in the investment possibilities of Teeside. Details of what Stephen O'Brien has in mind are in his letter of 22 February, a copy of which I attach.

The Prime Minister recognises that if she holds a reception for Teeside, she may have requests for similar receptions from Tyneside, Merseyside and so on. But she regards Teeside as different, for a variety of historical and economic reasons. She thinks that we have to make a special effort to help that region with its hitherto intractable problems.

She is therefore inclined to give the reception which Stephen O'Brien seeks. I have told her that I understand from Sir Hector that all that is required is some 1½ hours of her time. The Prime Minister would like the Chancellor of the Duchy and the Ministers with particular inner city interest to be present at the reception.

Before informing Sir Hector of the Prime Minister's willingness to give such a reception, I should be glad to know that neither the Chancellor of the Duchy nor your Unit sees any difficulties here.

I should be grateful for advice by Tuesday, 8 March.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Peter Smith (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster).

N. L. Wicks

(N. L. WICKS)

Eric Sorensen, Esq.,
Cabinet Office.