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the pps? Kay  
11/12



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December 1984

Dear Mr. Harpur-Crewe.

Thank you for your kind letter of 22 November. I was very pleased that we were able to find a way of retaining Calke Abbey and its fascinating contents for the benefit of generations to come, and I hope that the arrangements for bringing all this about can soon be finalised.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

Henry Harpur-Crewe, Esq.

Handwritten initials



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister<sup>(3)</sup>

The last few words are included because the Harpur Crewe Trustees are holding out for very generous treatment of certain tax liabilities.

JMB  
6/12



2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB  
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

4 December 1984

OK  
Re-type.

Dear David

CALKE ABBEY

Thank you for your letter of 26 November with which you enclosed a copy of one from Mr Harpur-Crewe about Calke Abbey.

As you know, the Calke rescue package involve contributions from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and the National Trust, and a major transfer of property in lieu of taxes from the Harpur-Crewe trustees. There are still some details to be settled, as the solicitor acting for the trustees is pressing for a very generous deal under which nearly £3.9m transfer of property in lieu of taxes would have to be accepted, rather than the £2.5m originally proposed. The Department has now made an offer to the trustees which we believe stands a good chance of being accepted.

I attach a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Harpur-Crewe which includes a brief reference to these remaining difficulties.

Yours ever  
A H Davis

A H DAVIS  
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq

EL3AAT

DRAFT REPLY FOR PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO MR HENRY HARPUR-CREWE

Thank you for your kind letter of 22 November. I was very pleased that we were able to find a way of retaining Calke Abbey and its fascinating contents for the benefit of generations to come, *and I hope* understand that ~~there remain some difficulties in tidying up the tax liabilities of the estate on which you would not expect me to comment,~~ but I hope that <sup>the</sup> ~~arrangements to~~ bring <sup>to</sup> all this ~~about~~ ----- can soon be *finalised*.  
settled. →

105284 V.

MAIL ROOM TO BE OPEN ON 10 NOVEMBER 1984 AT 10:00 AM

- 5 DEC 1984

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Harpur-CREWE



7/12

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 November, 1984.

Calke Abbey

Mr. Harpur-Crewe has sent the Prime Minister a short note thanking her for all that has been done to save Calke Abbey. I enclose a copy.

The Prime Minister wishes to send a brief reply. In view of the history of this case, I fear I must trouble you for a draft. Could this please reach me by ~~11~~ December?

7

David Barclay

Andrew Allberry, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

Telephone:  
Melbourne 2245

BOA  
Calke Abbey,  
Ticknall,  
Nr. Derby.

223

*Be must  
reply*

22nd November, 1984. *mk*

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much and all  
the powers to be who helped to save  
my home, Calke Abbey. It was a  
great achievement.

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Henry Harper-Crewe*

Rt. Hon. M. Thatcher M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10, Downing Street,  
LONDON.