

SECRET



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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
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David Norgrove Esq
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LONDON SW1

18 December 1985

Dear David,

LESSONS OF THE MINERS' STRIKE: PIT CLOSURES

In preparation for the Prime Minister's meeting on 19 December you asked for information on the rate of pit closures since the strike, compared with what would have happened if there had been no strike.

Since the strike, 24 pits have closed, all by local agreement; a further three are agreed for closure, and five are within the Colliery Review Procedure. Total capacity closed so far is 7.18 mt a year; this will be increased by a further 1.23 mt a year when those agreed for closure close; and it will be increased by a further 2.454 mt if those within the appeal procedure close, thus making a total reduction in capacity of 10.757 mt. Full details are set out in the Annex to this letter.

It is obviously impossible to know what would have happened if there had been no strike. As the MISC 57 report shows, the average number of closures over the five years 1979/80 to 1983/84 was about 10 or 11. In the summer of 1983 this Department considered a number of strategies for pit closure. The two central cases involved closures of 5 mt a year over the 5 years 1983/84 to 1987/88; the case with the most drastic rundown envisaged a reduction of 20 mt over the two years 1983/84 and 1984/85, with a further 10 mt reduction by 1988/89. The rate of closure so far since the strike - allowing for the delay which the strike caused - is at least as rapid as this; and there is no reason why the pace should not be maintained, provided that satisfactory redundancy terms are available.

Yours ever,

G S DART
Private Secretary

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PITS CLOSED SINCE THE END OF THE STRIKE

	<u>000 tonnes</u>	(1982/83 tonnages)
Herrington	256	
Sacrison	68	
Brenkley	314	
Acton Hall	578	
Savile	236	
Yorkshire Main	722	
Cortonwood	281	
Brookhouse	207	
Fryston	528	
Emley Moor	91	
Moorgreen	674	
Pye Hill	840	
Wolstanton	447	
Bold	507	
Haig	306	
Bedwas	179	
Celynen South	114	
Markham	179	
Treforgan	7	(Dev only)
Penrikyber	129	
Aberpergwm	82	
Abertillery	84	
St Johns	212	
Garw	<u>139</u>	
	7180	

PITS AGREED FOR CLOSURE

	<u>000 tonnes</u>	(1982/83 tonnages)
Glasshoughton	286	
Ledston Lock	382	
Whitwick/Sth Leicester	<u>555</u>	
	1123	

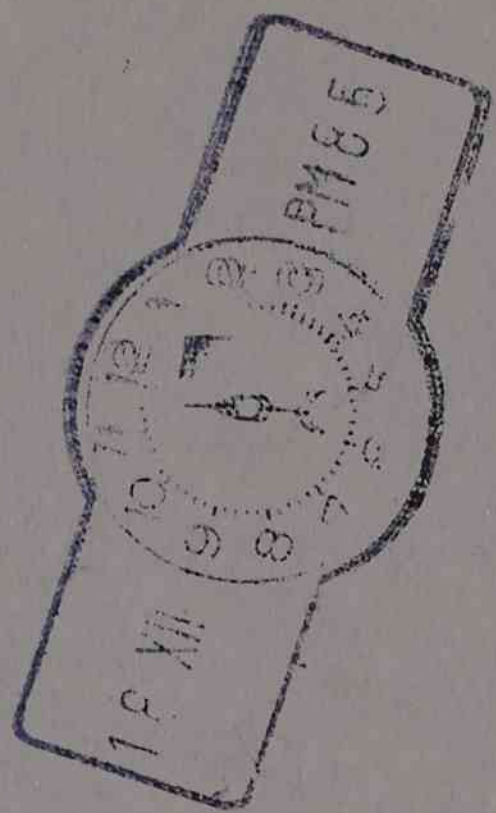
PITS WITHIN APPEAL PROCEDURE

000 tonnes (1982/83 tonnages)

Bates	799
Horden	574
Kinsley	551
Polkemmet	335
Tilmanstone	195
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	2454

Total tonnage closed, agreed or proposed for closure since the end of the strike:

7,180,000
1,123,000
2,454,000
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10,757,000



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