

de BSC



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 August 1984

Prime Minister's Visit to Liverpool

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation earlier today, in which I gave you our reactions to the proposals in Eric Sorensen's letter of 14 August about the Prime Minister's visit to Liverpool.

Our feeling is that the programme as proposed is somewhat crowded; and we are not keen to fit in any further official engagement after the Party tea.

With this in mind we suggest the following revision to the draft programme:

- Morning                    Albert Dock, Wavertree Technology Park  
                                      + speech
  
- Lunch                         On the International Garden Festival  
                                      site, followed by a brief visit
  
- Afternoon                   Housing tour - to include "black spots"  
                                      as well as housing successes.
  
- Party tea.

BF |

I should be grateful for any comments on the above, and for suggestions for the detailed content of the housing tour, as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we agreed that the DTI Regional Director should approach Plessey in confidence to explore the feasibility of their moving the Plessey crypto opening, and their "meeting the buyers" event, to coincide with the Prime Minister's visit. I must, however, stress that the draft programme remains subject to the Prime Minister's approval, which I would hope to obtain soon after her return from holiday next week.

Roy Bunce, Esq.,  
Merseyside Task Force.

(David Barclay)

SB



## Merseyside Task Force

Graeme House, Derby Square

Liverpool L2 7SU

Telephone 051-227 4111 Ext. 587

Your Reference

Our Reference

Date 29 August 1984

David Barclay Esq.,  
Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.

*BB 8/1*

*Dear David,*

### VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1984. I have been considering the possible content of a housing element to the visit. I am sorry that I have not got my proposals to you earlier.

I have had regard to your advice not to try and pack too much into the time available. I suggest therefore that we should concentrate on the Liverpool 8 area, which is on the route between the Garden Festival site and the City centre. A tour of this area could include

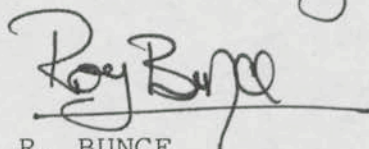
- a "Priority Area" declared by the City Council which, although not the worst housing in Liverpool contains typical examples of tenement blocks, unpopular walk-up flats and maisonettes and high-rise blocks.
- New housing development by housing co-operatives. Where people unable to own their own home have come together as a group and, with help from a sponsoring housing association have been involved in the design and now the running of their own small housing estate.
- A Housing Action area which demonstrates the impact of improvement grants and housing association <sup>activity</sup> on older privately owned housing.
- Minster Court: a good example of refurbishment by the private sector of a large tenement block previously owned by the City Council and scheduled for demolition. The work was undertaken by Barratts (Urban Renewal) Limited. Almost next door is another block, Myrtle House, which is in a similar state of dilapidation to Minster Court before Barratts started work. Barratts are interested in Myrtle House, but have been unable to negotiate a deal with the City Council.
- Areas of large Victorian and Edwardian houses, which are an important part of Liverpool's heritage but which are difficult to rescue for present day housing uses at an economic cost.

CONFIDENTIAL

This might look like a formidable list, but little travelling would be involved as the examples are all relatively closely grouped. If time permitted we could arrange a short journey to the north of the City centre where some of the very worst examples of bad design, neglect of maintenance and repair, and generally poor management are to be found. These areas, however, have been visited recently by the Secretary of State and the Minister for Housing and Construction.

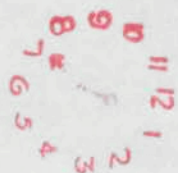
Your suggestions for the other elements of the visit seem quite practicable. My DTI colleague has not, however, been able to make contact with Sir John Clarke, Chairman of Plessey, so for the moment there has to remain a slight question mark over the exact format of the visit to the Wavertree Technology Park. We hope to finalise those details as soon as Sir John returns from holiday.

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Roy Bunce', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

R. BUNCE

PM: PM's visit to Liverpool Sept '81



30 AUG 1984

*Handwritten signature and address, possibly "John ..."*

MR. BARCLAY

cc. Mr. Alison

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday, 2nd October

1. As you know I agree with your revised programme in your note of 16th August.
2. I have told Brenda Lowe (Central Office Agent in the North West Area) about this visit in strictest confidence. She is now thinking about a venue for the Party tea.
3. One person obviously needs to tie up the whole visit. Normally this needs to be the Area Agent but I presume in this case it will be Eric Sorensen. Can you confirm this?
4. I want soon to be able to let Brenda Lowe talk to Eric about the visit because they will have to co-ordinate plans.
5. I intend to come on the Liverpool visit. I presume Michael Alison will but he will have to be asked on his return from holiday.

*S*  
STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

21.8.84

*cc visit file*  
Mr Sherbourne

- ① ② and ⑤ : noted - thanks
- ③ I agree. It should be Eric Sorensen, or in his absence his deputy Roy Bruce.
- ④ The way is clear for them to talk at any time from now on.