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Prime Minister

MB

Prime Minister (2)

No new inquiry on Archway.
And the GAC postpone a decision
on their long ban.

ARCHWAY : THE NEXT STEPS

You will recall that when Sir Michael Giddings resigned from the Archway Inquiry last Spring, following the harassment of himself and his wife, we said we would set up a new inquiry as soon as possible.

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Since then several things have happened. We have set up our own review of the techniques of trunk road assessment, we have defined London's strategic network and key routes - of which the A1 including Archway Road is part - and, as you know, I am announcing tomorrow as part of our programme for getting to grips with London's deplorable road problems, the start of assessment studies of 4 key corridors.

The East London study will include the Holloway Road and I have also asked the consultants to cover the Archway Road itself. There could well be alternative effective ways of handling the traffic flow right along this corridor.

In the light of this I shall therefore be announcing in a written Parliamentary Question tomorrow that I do not intend to set up a fresh inquiry until I have the results of this study. I attach the written Answer and Press Notice associated with this.

No doubt the Archway anti-road campaigners will seek to claim this as a victory, but I shall make clear that I am not interested in that kind of point but only in getting the right solutions. Equally I shall rebut any suggestion that the tactics of intimidation have worked.

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On a quite different London point, you will also wish to know the latest news is that the GLC are postponing for a further month a final decision on their proposed lorry ban - we had expected them to take a decision on Wednesday. We shall be providing you with a suitable form of words should the matter be raised during your Questions on Thursday.

Because of their past involvement in the position at Archway I am sending copies of this minute to Patrick Jenkin, Leon Brittan and Quintin Hailsham.

NICHOLAS RIDLEY
19 November 1984

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DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

East London Assessment Study to include Review of Archway Road Proposal

Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, today announced that there will not be a fresh Archway Inquiry until the results of the East London Assessment Study are at hand. The study area to be examined will include Holloway Road and the whole of Archway Road. In answer to a Parliamentary Question he said:

"I have announced today the commissioning of an assessment study of the problems and possible options for the traffic corridor in East London between the A1 and the A102. This will include a review of both Holloway Road and Archway Road. In view of this I am notifying all those concerned that there will not be a new inquiry into the present Draft Orders. When I have the results of this assessment study I shall be able to consider what the next steps for Archway Road should be."

Mr Ridley said: "The A1 is one of London's key routes. The East London Assessment Study will include a comprehensive look at the problems of this important corridor for London traffic movement. The consultants will be analysing problems and considering every practical solution having regard to environmental as well as traffic needs. Since new solutions to the very difficult problems of the Archway area may well emerge, I want the opportunity to consider them carefully."

C O N F I D E N T I A L

DRAFT PQ

Q To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he is yet in a position to announce the date for the new inquiry for Archway Road and if he will make a statement.

A I have announced today the commissioning of an assessment study of the problems and possible options for the traffic corridor in East London between the A1 and the A102. This will include a review of both Holloway Road and Archway Road. In view of this I am notifying all those concerned that there will not be a new inquiry into the present Draft Orders. When I have the results of this assessment study I shall be able to consider what the next steps for Archway Road should be.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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