



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 October 1984

Dear Andrew,

Thank you so much for your letter of 28 September about industry on Merseyside. It was good to see you at the reception during my visit to Liverpool when I had the opportunity of seeing some of the success stories of the City. I was, therefore, all the more pleased to hear about the good news to which you refer. Equally, however, the area has very considerable problems which are exacerbated by the extravagant policies of some of the local authorities which impose such enormous burdens on ratepayers. There is a message of hope for Merseyside in your letter and we must do all we can to help those firms which are providing new jobs for Merseysiders to flourish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Andrew Pearce, Esq., MEP.

EU

TP has a reply been sent?

Andrew PEARCE

MEMBER FOR CHESHIRE WEST

AT



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28th September 1984.

8/10

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

Merseyside industry and commerce - some of the good news.

There is so much bad publicity about Merseyside that the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce, at my suggestion, asked its members for some of the good news about industrial and commercial life in the area, to demonstrate that many good things happen here as well as the bad things featured in the press.

Attached is a selection of comments from local firms, which you might care to bear in mind when next visiting the area.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Pearce.

MERSEYSIDE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE - SOME OF THE GOOD NEWS.

ALEX STEWART LTD. - Assayers. - "The firm is based on Merseyside because the owner is a Merseysider and has built up a workforce second to none in the industry."

EDMUND KIRBY & SONS. - Architects and Surveyors. - "We have, whenever possible, appointed local contractors and sub-contractors who, in turn, have employed local labour. Not once, over the whole of this period, have we suffered a local stoppage and even in the National Building Trades Strike in the early '70s, efforts were made by employers and some employees to continue working."

FEATHERS HOTELS GROUP. - "The productivity of our Liverpool workforce is exceptionally high. Having had hotels around the country, without a doubt, a Liverpoolian's ability to change working practices and to adapt to new machinery and techniques is far better than any other industrial area that we have ventured into."

SYNECTIC COMPUTERS LTD. - "We are naturally pleased with the rapid growth of the company We have some new packages and enhancements due out in the new year Synectic see themselves achieving a permanent place in the computer industry in 1984."

BDL CONTRACTS - Shopfitting and building. - "The record of our company since we have been on Merseyside is that the turnover every year has practically doubled. We do not, as a company, plan to be as good as anybody else on Merseyside in our field, we plan to be better."

MANPOWER LTD. - "A 40% increase in demand for our temporary staff in Merseyside over the next 12 months is encouraging news. By far the most vigorous growth is in information technology, with a 25% increase in demand for word processing and data entry operators."

VACTITE LTD. - "The company enjoys a good relationship with its 190 employees and there have been improvements in productivity and profitability which is supporting the future plans to continue to invest at an increased rate in new specialised capital plant and facilities."

OCEAN TRANSPORT AND TRADING PLC. - "In 1981 our ship repair establishment in Birkenhead was forced to close. It was decided to let the buildings as small industrial units. As The Odyssey Centre, it has been turned into a Merseyside success story, with the majority of the place occupied by enterprising people who are turning their businesses into flourishing concerns."

ASSOCIATED OCTEL. - "We supply approximately 70% of all anti-knock compounds used in oil refineries around the world outside of North America."

I.C.I. PLC - Runcorn. - "Mond Division gained a Queen's Award for export in 1981 and 1984 and awards for technological achievement in 1978 and 1968."

"The first full-scale application of new membrane cell technology to produce chlorine and caustic soda has exerted worldwide interest."

SINGAPORE AIRLINES. - "There exists in the Liverpool travel trade a very high degree of professionalism."

HUGHES & TRELEAVEN - Manufacturers of filter fabrics. - "We think that Merseyside is an excellent place to be situated primarily because the workforce is second to none and secondly due to its central position for international communications and transport. We have never had a strike"