



CCJR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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The Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of
St Marylebone CH FRS DCL
Lord Chancellor
Lord Chancellor's Office
House of Lords
LONDON SW1A 0PW

ms

20 March 1984

Prime Minister⁽²⁾

Mr Ridley proposes to publish the Scott Wilson Report on Hampstead Garden Suburb. Before doing so, he needs to determine what line to take on Falloden Way and the Regents Park Road improvement in your constituency. He will consult you again about this.

Dear Quentin

ARCHWAY AND THE SCOTT WILSON REPORT

As I told you at H(84)7th Meeting last week, before you have to deal with Lord Harris' unstarred Question on 22 March, I shall have announced my intention to make the Scott Wilson Report publicly available. I enclose a copy of the proposed Question and Answer which will be dealt with tomorrow (I had originally thought this might come up at Monday's Oral Question session but it did not fit).

DMS
20/3

My Department will need a few days to get enough copies of this 4-volume report and maps assembled and distributed. On the actual day of publication I shall answer another Arranged PQ with a very clear statement about their status. Otherwise we shall indeed have widespread unnecessary blight, the fear of which was the reason why all my predecessors (endorsed by the Ombudsman) refused to publish the document.

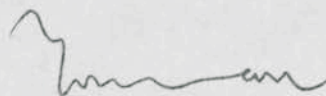
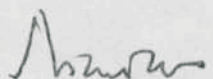
I cannot however produce this full statement yet. The reason is that when I come out with a categorical denial of all the options studied in the report, I am bound to be asked about the Government's intentions for Falloden Way itself - the road that joins Archway with the Regents Park Road junction of the North Circular Road. There is a notorious bottleneck on this road where the 4 lanes narrow to 3. During the years of paralysis while the Archway question has remained unresolved, and the Scott Wilson Report itself - publicly rejected as it was - has remained unpublished, the Department's line has simply been that it has no plans for this stretch of road. However I feel that the position we have now reached means that I need to state unequivocally whether I envisage tackling this particular road problem. That in turn raises a number of difficult and sensitive questions about the Archway

Inquiry itself, the forthcoming inquiry into the Regents Park Road junction and the impact on householders along Fallden Way.

I have spelt this out, because it explains why there must be an interval before I can make my formal statement repudiating the Scott Wilson Report's findings, and spelling out my intentions on Fallden Way. Ideally I would like rather longer to examine the position, but given we need to get out the Scott Wilson Report now, I think I must take a decision to this timetable before it appears.

All this I think lends weight to the view that you should on Thursday avoid being drawn into any discussion at all about what should or should not form the substance of the information in front of the Archway Inquiry. You will be able to refer to my announced intention of publishing the report shortly to remove one source of contention. In doing so you may need to reiterate our view and public stance that Archway stands on its own merits, irrespective of any road widening either to the north or the south.

Because these issues are so close to the boundary of her constituency - and indeed the Regents Park Road improvement is within it - I am sending a copy of this minute to the Prime Minister. I am also sending copies to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Home Secretary because of their involvement in the Archway question.

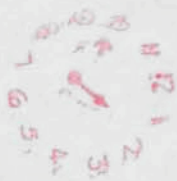



NICHOLAS RIDLEY

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will now make the Hampstead Garden Suburb Report publicly available.

Yes, shortly.

TRANSPORT: Archway
Feb '84



20 MAR 1984



JD

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 March, 1984.

Dear Andrew,

Archway and the Scott Wilson Report

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of your Secretary of State's letter of 20 March to the Lord Chancellor about the Archway and related issues. She has taken note without comment.

Yours ever,

David

David Barclay

Andrew Melville, Esq.,
Department of Transport.

NC